



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385
Tel (718) 366-1834 Fax (718) 417-5799
E-mail: qn05@cb.nyc.gov
www.NYC.gov/qnscb5



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting September 14, 2022

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Adam Bloom; Jessica Boiardi; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Maria de la Cruz; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Cecilia Guerra; Steven Fiedler; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Diego Leclery; Patricia Maltezos; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Marcin Nadgorski; April Narsasian; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsy; Katarzyna Syta; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Jasmine Valle; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Alyssa Bonilla; Brian Dooley; Steven Fiedler; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Melissa Rebecca

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
John Maier, Community Associate-CB5Q
John Perricone, Board Liaison for Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

GUESTS

Cynthia Kong, DSNY – Leaf Composting and Curbside

Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson welcomed everyone to join the meeting remotely. He said that due to the COVID19 pandemic and the recent surge in variant cases, monthly Board Meetings are being conducted remotely and livestreamed 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, by clicking on this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/hyCnRewCyKw>. 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 was 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 7:30pm, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda:

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PUBLIC HEARING RE: THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, AS IT CONCERNS THE COMMUNITIES IN DISTRICT 5, QUEENS

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to Gary Giordano, District Manager, who explained the procedure for adopting our Community Board's Annual Capital and Expense Budget recommendations. He said Capital Budget items generally involve construction projects and major public works, such as, sewers, parks, libraries, roadways and bridges, and Expense Budget items involve allocations for salaries for agency personnel, and supplies.

He said that the Executive Committee plans to meet next week in the Board office to review the Board's current Capital and Expense Budget Priorities and formulate the list of FY 2024 Capital Budget Requests that will be distributed to Board Members, in a survey. He said that the Budget Survey package will include explanations of all the Board's Capital and Expense Budget Items. He asked that Board Members complete their surveys of the Capital Budget Priorities by ranking their top priority as #1, then write #2 next to their second priority, and so on. Regarding the Expense Budget Priorities, he asked that Board Members keep in mind that if they'd like to move any Budget Item up to a higher priority, then they'll have to move a corresponding Budget Item to a lower priority. He asked that all Budget Surveys be returned to the Board Office within a week after they're distributed, so that the Executive Committee will have time to review the survey results prior to next month's Board Meeting when the Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Board for a vote.

The District Manager read aloud the Budget Testimony that was submitted by Theodore M. Renz, the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue BID and a member of the Executive Committee of our Board:

"On behalf of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, we thank you for supporting a new Capital Improvement Project for Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood, as a high priority for Fiscal Year 2023. The last time Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood between Wyckoff Avenue/Palmetto Street & Fresh Pond Road was included for a major capital project was in 1983 and 1984. At that time, the project, under the New York City Commercial Revitalization Program, included major improvements to the shopping corridor, including the following:

- New concrete sidewalks with decorative brick pavers building line to curbside, new street trees and new steel faced curbing, and

- Creation of three pedestrian plazas:

1. Woodbine Street/St. Nicholas Avenue/Myrtle Avenue now known as Venditti Square named for NYPD Detective Anthony Venditti, who was shot and killed in the line of duty in January of 1986;

2. Ridgewood Memorial Triangle (named for the Veterans of WW1) Myrtle Avenue/Putnam Avenue/Cypress Avenue; and

3. Times Triangle now known as Clemens Triangle (named for the former owner of the Ridgewood Times).

Over the years, other improvements have included the installation of historic M Poles, World's Fair benches along various curbside locations and in the plaza areas, historic marker signs along the Avenue and in Plazas, historic marker signs on M poles, a new Plaza at 71st Avenue, Myrtle Avenue & Stephen Street as well as a new raised planting area at the northwest corner of Myrtle & Catalpa Avenues. Many of these improvements, particularly the brick pavers imbedded in the sidewalk, have seriously deteriorated causing tripping hazards and unsafe conditions for pedestrians. This has also resulted in a number of lawsuits, in many cases also naming the BID, which has resulted in higher insurance premiums for the BID.

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While there are a number of very important projects for this Board to support, we kindly ask for your continued support for this important improvement project.

Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood is a major comparison-shopping corridor serving the Greater Ridgewood area, including Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village, Maspeth, in Queens and Ridgewood/Bushwick in Brooklyn, and beyond. Along this corridor, there are approximately 345 retail and service establishments.

The improvements we are asking for may include but are not limited to new sidewalks without brick pavers; new curbs; new M poles on side streets within the boundaries of the BID; removal of all Belgium blocks from over 300 tree pits; additional benches and other amenities. And, since the prior project only included a repaved street bed, it may be wise to consider a total reconstruction project, including new water and sewer lines, as well as upgrades to utilities. Thank you again for your support.”

As there were no other speakers, the Board Chairperson announced the next item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC HEARING RE: A NYC Dept. of Transportation Proposal to Convert the Following Streets from 2-WAY TO 1-WAY Traffic Operation in Glendale:

- **60 LANE to ONE-WAY Northbound Operation, from Cooper Ave. to 75 Avenue;**
- **75 AVENUE to ONE-WAY Eastbound Operation, from 60 Lane to 64 Street;**
- **64 STREET to ONE-WAY Southbound Operation, from 75 Ave. to Cooper Avenue; and**
- **64 PLACE to ONE-WAY Northbound Operation, from Cooper Ave. to Cypress Hills St.**

The District Manager gave a power point presentation on the NYC Dept. of Transportation’s titled “Glendale Areawide Street Direction Changes.” He said that the Committee requested an areawide study of this area of Glendale, in response to petitions that the Board received from local residents requesting One-Way Street conversions in Glendale.

He read the statements submitted by several residents regarding the proposed One-Way Street conversions, as follows:

Statement from Adam Serafina, a resident of 64 Street, in Glendale

“I fully support the conversion of 64 Street, between Cooper Avenue and 75th Avenue, into a 1-Way Southbound direction, which will eliminate more than 80% of the unnecessary traffic that comes down our Dead-End block.

I fully support the 1-Way conversion of 64 Place, between Cooper Avenue and Cypress Hills Street into a 1-Way Northbound direction, which will not only help traffic flow in the direction of Fresh Pond Road but it will eliminate the number of parked cars on this street getting side-swiped by passing vehicles.

I fully support the 1-Way conversion of 60 Lane, between 75 Avenue and Cooper Avenue, into a 1-Way Northbound direction, which will eliminate the traffic jams caused by buses and trucks trying to make turns onto 75 Avenue at that intersection.

I fully support the 1-Way conversion of 75 Avenue, between 60 Lane and 62 Street, into a 1-Way Eastbound direction. However, I request that 75 Avenue remain a 2-Way Street, between 62 Street and 64 Street, so that residents who live on the Dead-End block of 64 Street would have two ways to exit their block in the event of an emergency.”

Statement from John W. Taylor, a resident of 64 Place, in Glendale

“Please accept my support to convert 64th Place into a 1-Way Northbound operation between Cooper Avenue to Cypress Hills Street as a resident of this block for the past 49 years.”

Statement from Sharon Schissel-Rodriguez, a Glendale resident:

“My family and I have been residents of 64th Place for 24 years and I am writing to let the Community Board know that I am in support of converting 64th Place to a One-Way Street going Northbound.

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There are a few reasons that I believe it would be beneficial for myself and my neighbors. One-Way traffic flow would stop vehicles from making U-turns in the middle of the street, often driving onto the sidewalks to obtain parking spots that are in the opposite direction. This action poses a danger to pedestrians on the sidewalk and can cause property damage to the sidewalks and curbs.

I believe there will be a reduction in damage to parked cars, as it is a narrow street for Two-Way traffic and cars trying to make their way around the Sanitation Truck, as well as the Sanitation Truck driving really close to the parked vehicles and often taking side view mirrors with them in the process. I also believe it will increase pedestrian visibility and reduce traffic volume.

I would like to thank the Community Board for requesting the traffic study that recommends converting 64th Place into a One-Way and urge you to consider its findings.”

Statement from Harold Mecabe, a resident of 64 Street, in Glendale

“To Whom It May Concern, My name is Harold Mecabe and I live at 74-25 64 Street on the Dead-End. I do like the street changes and think it would help a great deal with people coming down our street, not knowing about the Dead-End.

I do think that 75 Avenue, from 62 Street to 64 Street, should be a Two-Way Street. It would help us with having two ways of getting out of our street. We only have one way out up to Cooper Avenue but on 75 Avenue, we can make a right turn and go out 62 Street also.”

Statement from Christian Wittmann, a resident of 64 Place, in Glendale

“My family and I have been residents of 64th Place for the past 24 years, and I’m writing to let the Community Board know that I am in support of converting 64 Place into a 1-Way Street going Northbound between Cooper Avenue and Cypress Hills Street. This change will help reduce traffic and improve safety conditions on my block. It will also greatly improve the ability for delivery vehicles and Sanitation trucks to perform their operations safely, while reducing the damage to parked cars that are often sideswiped on this heavily trafficked block.”

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

Cecilia Guerra, a Board Member, said that she was opposed to converting 64th Place, between Cypress Hills Street and Cooper Avenue, into a 1-Way Northbound direction. She said that there’s a need for more egress from the parking lot exit of Stop and Shop’s Supermarket, as well as the parking lot of Christ Tabernacle on 64th Place, between Myrtle Avenue and 74 Avenue, which would be negatively impacted by this 1-Way conversion.

Peggy O’Kane, a Board Member, asked how the 1-Way conversion of 75 Avenue would affect the Bus Route, where it turns Southbound onto 60 Lane.

Eric Butkiewicz, Transportation Committee Chair, reported that when the Committee met to review the proposed changes in direction and One-Way Street Conversions recently, they unanimously supported the North-South 1-Way Conversions, but they had expressed concerns about the 1-Way Conversion of 75 Avenue.

As there were no further comments on the proposed Areawide Traffic Study of Glendale, the Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Transportation Committee for further consideration.

The Board Chairperson directed John Maier, a staff member, to take attendance of Board Members.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers.

PRESENTATION RE: COLLECTION OF LEAVES IN THE FALL – by Cynthia Kong, NYC Dept. of Sanitation (DSNY)

Cynthia Kong, a representative of the Dept. of Sanitation’s Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, announced that from now on, it will be easier than ever to participate in the City’s Curbside Organics

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Collection Program. She said that, beginning of October 3rd, the Dept. of Sanitation will begin collecting leaves that are put into either brown bags or clear plastic bags for curbside collection. She said that residents can request a supply of brown bags from DSNY by visiting their website at nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting. In addition, Queens residents will be able to use a brown bin, or your own garbage can, to collect food scraps and yard waste for pick up on your recycling day. She encouraged everyone who needs a brown bin or compost decal for your own bin, to order it now, before October 1, at: nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Minutes

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's remote Board Meeting which was conducted on July 13, 2022. The Chairperson accepted a motion from Walter Sanchez, which was seconded by Katherine Masi, to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were adopted by acclamation.

The Board Chairperson requested that Staff member John Maier read aloud the list of notifications about liquor, wine and beer license applications in our Board area since our most recent Board Meeting.

Liquor, Wine & Beer License Applications and Renewals

New Liquor License Applications

- 1) *Stupa Group LLC d/b/a **ODAAN** 907 Seneca Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) *J R Maspeth Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **TBD**; 64-14 Flushing Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) ***WWPALMETTO LLC** 690 Woodward Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) ***El Faison Bar & Lounge Corp.**; 465 Seneca Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) *Gonzo's Restaurant LLC d/b/a **Gonzo's** 52-35 Metropolitan Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) Barcode NYC LLC d/b/a **TBD**; 1661 Weirfield St, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewal Applications

- 1) **Table One For Two LLC**; 68-38 Forest Ave (storefront D), Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Sherwoods Keep Inc d/b/a **Sherwoods Keep**; 205 Cypress Ave. (store #2), Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Lugo Lounge & Restaurant Corp**; 1089 Cypress Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Brisas del Mar Restaurant NY Corp.** 675 Woodward Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) Dhaka Inc. d/b/a **Hush** 70-10 Grand Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378

New Wine, Beer & Cider License Applications

- 1) Inner Visions LLC d/b/a **Honey Moon Coffee Shop** 517 Onderdonk Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewal Applications

- 1) **Fontana Pizzeria Inc.** 65-26 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **La Cocina De Mama Inc.** 56-13 Metropolitan Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Beer & Cider License Application

- 1) **Rosas Bakery & Restaurant Corp.** 936 Seneca Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

Other Notifications

- 1) *NYC Dynamic Squared d/b/a **Lucy's Kitchen** 552 Onderdonk Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385 (WB&C)

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2) **Dhaka Inc. d/b/a **Hush** 70-10 Grand Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378 (LWB&C)

***Seeking a Temporary Retail Permit** -- Information about the Temporary Retail Permits can be found on the SLA Website at: <https://sla.ny.gov/node/13981>.

****Method of Operation Change** - Establishment is asking to close at 4AM all nights and close rear yard at 12 Midnight (currently QCB5 stipulations are: close Sun-Wed at 2AM, and close Thurs-Sat at 4AM. Rear yard closes 10PM Sun-Thurs, and 11PM on Fri-Sat).

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

Regarding the notification about their Method of Operation Change, Mr. Maier reported that currently, our Community Board's stipulation agreement with **Hush** states that they close: Sunday through Wednesday at 2AM, and close Thursday through Sunday at 4AM; with the rear yard closing at 10PM, Sunday through Thursday, and 11PM, Friday to Saturday. If anyone has any issues with this or any other establishment in our Board area, he asked them to please contact the Board Office by calling (718) 366-1834 or by email at: qn05@cb.nyc.gov. The Board Chairperson commented that the Board spent a lot of time negotiating the terms of their stipulation agreement, and that we should continue our position regarding Hush.

On a point of clarification, the Board Chairperson asked Mr. Maier to explain what a Temporary Retail Permit is. Mr. Maier replied that due to COVID19, the SLA's processing of Liquor License Applications and Renewals has been delayed by over 6 months. As a result, they've instituted this intermediary step in the application process called a Temporary Retail Permit.

The District Manager expressed concerns about the new application that was submitted for a nightclub, for 1,100 patrons at 1661 Weirfield Street, in Ridgewood, which is across the street from the Outreach Project group home for young people. In addition, he said that he's opposed to expanding the hours of operation at Hush, located at 70-10 Grand Avenue, in Maspeth. He requested that the Board oppose their expansion of hours at this location, as well.

Cecilia Guerra, a Board member, said that she is opposed to the possible expansion of hours of operation at Hush, at 70-10 Grand Avenue, in Maspeth, because this bar is located in a residential area, where tenants live in apartments above the first floor of the commercial strip. She said that extending their hours of operation would be very disruptive to the surrounding community.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, made a motion to oppose granting a liquor license for a new cabaret to open at 1661 Weirfield Street in Ridgewood, which was seconded by Richard Huber.

Katherine Masi, a Board member, suggested that the District Manager draft a letter to the SLA about the proposed location of this establishment that the Community Board could then review and vote on.

Diego Leclery, a Board member, pointed out that this block of Weirfield Street is primarily industrial.

Jasmine Valle, a Board member, said that she lives near 1661 Weirfield Street and her block is primarily residential. She said that she objects to a new bar opening at this location.

After a general discussion on the motion regarding the Board's opposition to granting a liquor license for the proposed nightclub at 1661 Weirfield Street, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the matter, which carried by a vote of – 36 – in favor; -4- opposed; -1- not voting; and -0- abstentions.

A motion was made by Maryanna Zero, which was seconded by Peggy O'Kane, to oppose the proposed expansion of operating hours by **Hush** at 70-10 Grand Avenue. This motion was tabled after a motion by Diego Leclery which was seconded by Kathy Masi.

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Demolitions and Construction Notices

Mr. Maier read aloud the list of addresses for which we've received demolition/construction notices since our last Board Meeting. Board Members are urged to be extra vigilant and report any questionable activities.

Glendale

82-07 Cypress Hills Street – Demolition of Building A, Building B, & Garage (Block: 3750; Lot:705) in Mt. Neboh Cemetery

Maspeth

60-77 Fresh Pond Rd – Legalizing garage at rear yard line, facing onto Eliot Avenue (Block: 2762; Lot:2)

57-57 47 Street – Full Demolition (Block: 2602; Lot:68)

69-46 52 Avenue – Full Demolition (Block: 2479; Lot:30)

Ridgewood

57-36 Myrtle Avenue – Legalizing interior renovations (Block: 3573; Lot:17)

STATEMENTS FROM LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Chairperson recognized John Perricone, who introduced himself as Community Board 5's new liaison with the Queens Borough President's Office. He said that he is a lifelong resident of Ridgewood, in Community Board 5, Queens and that's he's very familiar with the Board's issues and concerns. He welcomed everyone to contact him with concerns they may have, by calling him in the Queens Borough President's Office.

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

The Senator sends his regards to everyone at Community Board 5 and hopes everyone had a good summer.

ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th.

Public Offices up for election in 2022 are: Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, NYS Senate, NYS Assembly, U.S. House/Congress, Civil Court Judge (2 seats in Queens County).

FLASH FLOODING

Like the other local officials, Senator Addabbo has reached out to his contacts in the city regarding the recent flooding issue in areas such as Middle Village.

RENT FREEZE/TENANT & HOMEOWNER SUPPORT UNIT

Provides free information on tenants' rights, assistance navigating housing-related issues, and connection to a range of resources, including the Tenant Resource Portal, anti-eviction legal assistance through the City's Rights-to-Counsel program, the home repairs program, and rent freeze and homeowners tax exemption programs. For information on tenants rights and the Right-to-Counsel, call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline. For information on rent freeze and homeowner tax exemption programs, call the hotline at (929) 252-7242.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans BBQ - Saturday, October 1st, 12PM to 2 PM at the Howard Beach Motor Club, 59 Russell Street in Howard Beach. Registration required - please call (718) 738-1111.

Fall Paper Shredding & Household Goods Donations - Sunday, October 2nd, 10 AM to 2 PM at the Forest Park Bandshell in Woodhaven.

Mobile Office Hours - Thursday, October 6th, 5:30 PM to 7 PM at the Glendale Library, 78-60 73rd Place in Glendale.

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Fall E-Waste Recycling - Sunday, October 9th, 10 AM to 2 PM, at the Forest Park Bandshell in Woodhaven.

The Senator sends his regards to everyone at Community Board 5 and hopes everyone had a good summer."

Statement from State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi's Office submitted by Kevin Wisniewski

"Hope everyone is doing well.

First and foremost, as we passed the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on our city and country, we remember those we lost that day, the families who lost loved ones, the first responders who answered our calls for help, and all who are still impacted by the events of that day. We will never forget, we will make sure that the legacies of those lost continue to live on, and we thank our first responders who continue to keep us safe.

I have a few updates from Assemblyman Hevesi. First, following the rains from earlier this week, Assemblyman Hevesi called on the city to fully utilize the funds it received from last year's federal infrastructure bill for flooding assistance - and specifically called for things such as upgrading outdated sewers and catch basins so that our communities can be adequately protected from future storms. With families and residents in this area who are still recovering from Hurricane Ida, people can't continue to be impacted by rains when they are rebuilding from the last one. If anyone is having trouble reaching assistance they can contact our office and we'll make sure to get through to the appropriate contact on your behalf.

Locally, we've continued local distributions and cleanups throughout the summer. Last month we held our second rain barrel distribution event of the year, and we're continuing with our community cleanup series. The next cleanup will be on Austin St in Forest Hills on Saturday, September 24th at 10am, and we'll keep the board updated with additional events that will be planned for the CB5 area. I've shared a flyer of the next event with the board, and you can email us at hevesia@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 263-5595 for info on upcoming events.

Legislatively, Assemblyman Hevesi is working to build on our victories last year in which we expanded access to assistance for childcare, and that saw us secure additional supports for providers. If anyone may be eligible for such assistance, we encourage them to reach out to our office. We will keep the board apprised of further legislative updates as we approach the upcoming session.

As always, please contact us if we can help with government agencies or any other matter you may need help with. Hope everyone has a good end to their summer. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Kevin G. Wisniewski, Senior Advisor for NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi at (718) 263-5595, and FAX: (718) 263-5688."

Statement from State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD – submitted by Vjola Usafaj

"Dear Community Board 5, Happy Fall! I appreciate your selfless work for our community.

Sunday marked the 21st anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. I attended and supported the 9/11 Candlelight Vigil in Juniper Valley Park, a moving tribute. I pledge to be the best public servant I can be, in honor of the cherished lives we lost on 9/11/2001.

This summer, I continued working for you to combat crime in our neighborhoods, including a spree of hate crimes. I brought Mayor Eric Adams to our district to stand with us against crimes in South Queens, drawing worldwide attention to this issue in our community, including support from the White House. There was also the hate crime against Jill LeCroix, a white woman and grandmother, who was assaulted while riding the bus by teenagers making racial insults. I brought together the community, including all

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elected officials and the Mayor's Office, at the site of the incident to condemn this heinous crime. I am pleased to report that all three suspects have been arrested.

Just today, I met with Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Philip Banks, when I discussed our district's many public safety concerns. I also passed a bill through both houses, with overwhelming support, to create our state's first AAPI Commission, which will develop solutions to the dramatic increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. I expect Governor Hochul to sign the Bill soon.

I am hosting a Gun Buy Back Event in my district on **Saturday, September 24**, which will take firearms off our streets. Anyone can come and surrender an operable gun and receive a \$200 bank card and iPad, with no questions asked. I am hopeful this initiative will help protect our community from gun violence. In other work, I was proud to secure hundreds of high-quality backpacks and school supplies for school children in our district before the start of the school year. Over 500 children received backpacks filled with supplies. I also provided free assistance to constituents on a host of legal matters with my partners at New York Legal Assistance group.

I also hosted a successful Summer Internship Program for our youth. At the end of the summer, every intern presented me with their own original legislation, and I even trained them to speak at press conferences. I invite you to refer students to my office for Fall Internships, where I will provide them with memorable experience in government and public service.

In the coming weeks, I am hosting two Recycling Events at the Forest Park Bandshell with State Senator Addabbo. On **Sunday, October 2**, I will be accepting household items in good condition to donate to our veterans. There will also be free paper shredding. The following Sunday, we are hosting an Electronics Recycling Event. Thank you as always to the good citizens of GCOP for supporting our event.

Lastly, we are in the public comment period for the MTA's Congestion Pricing Plan, which ends on September 23rd. Those wishing to give feedback can do so through various communication methods. Please contact my office for more details.

Very Truly Yours, Jenifer Rajkumar, Assemblywoman, 38th AD"

Statement from City Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 30th CD, submitted by Juan Mayancela

"Dear Community Board 5, I hope you all had a wonderful summer! I send my best wishes to every student in CB5 who has just gone back to school. This summer, I loved being able to spend a lot of time around the district at community events! Now that fall is here, my office is preparing a wide variety of events in Ridgewood. - Unfortunately, our community lost a delivery worker, Be Tran, who was fatally struck this summer at Seneca Avenue and Myrtle Avenue. My prayers are with his family and friends. I joined Ridgewood Tenants Union and Transportation Alternatives at Seneca Avenue and Weirfield Street to demand the Department of Transportation install a signal at this intersection to keep our community safe. We're in contact with DOT about traffic studies in multiple parts of the Ridgewood area. - Constituent services are very important to me. Our mobile office hours at Fenix this summer were successful, and I plan to coordinate additional mobile office hours. My office will be hosting mobile office hours at Fenix on November 15th. - I distributed backpacks to students in Ridgewood at Fenix, to a group of parents of children with special needs, and at my own event at Williamsburg. A special thank you to Hispanic Federation, who was able to help with these events.

A friendly reminder that composting is back and coming to all of Queens on October 3rd. Buildings with more than 10 units will be given a compost bin, and anyone else can request one from DSNY. I encourage everyone in CB5 to participate in the composting program. My office will hold a clean-up and a composting event in Ridgewood. Also, I visited GrowNYC at Myrtle Avenue and Cypress Avenue where you can drop off your compost there, as well!

The District 34th Trash Force has been steadily and successfully growing. My office has been working with the NYC Dept. of Sanitation to clean various locations in Ridgewood. If you have any locations in the

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34th District that have issues with trash, please submit your 311 ticket numbers at bit.ly/TrashForce311. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my office at 718-963-3141. You can also reach out to Juan Mayancela, Ridgewood community organizer. Stay tuned for a Calendar of Events that my office is hosting this Fall, and I'm looking forward to seeing you there!
Best regards, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez"

Richard Huber, a Board Member, pointed out that during the most recent rainstorm, the Cooper Avenue Underpass was flooded once again. He thanked the Board Chairperson, Council Member Robert Holden, and D. I. Kevin Coleman, Commanding Officer of the 104th Precinct, for their efforts.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Gary Giordano

The District Manager requested a Moment of Silence to remember all those whose lives were lost in the World Trade Center disaster on September 11, 2001. He said that he attended the Candlelight Vigil that was held in Juniper Valley Park on September 11th which was a beautiful event. He welcomed everyone to attend the 9/11 Memorial Service that is scheduled to begin at 12 Noon in Dry Harbor Playground in Forest Park this coming Sunday. He thanked everyone who worked to organize the local ceremonies.

He announced that the NYC Dept. of Transportation recently began milling and resurfacing local streets in our Board area, beginning in Maspeth and Middle Village.

Regarding the recent rainstorm, he said that 2" of rain fell within a very short time, causing severe flooding conditions throughout our Board area, and other areas in Northern Queens. He said that new sewer projects have been among our top 5 Capital Budget Priorities for years. He said that the Penelope Avenue Sewer Project was completed last year. Another major capital improvement project is currently underway in the vicinity of Calamus Avenue and 70 Street in Maspeth, in addition to a large sewer and water main replacement project in Troutman Street, Cypress Avenue and Himrod Street, in Ridgewood, he said.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the Committee met this week to review the application for **BSA Cal. #: 628-29BZIV for 71-34 73 Street, in Glendale**

IN THE MATTER OF AN Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals, by the Law Office of Jay Goldstein, PLLC on behalf of 73rd Realty LLC, the owner of record, pursuant to Sections 11-411 and 22-00 of the Zoning Resolution, for Reinstatement of a pre-1961 use variance more than 10 years after the expiration of term, and waiver of the BSA Rules of Practice and Procedure, pursuant to 1-07.3(b)(4)(i) of the Rules, for the property at **71-34 73 Street** (Block 3690; Lot 22) in Glendale, Queens, NY in an R4-1 Zoning District.

He reported that the Committee has no objection to granting their request for a 10-year renewal of their zoning variance, as submitted.

As there was no further discussion of this matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of: - 41- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the Committee also reviewed a presentation on proposed plans to build a new 8-story residential development with 44 residential units, 11 of which are intended to be affordable units, at 63-02 Fresh Pond Road, on the Southwest corner of Bleecker Street, in Ridgewood.

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He said that the applicant seeks to rezone this lot from the current Zoning District R5B/C1-4 to an R6A/C1-4 Zoning District for a depth of 100 feet from Fresh Pond Road.

He pointed out that the entire site consists of 5 underdeveloped lots, which were previously occupied by a laundromat and a large parking lot. He said that off-street parking for 28 vehicles would be provided at grade level and in the cellar of the proposed development.

He said that he expects this application will be complete and submitted to the Department of City Planning within the next 6 to 8 months.

Transportation Services and Public Transit Services

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz reported that a combined Committee Meeting of the Transportation Committee and Public Transit Services Committee was held in person at 7:30pm on August 30th in the Board 5 Office on Myrtle Avenue.

He said that the first item for discussion on their Agenda was the proposed replacement of the Grand Street Bridge over the Newtown Creek in Maspeth. He said that the bridge is scheduled to be replaced in 2026 and it is currently in the Preliminary Design Phase. He said that the proposed construction may require a full Environmental Impact Statement. However, there's a possibility that a shorter Environmental Assessment may suffice. He said that this question is still under consideration.

He reported that the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue is scheduled to begin in 2025, however contamination at the Wolff Alport site in Ridgewood is complicating the scheduling of this project. He said that tenants in the buildings that are located on Irving Avenue at Cooper Avenue, where contamination has been detected, may need to be relocated prior to the start of the decontamination process.

Mr. Butkiewicz reported that Committee members also discussed the MTA-NYC Transit's rehabilitation of the M Train structure and the ongoing Queens Bus Network Redesign, which he said Theodore M. Renz, the Public Transit Committee Chair, would explain as part of his Committee Report later.

Mr. Butkiewicz said that the Committee also discussed the recent notification from the NYC Department of Transportation's proposed Open Street Closure on 65th Drive, between 69th Place and 70th Street, adjacent to PS/IS 128 in Middle Village. He said that the street will only be closed during student drop-off times from 7:45am to 8:30am, and pickup times from 2pm to 2:45pm on school days. He explained that this stretch of 65th Drive is a One-Way Street and its closure during these times would have a minimal effect on traffic flow. The closure will be facilitated by school personnel using removable barriers, such as cones, at the entry end of the One-Way. Residents of the affected part of 65th Drive will have free access during the closure periods, through the open end of the One-Way Street. The movable barriers will allow for the entry of emergency services, as needed.

He said that the Committee voted in favor of this proposal and directed the District Manager to send a letter of support to the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), and to request additional information regarding initiating similar street closures near other schools located in the Board 5 area.

Mr. Butkiewicz reported that the fourth item they discussed was DOT's recommendation to convert four streets in Glendale from Two-Way to One-Way Streets as follows:

- Convert 60th LANE to ONE-WAY Northbound Operation, from Cooper Ave. to 75 Avenue;
- Convert 75th AVENUE to ONE-WAY Eastbound Operation, from 60 Lane to 64 Street;
- Convert 64th STREET to ONE-WAY Southbound Operation, from 75 Ave. to Cooper Avenue; and
- Convert 64th PLACE to ONE-WAY Northbound Operation, from Cooper Ave. to Cypress Hills St.

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He said that the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposed North to South One-Way conversions, but reserved judgment on the Eastbound conversion, pending today's Public Hearing, to allow for feedback from residents and an explanation from DOT. Concerns were raised regarding potential traffic bottlenecks that may result from closing off one of the limited westbound throughways under the train trestle where 75th Avenue meets Forest Avenue.

After a general discussion of this Committee recommendation in support of converting portions of 60th Lane, 64th Street and 64th Place into One-Way streets, the Board Chairperson entertained a tabling motion from Fred Haller that was seconded by Rich Huber.

Mr. Butkiewicz withdrew the Committee recommendation and sent the matter back to Committee for further consideration at their next monthly meeting.

In closing, Mr. Butkiewicz reported that Committee members reviewed several traffic safety issues and requests for additional traffic controls at intersections in our Board area, including:

- Installation of No Trucks signage on 69 Lane at Eliot Avenue, in Middle Village; and
- Installation of physical obstruction to prevent parking in crosswalk on Doran Avenue at Woodhaven Blvd, in Glendale.

He said that the Committee reviewed DOT's responses to the Committee's requests for additional traffic safety controls at several locations, including:

- Margaret Place at 81 Road, where a request for a Stop Sign was not approved;
- 78th Avenue between 62 Street and Cypress Hills Street, where requests for additional Stop Signs were not approved; and
- Cypress Avenue at Cooper Avenue, where a request for a dedicated turning lane was approved; and
- Stanhope Street at Fairview Avenue, where a request for an All-Way Stop was approved.

Mr. Butkiewicz said that the Committee briefly reviewed information they had received about the Congestion Pricing Environmental Assessment that is expected to be released soon. He said that Federal, State and City agencies will be conducting public hearings to gather public input on this proposal.

In closing, he announced that the next Transportation Committee Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 20th in person in the Board 5 Office on Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board Member, recommended that school crossing guards be responsible for manning all of the school crossings where removable barriers will be placed during arrival and dismissal times on school days, as part of the new Open Streets proposal of the NYC Department of Transportation.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson adjourned the Board Meeting on a motion from the floor at 9:43pm.