



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, as Amended December 14, 2022

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Jessica Boiardi; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoeffler; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Patricia Maltezos; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; 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; Catherine Sumsy; Katarzyna Syta; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Jasmine Valle; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Adam Bloom; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Maria de la Cruz; Brian Dooley; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Diego Leclery; Marcin Nadgorski; Dennis Stephan; Patrick J. Trinchese

ELECTED OFFICIALS and STAFF

Joseph P. Addabbo – NYS Senator, 15th SD, and Office Manager John D'Angelo
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Maricela Cano, Director of Community Boards, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
John Perricone, Community Coordinator – Queens Borough President's Office
Daniel Kurzyna – NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD
Juan Mayancela – NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 34th CD

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
John Maier, CB5Q Staff

GUESTS

David Renz, Policy Analyst, NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, 33 Beaver St, New York, NY 10004

Walter Sanchez, the First Vice-Chair of the Board, pointed out that Vincent Arcuri, the Board Chairperson, is in Wyckoff Hospital due to an extended illness, so he'll be conducting tonight's Board Meeting in his absence. He welcomed everyone to join the Board Meeting remotely, including everyone who's watching it being livestreamed via Zoom. He said that members of the public are welcome to view this meeting in progress, by clicking on this You Tube link: <https://youtu.be/H1Ld2npDEtQ>. This

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link will also be posted on our CB5Q Homepage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5 where the livestream video will be accessible in the future.

Mr. Sanchez announced that anyone wishing to address the Board during the Public Forum portion of the meeting is asked to sign up to speak before the Board Meeting begins.

Following the Salute to the Flag at 7:35pm, Mr. Sanchez announced the first order of business as a remote presentation by David Renz, Policy Analyst at the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission. However, due to technical difficulties, it was difficult to hear what Mr. Renz was saying, so he requested that the District Manager read aloud statements from the public during the Public Forum, until the problems with transmission could be resolved.

PUBLIC FORUM

“When we first purchased our house in this community board zone in 2006 we would often see NYC sewage trucks come by and vacuum up the sewers to keep them clean. We have not seen these trucks in several years.

When we were hit by the remnants of Ida in September of 2021, we had sewage backflow that came into our basement. We submitted a very modest damage report and request and like everyone else who submitted we received word that the city enacted a blanket rejection to all requests stating that they were not liable due to natural disasters.

It is my belief that if the city had continued to regularly clean the sewers, this particular event in our neighborhood would not have been as impactful.

Also recently we submitted a 3-1-1 request because we noticed that a catch basin was clogged. Shortly after submitting that complaint, Con Ed had to dispatch trucks because the clog impacted their infrastructure, and the city acknowledged the issue in the 3-1-1 complaint. Instead of being upset about spilt milk here, how do we effectuate the city actually doing its job and cleaning our sewers and catch basins again? Yours truly, Franklin Rosado, a Ridgewood resident.”

The District Manager responded to his complaint by saying that residents are welcome to contact the Board 5 Office to request clogged catch basins be cleaned out. He said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection routinely schedules catch basins to be cleaned once every two years.

“Dear Community Board 5, During the holiday season, we often hear wishes from others to stay safe, healthy and happy. This December, I’d like to bring up the topic of road safety to shed light on some concerning encounters other pedestrians and I have come across.

Lately, it feels like it’s become the norm for vehicle operators of all sorts — cars, trucks, bikes, mopeds, scooters, mystery machines...what have you — to simply not abide by the rules of the road anymore. Like many other local residents, I do not drive or bike; I use my own two feet and a MetroCard to get everywhere. I cross when I have the light and I don’t walk with my head down. However, almost every day it feels like I’ve had a “close call” encounter with some type of vehicle. I cross side streets with the expectation that somebody’s going to blow or roll through the stop sign. I cross main streets and feel cars inching up behind me before the light is even close to turning green. All vehicle operators in the community need to drive slower and more carefully.

I’m fortunate enough to be able to walk very fast, but I am genuinely worried about our elderly and disabled neighbors — especially now with it getting dark early and there being less visibility. I shared a post to a couple of local Facebook groups with a similar message, and some of the “close call” experiences with reckless drivers other residents shared are appalling. Ridgewood, Glendale, Maspeth and Middle Village, what is the hurry? Hit and runs have become a huge problem. Please, just slow

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down and look where you're going carefully. If you have to wait an extra second for someone to cross the street and the guy behind you honks, it's not the end of the world. And if you're crossing a busy street, keep an eye out for your neighbor beside you and say hello. Real New Yorkers are tough — but we're also kind and look out for one another. Please stay safe, healthy and happy this holiday season. Sincerely, Jessica Meditz, a Ridgewood resident."

"Hello, I'm submitting this statement to be shared at tonight's board meeting. Thank you. I would like to share my enthusiasm for the expansion of the Citi Bike program in Ridgewood, Glendale and Maspeth. I live in an area that is a 15-20 minute walk to any subway station, so Citi Bike makes it faster and safer for me to get home late at night when buses are less frequent. I also look forward to using Citi Bike to shop along Fresh Pond Road, and to get to our many local parks. I understand there are some concerns about loss of parking spaces - I am a car owner and I strongly disagree with putting stations on sidewalks to try to preserve parking spaces. There are far more people in this community who do not rely on private vehicles to get around so, if I get to store my car on the street for free, it's an outrage to consider taking away any of the already limited public space set aside for pedestrians. I think the Citi Bike expansion is a wonderful step toward making our neighborhood more accessible, cleaner, quieter and safer for all the members of our community, not just pedestrians and bike riders. Mallory Woods."

"Dear Community Board, I am writing to you to express my support and excitement for the new Citi Bike stations coming to our area. As a Citi Bike member who utilized the service to both commute to work and run errands in my neighborhood, I have been disappointed with the delays to the expansion and my hope is that the stations will be finally installed this year without further delay. With these new stations, I hope that the Community Board will further support the infrastructure needed to make sure that people using active transportation are safely separated from the dangerous drivers of oversized vehicles that are overwhelming our streets and endangering and taking the lives of so many of our neighbors. Protected (separated) bike lanes are a necessary part of our roadway designs. It is well documented that separated bike lanes make our roads safer for all users: cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers. As a concerned member of the community who is all of these things and also a mother of a teenager, we need infrastructure that makes it safer to get where I and my family need to go, whether we're travelling by foot, bike, car or bus.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my support for moving our community and city forward in creating a more equitable and accessible city by providing more transportation options and safe design for all road users, regardless of their age, ability, and mode of transportation. Sincerely, Christine Buese, in Ridgewood, Queens."

"Hi CB 5, As a 6-year resident of Ridgewood, I fully support expansion of Citi Bike to CB5. Citi Bike expansion will be a HUGE boost to this neighborhood. We are on the end of the transit network and having a convenient last-mile connection is very important. This vital network expansion will REDUCE car trips and help so many people make short and long trips without cars. Reducing vehicle traffic on our streets reduces congestion (making it easier for people who don't have the option to not drive), reduces pollution (less cars, less congestion, less idling), and makes our streets safer and more vibrant. Please know that there are many residents who would benefit immensely from this new transportation option. Thank you! Bree Mobley, in Ridgewood, Queens since 2016"

The District Manager said that several other statements were received from local residents who support the proposed Citi Bike expansion in our Board area including: Rachel Albetski, Brandon Zwagerman, Eric Helms, and Dominic Galeano, who are all Ridgewood residents who expressed their full support for the

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Citi Bike expansion into the Board 5 area. He added that both Alice Kendall, who lives in an adjacent neighborhood, and Mollie Lauffer, a Glendale resident, wrote about looking forward to the proposed expansion of Citi Bike stations into the Board 5 area because neither one of them drive a car, and so they rely on bicycling and/or walking back and forth to shops in our area.

On a different topic, the District Manager read a statement from J. J. Sulin, a Ridgewood resident: "Hello, I am a newish resident to Ridgewood - moved in during 2018. I am wondering why community board meetings are not public. The info on the NYC.gov website states that all meetings are open to the public. Are these Covid rules? If so, when do you expect this to change back to open meetings? Thanks for your time, J.J. Sulin."

The District Manager informed everyone that the Board staff sent Mr. Sulin a reply to his question earlier today via email.

Mr. Sanchez commented that all Board Meetings and Committee Meetings are open to the public. He said that whenever our Meetings are conducted remotely, the list of participants is limited to current Board Members and anyone who's giving a Board Presentation. He said that during our Virtual Meetings, public participation is limited to written statements that are submitted to the Board Office beforehand. He said that due to the spike in the spread of COVID19 lately, the Executive Committee voted to hold tonight's Board Meeting remotely. He reminded everyone that last month's Board Meeting was conducted in person in the Cafeteria of Christ the King High School and that Meeting was open to the public.

The District Manager explained that when Committee Meetings are conducted in the Board 5 Office, the number of people from the public who can attend the Meeting is limited due to space constraints. He said the Board arranges to conduct full monthly Board Meetings and Public Hearings in person in much larger halls, so we're able to accommodate over a hundred people in attendance, if necessary. He said that hopefully, we'll be able to hold next month's Board Meeting in person, depending on the rate of the spread of COVID19 and the Flu.

In any event, Mr. Sanchez welcomed input from residents and businesses about local community issues and instructed members of the public to call or email the Board Office, or post a comment on the Board's Homepage, so their concerns could be directed to the appropriate Committee for consideration.

Presentation RE: New Initiatives of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission

by David Renz, Policy Analyst for the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission

David Renz, a representative of the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) External Affairs Unit, briefly explained the TLC's responsibility for licensing and regulating New York City's Medallion (Yellow) taxi cabs and green cabs, for-hire vehicles (community-based liveries, black cars and luxury limousines) and TLC-plated vehicles, such as, Uber and Lyft cabs, commuter vans, and paratransit vehicles. He said that to operate for hire vehicles, drivers must first undergo a background check, have a safe driving record, and complete 24 hours of driver training.

He described two major initiatives of the TLC: 1) **Citywide Accessible Dispatch Service**; and 2) **Enforcement Efforts to Address Service Refusals**. He said that both initiatives are enforced by their newly created Office of Inclusion.

Under the **Citywide Accessible Dispatch Service**, he said the TLC's goal is to provide wheelchair accessible yellow and green taxi service originating anywhere in the five boroughs and ending either in the five boroughs, Westchester County, Nassau County or the three regional airports (JFK, La Guardia, and Newark). He said that under this program, passengers pay the metered taxi fare from the point of pick-up to their destination. There are no extra costs to passengers, he said.

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Mr. Renz said that anyone who needs transportation in a wheelchair accessible vehicle can request it either by calling the Citywide Accessible Dispatch Center directly at: (646) 599-9999, or by calling 3-1-1 to ask the operator to connect you with the Dispatch Center. He said that basically, any for-hire car service in the City is required to provide a wheelchair accessible cab, upon request.

Regarding **Enforcement Efforts to Address Service Refusals**, he said that under the TLC's Passenger Bill of Rights, all passengers are entitled to request that a cab driver deliver them to a destination that's anywhere in the 5 boroughs, Westchester and Nassau Counties, and our three regional airports. He encouraged anyone who believes they have been subject to discrimination from a TLC licensee to file a 311 complaint, which will be forwarded to their Office of Inclusion for enforcement. He said that all complaints are investigated by their staff and licensed drivers are held accountable by the TLC for their actions.

At the same time, Mr. Renz encouraged anyone who hails a cab to contact 3-1-1 to report any items that are lost in a taxicab, or make a complaint about a TLC-licensed driver, or commend the services of a TLC-licensed driver.

Mr. Sanchez asked if the TLC has any jurisdiction over "dollar vans." Mr. Renz replied that they are not regulated by TLC. He said that TLC's staff has made repeated attempts to crack down on these illegal and unlicensed operations of commuter vans, commonly known as "dollar vans." He reminded everyone that the only vehicles that are licensed to transport passengers via ride hails from the street are the fleets of yellow, and green cabs.

In response to another question from the floor, Mr. Renz replied that free shuttle buses between local ferry stations and the nearest bus or train station are not regulated by the TLC.

In closing, he welcomed calls for more information to his office at (212) 676-1210, or via email to renz@tlc.nyc.gov.

Chairperson's Report

Walter Sanchez, First Vice-Chairperson

Minutes

Mr. Sanchez asked Board members if they had received and reviewed the minutes from last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on November 9th, 2022. As there were no changes recommended, he accepted a motion from Maryann Lattanzio, seconded by Katarzyna Sita, to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were adopted by acclamation.

Walter Sanchez, the First Vice-Chairperson, asked John Maier of the Board staff to read aloud the list of applicants for alcoholic beverage licenses and renewals in the Board 5 area.

Liquor, Wine & Beer License and Renewal Applications

New Liquor License Applications

- 1) * Bermeo Bro d/b/a TBD, 341 St Nicholas Ave, 2nd Floor, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) * **Oasis 54** Inc. 54-20 Flushing Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378

Liquor License Renewal Applications

- 1) **Fajitas Sunrise Restaurant** Corp. 59-24 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) MIFRA Corp d/b/a **Taqueria El Patron Mexican Grill** 779 Wyckoff Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) Jungo Road LLC d/b/a **The Deep End** 1080 Wyckoff Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine, Beer & Cider License Applications

None Reported

Wine, Beer & Cider Application Renewals

- 1) CBC Pizza Corp. d/b/a **Glendale Pizza** 68-27 Myrtle Ave, Glendale, NY 11385

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2) ***Banatul Folklore and Soccer Club*** 1880 Menahan St, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Beer & Cider License Applications

None Reported

Other Notifications

**** Bermeo Food Corp. d/b/a *El Manaba Restaurant*** 341 St Nicholas Ave – Ground FL, Ridgewood, NY 11385 (LWB&C)

*** Also Seeking a Temporary Retail Permit** -- Information about the Temporary Retail Permits can be found on the SLA Website at <https://sla.ny.gov/node/1398>

**** Alteration** to add additional space in the building that would double the dining space of the restaurant, and a **Method of Operation Change** to add live music to their operations.

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

Mr. Sanchez opened the floor to questions and comments from Board Members. The District Manager commented that, in the past, there have been problems associated with the Bar located at 341 St. Nicholas Avenue, in Ridgewood. He also said that earlier this year, a pedestrian was shot in the vicinity of the Bar that's located at 1080 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that he'll request more information about their current operations. John Maier reported that, to his knowledge, the shooting incident took place after Midnight, as the victim was exiting a nearby recording studio on Wyckoff Avenue. He said that neither the shooter nor the victim were known patrons of the Bar.

Mr. Maier also reported that there were no **Demolition or Construction Notices** received at the Board 5 Office since last month's Meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Statement from State Senator Joseph Addabbo, submitted by John D'Angelo:

"As the end of this year draws near, Senator Addabbo and his office team want to thank the members of Community Board 5 for all their efforts throughout the year and for the opportunity to work with you.

Sanitation Winter Schedule

The NYC Department of Sanitation kicked off its winter schedule. When it is not snowing, Sanitation Workers scheduled for the night shift are frequently assigned to cleaning or collection duties, and as a result, residents may notice their trash, compost, and recycling collected at a slightly different time. The Department reminds residents that if you don't put your trash out at the right time, by midnight, you risk missing your pick-up.

988 Crisis Lifeline

When you call or TEXT **988**, you are connected to trained counselors that are part of the National Suicide Lifeline Network. Reasons people might reach out are: Thoughts of Suicide, Addiction, Worrying about Someone Else, General Anxiety, Covid-19 Stress, Abuse, Trauma, Loneliness, Trouble Thinking Clearly, Intense Mood Changes.

Blood Drive

State Senator Addabbo and City Council Member Holden are co-sponsoring blood drives at the Shops at Atlas Park (8000 Cooper Ave., Glendale - next to Sacca's Suits & Tailor Shop) between December 23rd and the end of this year, as follows:

Friday, December 23rd (1:00 PM - 7:00 PM)

Saturday, December 24th (9:30 AM - 2:00 PM)

Monday, December 26th (9:30 AM - 2:00 PM)

Wednesday, December 28th (1:00 PM - 7:00 PM)

Thursday, December 29th (1:00 PM - 7:00 PM)

Friday, December 30th (1:00 PM - 7:00 PM)

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Saturday, December 31st (9:30 AM - 2:00 PM)

Wishing all the best this Holiday Season and for a Happy, Healthy 2023!"

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

"Hi Everyone - Hope you're all staying safe and well. Just a few brief announcements tonight. First, with COVID, flu, and RSV viruses making the rounds, our office has worked with Health and Hospitals to secure protective supplies for distribution. If you, or anyone you know, needs rapid tests, protective masks, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, or other supplies, you can contact our office at (718) 263-5595, or email hevesia@nyassembly.gov to arrange a pickup.

Legislatively, Assemblyman Hevesi is ramping up for the upcoming legislative session, and is currently working with advocates and legislators to develop a follow up plan to build on the victories last year while he was Assembly Children and Families Committee Chair. We will keep the Community Board updated as the plans come together, and we also ask that if there are any budget, or legislative related issues you would like to bring to our attention, that you call and email so we can make sure your concerns are registered.

Aside from that, wishing all a very safe and warm Holiday Season, and we look forward to reconnecting with you all in the New Year. Kevin G. Wisniewski, Senior Advisor to NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

Statement from NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 34th CD – submitted by Juan Mayancela

"Dear Community Board 5, I hope everyone is staying warm as the weather gets colder! I am wishing everyone a happy holiday and hope that everyone gets to take some time to rest.

- I am proud to have distributed turkeys in Ridgewood. I contributed turkey donations to Fenix Car Service for their food pantry and to a community group that organizes with parents who have special needs children.

- Thank you to the community members who came out to the Ridgewood Community clean up! It was a huge success and we removed plenty of trash from Ridgewood.

- On Monday, December 12, 2022, I had a walk through with the Queens Chamber of Commerce and their Small Business team. We walked on Seneca Avenue and spoke with some businesses. Helping small businesses thrive in the 34th District is very important for me, and the Queens Chamber offers a myriad of services. If you are a business owner and you need help, please reach out to my office and we can connect with the Chamber for assistance.

- District 34th trash force has been a success. My office has worked with DSNY to clean various locations in Ridgewood. If you have any location in the 34th District that is problematic with trash, please submit your 311 complaints at bit.ly/TrashForce311.

- My office has been planning community Town Halls throughout the district. I am excited to announce that Ridgewood's Town Hall will be on February 13th, 2023, at PS81Q (559 Cypress Avenue) from 6pm to 8pm, and we will be focusing on the cultural and business community. I will send the Community Board the official flyer and hope to see many of you on the 13th!

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, my Ridgewood community organizer. Best regards, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez"

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

"Dear Chairman Arcuri, District Manager Giordano and the Community Board Members, Thank you for your time and dedication to serving all the residents of Queens Community Board 5. My office and I continue to focus on improving the quality of life in our Council District. To that end, the Council recently passed Intro 0759, which I co-primed. The law requires the NYPD to establish a program to provide the

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public with etchings that affix or engrave identifying numbers into catalytic converters. This will help the NYPD identify stolen catalytic converters. Additionally, I opposed DOT and Citi Bike's initial plan to remove hundreds of parking spaces throughout the district to install Citi Bike stations, which includes stations that would go in front of residential homes. We're working with DOT and the Juniper Park Civic Association to identify locations throughout the district where Citi Bike stations could be installed but without eliminating any parking.

Recently the Council held a hearing on Intro 0632, which would prohibit property owners from conducting background checks on potential tenants. I along with the entire Common Sense Caucus oppose this legislation.

This Friday, December 16th, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Santa Claus will be visiting my office to provide cookies to all our neighborhood children. Everyone is welcome to attend. Thank you for your hard work and the all the hours you put into serving our community as volunteers. You are all appreciated.
Sincerely, Robert F. Holden, Council Member, District 30"

John Perricone, Community Coordinator on the Queens Borough President's staff, informed everyone that he'll be leaving his position on the Borough President's staff next week, and will begin his new job at the Business Improvement District in Woodhaven. He wished everyone a Happy Holidays, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

He introduced Maricela Cano, the Director of Community Boards in the Queens Borough President's Office. Maricela Cano extended Holiday Greetings on behalf of the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. She also informed everyone that the Community Board application process opens January 3, 2023. She said that the application will be posted up on the www.queensbp.org webpage, under the Community Board tab. She said that a list of Board Members who are up for reappointment was emailed to the Board 5 Office last week, so if anyone is unsure about their appointment, they could check with the District Manager about it. She welcomed anyone who has difficulty entering information online to contact her office, via email at mcano@queensbp.org, to request assistance. .

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager wished everyone a beautiful Holiday Season.

He reminded everyone to put household trash out for collection before Midnight, preferably after 8pm, because the Department of Sanitation's Snow Route schedule is in effect until the end of March.

Regarding traffic safety issues, he suggested that if drivers observed the rules of common courtesy, there would be far fewer traffic accidents on our local streets. Regarding the need to clean clogged catch basins, he recommended that if anyone sees a catch basin that's full of debris, to call in a complaint to 311 and then notify the Board 5 Office via email at qn05@cb.nyc.gov so staff can follow up with the Department of Environmental Protection about the problem.

He said that he looks forward to meeting in person at next month's Board Meeting, if the rate of spread of the COVID19 virus and the Flu decrease enough to make it safe to meet in person by then.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws Committee

Margaret O'Kane

Margaret O'Kane, Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee, reported that at last month's Board Meeting, the entire Board reviewed the proposed By-Law Amendments and after discussion, the Board asked that the number of members of the Homeless Committee and the Liquor License Committee be increased to at least seven members. She said that she, therefore, changed the minimum number of members of both Committees to be at least seven, with input from members of the By-Laws Committee. The

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balance is unchanged for both amendments. On behalf of the Executive Committee, she read aloud the proposed amendments, as follows:

“The Executive Committee proposes to amend the By Laws of Community Board 5 Queens as adopted on January 27, 1997 in the following manner.

To Article V – Committees, Section 1, Standing Committees, be added the following:

N. Committee on the Homeless

The Committee on the Homeless shall be responsible for matters relating to the homeless population in the district. The Committee shall conduct factfinding inquiries, address community concerns, identify problems, and advocate for solutions to identified problems in a collaboration with relevant government agencies and local service providers.

At a minimum, the Committee shall meet quarterly and present a committee report at the first meeting of the full Board immediately following the most recent Committee meeting. There shall be not less than seven members of this committee.

O. Liquor License Committee

The Liquor License Committee shall review various applications made to the State Liquor Authority, including but not limited to those made for liquor, wine, beer, and cider licenses, cabarets and night clubs. In addition, the Committee shall review applications for the sale of cannabis and related products.

At a minimum, the Committee shall meet remotely every month that an application is submitted to Community Board 5 for review and shall present a committee report at the first meeting of the full Board immediately following the most recent Committee meeting. The Committee shall consist of not less than seven members, with at least one member representing each community – Ridgewood, Glendale, Maspeth, and Middle Village.”

Mr. Sanchez opened the floor to questions and comments on the proposed amendments.

Toby Bloch, a Board Member, asked why the Liquor License Committee is the only Committee where Committee Members are permitted to meet remotely. He said that if those Committee Members are permitted to meet remotely, then all Committee Members should have that same option.

Mr. Sanchez replied that, for the most part, there probably will only be one establishment per month that requires their attention, in which case, the Executive Committee thought that it would be too onerous to require that all the Committee Members attend every month in person. Mr. Bloch objected by saying that the Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee meets at least once monthly, and they should be given equal consideration.

Ms. O’Kane commented that it’s not a comparable situation, because the Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee has a full Agenda to consider every time they meet. She also pointed out that the Corporation Counsel in the Queens Borough President’s Office is currently in the process of reviewing the proposed amendments to the Board’s By-Laws and has not rendered any opinion yet.

As there was no further discussion on the motion, Mr. Sanchez requested a Roll Call vote which carried by a vote of - 36 – in favor; - 1 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Transportation Services Committee & Public Transit Services Committee

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz reported that the Committee met in the Board 5 Office at 7:30pm on Tuesday, November 29th to discuss transportation issues.

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Mr. Butkiewicz said that the first item on the Committee Agenda was a discussion of the Freight Rail Operations in the Board 5 area, including noisy overnight operations disturbing residents' sleep and screeching sounds from the freight trains. He said that the Committee will review the status of these complaints on an ongoing basis from now on.

He also reported that they discussed the need to repaint the LIRR's Freight Rail Bridge over the Cooper Avenue Underpass. He said that the Committee will advocate for it to be painted soon.

Regarding the need for additional lighting at the new Myrtle Avenue Entrance into Forest Park, he reported that the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) responded quickly to the District Manager's request for necessary repairs to the overhead street lighting which has been restored, in addition to installing more overhead lighting at the entrance and exit ramps of the Jackie Robinson Parkway. He said that the Committee will continue to advocate for physical barriers to be erected between drivers entering the Jackie Robinson Parkway, the pedestrian path and the new Park entrance.

Mr. Butkiewicz reported that the Committee reviewed a series of traffic calming and traffic safety study requests at their meeting and will follow up with DOT about their status.

Regarding DOT's plans to expand the number of Citi Bike stations in the Board 5 area, he said that the Committee fully supports sending a letter to the Dept. of Transportation with the following recommendations:

- That the full Board: wants to have an active role in the planned implementation of this program, including being consulted on the selection of Citi Bike stations;
- That the needs of the community be taken into consideration;
- That the implementation of the planned Citi Bike Program expansion needs to be done in a way that is positive for everyone;
- That when possible, stations should be located where automobile parking spaces would not be lost, such as, in daylighted parking lane locations, other areas of parking restrictions and, where feasible, on sidewalks;
- That stations should be kept on the smaller side;
- That the most up-to-date copy of the Citi Bike Rules and Regulations be sent to our Board Office.
- That it is important that changes can be made to Citi Bike locations when there are issues.

After a general discussion of the matter, Mr. Sanchez requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation which carried by a vote of – 31 – in favor; - 4 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

In closing, he announced that the Committee plans to meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 24th, in the Board 5 office.

Public Safety Services Committee

Maryann Lattanzio

Maryann Lattanzio reported that P. O. Michael Berish attended their meeting in the Board 5 Office at 7:30pm on November 16th, 2022, to review precinct staffing, crime statistics and patrol issues.

Ms. Lattanzio said that the Officer Berish reported that there are 142 Police Officers who are currently assigned to patrol the 104th Precinct, with 15 to 19 officers per shift in 5 or 6 patrol cars. He informed Committee Members that most crimes occur on the Midnight to 8am shift.

Regarding the most recent crime statistics for the past 28-day period, she said that P. O. Berish reported that the overall number of crimes reported in the 104th Precinct increased by 9% over the previous 28-day period. The major categories of crimes reported include Rapes - up by 1; Robberies - increased by 33%, up from 12 to 16; Felony Assaults - increased by 16%, up from 25 to 29; Burglaries - down by 48%, which is 13 less than the same period last month; Grand Larcenies - up 11, from 46 to 57; and Grand Larceny Auto crimes - increased by 5, up from 22 to 27.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on December 14, 2022, as amended

Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee was informed by P. O. Berish that the overall Year-to-Date crime statistics for the 104th Precinct show an increased rate of crime in most categories, as compared to the same time period last year:

Rape – up by 58%, from 12 to 19; Murder – remains unchanged, with 2 murders each year, and arrests made in every case; Robbery – + 53%, from 116 to 178; Felony Assault – +17%, from 226 to 266, most of them involving domestic violence cases; Burglary – + 19%, from 198 to 236; Grand Larceny – + 21%, from 467 to 566; and Grand Larceny Auto – + 44%, from 187 to 269.

She said that Officer Berish gave them a breakdown of the increase in overall number of crimes reported in each Sector over the past 28-Day Period, as well:

Glendale = +18%

Ridgewood = +41%

Maspeth = +21%

Middle Village = +19%

Ms. Lattanzio said that Officer Berish informed the Committee that police recently made 4 arrests of youthful offenders inside Juniper Valley Park who were riding illegal bikes there. Regarding an incident that involved youthful offenders reportedly drinking and disturbing the peace inside Juniper Valley Park, he said that there weren't enough officers on hand to arrest them all because they were under the age of 16 years old which requires that an officer accompany each one individually while they're being booked. He also informed the Committee that 244 seizures of mopeds and similar vehicles were made by officers in the 104th Precinct recently.

Regarding the number of crimes reported at the Homeless Facility on Cooper Avenue in Glendale, she said that Officer Berish reported that Year-to-Date, police have responded to 606 calls-for-assistance. He pointed out that not all the calls are 911 calls. He said that 172 calls were requests for an ambulance, and 32 calls were quality of life complaints that were reported to 311. He told the Committee Members that police have made 63 arrests of shelter residents, but only 30 arrests involved crimes that were committed in the 104th Precinct.

Regarding summoning activity in the 104th Precinct, Ms. Lattanzio said that Officer Berish provided the Committee with the following breakdown: 1,016 parking summonses and 476 moving violations were issued during the past 28-day period. The summonses included: 36 summonses for parking in Bus Stops; 360 for parking by a fire hydrant; 75 for speeding; 50 for driving through a red light; 30 for talking on a cell phone while driving; 55 for texting while driving; 10 for failure to yield; and 30 for driving without a seat belt buckled.

Ms. Lattanzio said that the Committee also discussed the need to hold Narcan Training Workshops, and additional Build-a-Block Meetings for community residents to attend at least quarterly.

Derek Evers asked how many summonses were issued to vehicles with defaced License Plates in the 104th Precinct. Ms. Lattanzio said that she'd request that information for the next Committee Meeting. He also asked what the Precinct is doing about thieves who are stealing packages from in front of people's homes. She said that she'd have to ask for more information and report back to the Board.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Sanchez wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season, and adjourned the Board Meeting at 9:07pm.