



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 Community Board 5 Public Meeting

July 12, 2023

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Carol Benovic-Bradley; Antonetta Binanti; Jessica Boiardi; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Ethan Chan; Deepak Chaudhari; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Salvatore Crifasi; Patricia Crowley; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Paul A. Kerzner; Edward Lettau; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Melissa Rebecca; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Lily Scarabino; Dennis Stephan; Katarzyna Syta; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Jasmine Valle; Maryanna Zero; Brandon Zwagerman

Board Members Absent

Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Michael Byc; Maritza Carmona; Daniel De Brucker; Derek Evers; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Katherine Masi; April Narsasian; Michael Porcelli; Patrick Trinchese

ELECTED OFFICIALS and STAFF

Tianna Armstrong – U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Irene Stathatas – NYS Senator Michael Gianaris, 12th SD
John D'Angelo - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD
Maria Valdez – NY State Senator Julia Salazar, 18th SD
Jolly Patel – NYS Assembly Member Steven Raga, 30th AD
Melissa Villalobos – NYS Assembly Member Juan Ardila, 37th AD
NYS Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD - statement
Craig Caruana – 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

Derek Jasmin – Dept. of City Planning
Anthony Medina, Reporter – The Ridgewood Times/Times Newsweekly

Vincent Arcuri, the Board Chairperson, welcomed everyone to tonight's Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:35pm, following a Salute to the Flag. He said that this Meeting is also being livestreamed via Zoom, where anyone can watch this meeting at their convenience, by clicking on the link that's posted on our CB5Q Homepage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5.

The Board Chairperson announced the first order of business as:

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PUBLIC FORUM

Paul Pogozeleski, president of the Middle Village Players Roller Hockey League, announced that he is starting up a new Roller Hockey League to give youth an opportunity to join a local sports league that plays their games and holds practice on the hockey rink inside Juniper Valley Park. He said that he has filed for 501C3 Tax-Exempt status for their organization this year. He welcomed anyone interested in joining to contact him via email at middlevillageroller@gmail.com.

David Pambianchi, a resident of Middle Village, spoke about the increased incidence of mail theft, package theft, and tire theft in his neighborhood this year. He wondered if the increased crime rate was in any way associated with the Homeless Shelter on Cooper Avenue.

Michael Roemmelt, the Funeral Director of Michael's Funeral Home at 79-22 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, reported that there have been many 3-1-1 complaints over the past year, about the operation of the Taj Village Restaurant located at 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue. He said that the patrons are loud and disorderly in front of this location, as well as next door, and garbage piles up there for days at a time. He displayed a print-out of hundreds of 3-1-1 complaints that were reported about the ongoing problems there since last Summer. For all the above-outlined reasons, he asked the Board to recommend against renewing the liquor license for this establishment.

The Board Chairperson thanked the speakers for their input at tonight's Board Meeting and closed the Public Forum. He introduced the next Item on the Board Agenda as:

Chairperson's Report Vincent Arcuri

Minutes

The Board Chairperson asked Board members if they had received and reviewed the minutes from last month's Board Meeting that was conducted on June 14, 2023. Eric Butkiewicz made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect his comments about the proposed site of the Cannabis Dispensary at 74-03 Metropolitan Avenue, on Page 7. He said that, in addition to the physical exposure to smoke and fumes that young children would be exposed to as they walk past this storefront, he was concerned about their visual exposure to cannabis products that would be for sale there. His motion was seconded, and Mr. Arcuri requested a voice vote on the motion to adopt the minutes as amended on a voice vote.

The Board Chairperson called the Roll to take attendance of the Board Members present.

Liquor, Wine & Beer License and Renewal Applications

Mr. Arcuri requested that anyone who has any concerns about any new or existing establishments, to report them to the Board Office so the information could be forwarded to the proper authorities. He read aloud the list of Liquor License Applications and Renewals, which was distributed to all Board Members.

New Liquor License Application

- 1) **Bridie's Grill Room Inc.** 64-54/56 Dry Harbor Rd, Middle Village, NY 11379

[R]* & **

Liquor License Renewal Applications

- 1) **Eagles Café & Bar Corp.** 68-69 Fresh Pond Rd, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Pollos Mario Woodhaven Corp.** 63-20 Woodhaven Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374
- 3) **TAJ Village Inc. d/b/a Ten-42 Lounge** 79-28 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 4) **Super Pollo Restaurant Inc.** 865 Woodward Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

[R]

[R]

[R]

[R]

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New Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

1) ESKO Deli Corp. d/b/a **Angelo's Deli Restaurant** 5000 Grand Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378 [R]*

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewal Application

1) JCM Pizza LTD d/b/a **Corato Pizza II** 60-91 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]

New Beer & Cider License Application

1) R & A Gourmet Food Corp d/b/a **Angelos Pizza Y Mas** 57-64 Maspeth Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378 [R]*

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

** **Bridie's Grill Room Inc.** amended their 09/21/2022 Notice to reflect planned outdoor seating for 4 tables with room for 14 people in rear side yard.

[B/T] = Bar/Tavern, [CA] = Catering, [CL] = Club, [R] = Restaurant

Regarding **Bridie's Grill Room**, the Board Chairperson asked why their application is considered a New Liquor License, since they originally notified our office last Summer of their plans to open a restaurant at this location. Staff Member John Maier replied that they're refiling their application for a new liquor license with the State Liquor Authority, with an amendment for use of the patio area in their rear side-yard.

Regarding the **Taj Village Restaurant** application, the District Manager reported that the Board has received several complaints about this establishment. He said that he prepared a recommendation for the Board's consideration at tonight's Meeting, in the absence of both Co-Chairs of the Liquor License and Cannabis License Committee. He asked that everyone pray for Maryann Lattanzio's husband, who just underwent bypass surgery on his heart.

Mr. Giordano read aloud the following recommendation in opposition to the State Liquor Authority's granting a renewal of the Liquor License for this establishment:

"It is recommended that the liquor license not be renewed for Taj Village Inc. d/b/a Ten-42 Lounge, at 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue for the following reasons:

- Patrons of this business seem to have little or no regard for neighbors who live nearby.
- Sanitation summonses have been issued at this location due to dirty conditions.
- The building reportedly has a second entrance at 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue, where there is a door to a large building in the rear of this address.
- The person who is responsible for the liquor license at this location is reportedly seldom there, and the holder of the license reportedly rented this business to another person."

Walter Clayton moved to adopt this recommendation which was seconded by Dmytro Fedkowskyj. The Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adopt the recommendation by acclamation, which passed unanimously, with 39 Board Members who were present in favor, - 0 – opposed, and - 0 - abstentions. Regarding a Tabling Motion that was made at the end of last month's Board Meeting, to oppose the proposed site of a Cannabis Dispensary at 74-03 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, the District Manager reported that he wrote a letter to the Office of Cannabis Management to express our Community Board's concerns about the site. He pointed out that the public comment period for granting new and/or renewed licenses is limited to 30-Day from the notification date, which was June 1st, 2023. The Board Chairperson said this matter would be open for consideration under New Business.

CONSTRUCTION and DEMOLITION NOTICES

Mr. Giordano reported that since last month's Board Meeting, the Board received a notice about plans to demolish all three vacant residential buildings on one large lot located at **57-33 & 57-35 59 Street, Block: 2693; Lot: 5**, in Maspeth. He asked Board Members to be extra vigilant and report any questionable activities to the Board Office, as well as 3-1-1.

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STATEMENTS from LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

On behalf of U.S. Representative Grace Meng, Tianna Armstrong announced that the Congresswoman is scheduled to meet and greet local constituents during weekend office hours, from 10am to 12 Noon, on Saturday, July 29th, at 118-35 Queens Boulevard - Suite 110, in Forest Hills. She welcomed those interested in speaking with the Congresswoman to set up an appointment by calling their office at (718) 358-6364.

On behalf of City Council Member Robert Holden, Craig Caruana said that the Council Member will introduce a Wastewater Treatment Testing Bill in the City Council tomorrow that would require the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene, to conduct wastewater testing for controlled substances with significant potential for addiction or other serious health consequences at each wastewater treatment plant in New York City. He said that this Bill would also require the Commissioners to submit an annual report to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council. The report would include information on, in part, the types and levels of controlled substances with significant potential for addiction or other serious health consequences found in wastewater and the various testing methods used, he said.

Mr. Caruana said that the Council Member is happy to report that, after working with the City's Chief Technology Officer for many months, the 3-1-1 system is now accepting reports about defaced License Plates on vehicles in our City, as long as it's identified as located in front of a specific address. He said that local police will work with the Sheriff's Office to remove vehicles with defaced plates from our streets. He encouraged everyone to report these illegal plates to 3-1-1 from now on.

Mr. Caruana welcomed Veterans and their caregivers to call their office for assistance at (718) 366-3900. He said that their Veteran Resource Center is open by appointment only on Wednesdays, including July 26th, August 2nd, August 16th, and August 30th, in their District Office located at 58-38 69 Street, in Maspeth.

Regarding several upcoming events that the Council Member is sponsoring, he announced that:

- at 8PM on July 20th in Juniper Valley Park, the Summer Concert Series opens with '80s Night;
- at 10AM on Saturday, July 22nd, a Rain Barrel Giveaway will be held in Frank Principe Park;
- at 8PM on Thursday, August 17th, a Movie under the Stars will be shown in Juniper Valley Park;
- from 5:30PM to 8:30PM on Tuesday, August 1st, the National Night Out Against Crime will take place in Juniper Valley Park in conjunction with the 104th Police Precinct.

On behalf of State Assembly Member Steven Raga, Jolly Patel thanked everyone who participated in their annual reading of the Declaration of Independence last Friday night, on July 7th. She announced a few upcoming events that the Assembly Member is sponsoring, including a Fire Safety Seminar in late July, and free Mammogram Screening for eligible residents on July 31st. She said that their office will host a Rain Barrel Giveaway on August 26th. She welcomed calls for more information about any of these events at (718) 651-3185.

On behalf of City Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, Juan Mayancela announced that their office plans to sponsor a Community Clean Up, in cooperation with the Primera Iglesia Kichwa Sinai, located at 1809 Cornelia Street in Ridgewood, on Saturday, August 19th. He welcomed calls to their office at (718) 963-3141, from tenants, landlords, and business owners whose properties may have been flooded due to heavy rainstorms this year.

On behalf of State Senator Addabbo, John D'Angelo, office manager in his Middle Village office, announced that they are co-sponsoring another Rain Barrel Giveaway in conjunction with Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi's office this Saturday, July 15th from 10AM to 3PM, at the Glendale Community Garden, at 74-10 88 Street. He advised everyone interested in picking up a Rain Barrel to RSVP by calling

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his office at (718) 497-1630. He encouraged everyone to attend the Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 1st, starting at 5:30pm in Juniper Valley Park, off 80 Street in Middle Village. He wished everyone a quiet, peaceful, and safe Summer.

On behalf of State Senator Michael Gianaris, Irene Stathatos said that their District includes parts of Maspeth, Ridgewood, and Glendale. She said that they'd be happy to work with constituents to improve conditions in local parks in the District. She welcomed calls for assistance from constituents at (718) 728-0960.

On behalf of State Senator Julia Salazar, Maria Valdez introduced herself and informed everyone that their office is located at 212 Evergreen Avenue, between Willoughby Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in Bushwick. She welcomed constituents to call their office at (718) 573-1726 if they need help or information with any local problems.

On behalf of State Assembly Member Juan Ardila, Melissa Villalobos announced that their office is partnering with the Dept. of Environmental Protection to identify frequent flooding conditions along Flushing Avenue in Maspeth, during and after heavy downpours. She said that their office will host a free Rain Barrel Giveaway soon and advised that anyone interested in picking one up from them to contact their office at (718) 784-3194 to register for this event. In addition, she welcomed volunteers to join them tomorrow at 3PM in Grover Cleveland Park for a Community Clean Up Event inside the Park. Lastly, she announced that in August, their office will host a Clothing Drive for new immigrant families in Ridgewood. She welcomed calls for more information to their office.

The District Manager read aloud the following statement from State Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar:

"I hope you are all enjoying our beautiful Summer weather. Your work on CB5 is a labor of love and I admire your service. I led some significant wins in Albany this session. I passed a landmark Bill requiring waste transported by rail to be covered, to stop noxious waste emissions once and for all in Glendale and Ridgewood. This Bill languished for 13 years before I took it up and sponsored it, passing it with bipartisan support. Thank you to Gary Giordano and Kathy Masi for your support, as we now lobby the Governor to sign the bill and make it law at last. I also passed historic legislation making Diwali a Public School Holiday. I overcame impossible odds to get this done, as the community had been trying for over two decades. Diwali is observed by over 600,000 New Yorkers, who will now be included in the gorgeous mosaic that is our City.

This month, I kicked off the Summer by bringing the Queens Rockfest to our District. It was a day of performances from the best rock bands in Queens. They held their Rock Concert in the Forest Park Bandshell, treating us to covers of the Rolling Stones and Beatles. Looking ahead, I will be hosting a Rain Barrel Giveaway on Sunday, August 6th at 10:00 AM at the Forest Park Bandshell.

Your safety is my top priority. I am working now to shutter all the illegal smoke shops in our District. I am in communication with Mayor Adams, City Sheriff Anthony Miranda, and our 104th Precinct. I am also looking forward to seeing many of you at National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 1st. May you all have a healthy, safe, and relaxing summer!

Very truly yours, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD"

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager began by saying that he hopes we don't see the same kind of flooding conditions that developed up in Westchester County, Rockland County, or in Orange County in the past few days.

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He said that when 8" to 10" of rain fell in such a short period of time, it washed out roadways and bridges, as well as Metro North commuter rail tracks upstate.

Mr. Giordano announced that our annual Public Hearing regarding the City's Capital and Expense Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 will be conducted during our next Community Board Meeting on September 13th, 2023 to give everyone an opportunity to comment on our Board's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for the next Fiscal Year, that starts July 1st, 2024. He explained that Capital Budget Priorities include public construction projects, that are done essentially or overwhelmingly with City funds, and Expense Budget priorities typically involve the workforce, such as, hiring a full complement of Police Officers to be assigned to the 104th Police Precinct; Sanitation workers, especially to clean up illegal dumping; work crews for the Dept. of Environmental Protection to make repairs to our sewer lines, and repair cave-ins in the middle of the roadway that are next to the catch basins, Building Inspectors to respond to complaints in our District, and retaining the current workforce of Fire Department personnel in our Engine and Ladder Companies to ensure adequate fire protection for the safety of our population in District 5, Queens.

He explained that soon after this annual Public Hearing, the Executive Committee generally meets to formulate a list of Capital Budget Priorities, our Budget Survey, that is distributed to all Board Members. He said that the Budget Survey generally includes at least 30 Capital Budget Priorities, such as, the Reconstruction of the Grand Street Bridge, the Rehabilitation of the Ridgewood Reservoir and several other local park improvements, and a new Sewer Project for Eastern Glendale, which was our top Capital Budget Priority last year.

Once the Budget Surveys are sent to Board Members, they'll have to be filled out and returned to the Board Office the following week so the Executive Committee will have time to review all the input from the Budget Surveys, as well as complaints about ongoing problems in the Board area, to make a recommendation regarding the Board's Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2025, to present to the full Board for a vote at the Board Meeting on October 11th.

Regarding the Board's Expense Budget recommendations, the District Manager asked that Board Members review the current list of priorities before deciding to recommend adding any Items, or moving them to a higher or lower priority, because each amendment to the current list of priorities requires the reordering of another Budget Item that's on the list.

The District Manager commented that, despite the increase in crimes committed in our City since last year, crime rates have dropped 75% since the 1980s, at least in most neighborhoods in our City. He said that Parks maintenance has greatly improved since then, too. He said that years ago, many local civic leaders participated in annual Budget Hearings at Queens Borough Hall to request capital improvement projects in local parks, which have since been completed. He said that as a city, we've come a long way and I think things are way better than they were in the '80s and '90s, and our Community Board has done a real good job at keeping these communities together and getting a lot of improvements done in every neighborhood.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that he recently toured our local Parks to find out the status of several current capital improvement projects. He reported that Phase 2 of the Rehabilitation of the Starr Playground, on Onderdonk Avenue in Ridgewood, is nearing completion now. He said that the asphalt surface for the new multi-purpose playground with spray showers will be installed soon, and new fencing around the

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perimeter of the playground remains to be installed. Work on this \$2.8 Million Project was delayed due to COVID19. It's slated for completion by October 23rd, 2023, he said.

Mr. Fiedler reported that on a walking tour of the Ridgewood Reservoir, he saw that the \$5 Million project to stabilize the Gate House at the north end of the Reservoir was completed. He also reported that the fencing around Highland Park is very poorly maintained, with 2' wide gaps around lamp posts where the fence is not adequately secured, and people can walk right into the Basin. He said that he also noticed lots of Spotted Lanternfly insects on the grounds. He said that it's an invasive species that's been spreading like wildfire now. He encouraged everyone to kill them on sight. Fred Haller, a Board Member, recommended using a spray bottle filled with a half and half solution of Dawn dish washing liquid and water to squirt on this type of insect to eradicate them. He said that it's very effective.

He said that the Reconstruction of Benninger Playground on Madison Street, west of Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood, is currently in the procurement process, and is estimated to cost between \$3 and \$5 Million.

In addition, when he visited Evergreen Park, everything was well maintained. However, he noted that there have been lots of complaints about volleyball tournaments being played on the asphalt softball field until late at night, and the graffiti-covered concrete bleachers there. He said that this area of the Park is currently in the Design Phase of a Reconstruction Project that calls for 3 new volleyball courts, two junior basketball courts, and a multipurpose play area that is slated to begin in 2023.

Regarding Frank Principe Park, formerly known as Maurice Park, in Maspeth, Mr. Fiedler said that the Committee participated in a scoping meeting that was conducted by representatives of the Parks Department recently and is waiting to review the Design Plans for the estimated \$6.8 Million project. He pointed out that a fence has not been installed behind the goal posts of the soccer field, and the pedestrian path, where several people have been hit in the head by soccer balls. He said that, in addition, the playground floods during and after heavy rainfalls.

Regarding Grover Cleveland Park, Mr. Fiedler said that Park Enforcement Officers are frequently called over there to respond to dogs running all over the children's playground, off their leash. He said that the artificial turf surface is overused and worn out in spots. In addition, he said that there's a continuing problem caused by food vendors that are parked at the curb on Stanhope Street, pouring their left-over cooking oil and grease into catch basins on this block instead of disposing of it properly.

Regarding Reif Park, Mr. Fiedler said that several sports leagues compete against block residents for time to play games and/or practice on the field there which has led to repeated calls to the Police. He said that the Parks Department's policy is to give preference to whoever holds the Permit for the field. Robert Cermeli, a Board Member, asked when the netting, between the Baseball Field in Juniper Valley Park and the Children's Playground that's adjacent to the field, would be installed. He said that the poles are in place, but the netting still hasn't been replaced there. Mr. Fiedler said that he expects the netting installation to be part of the Reconstruction Project of one of the Upper Ballfields.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, June 20th in the Board Office, to discuss several local transportation issues. He said that the first Item for discussion was the recent installation of a traffic signal on the Westbound Service Road of the LIE at 69 Lane, in Maspeth, where traffic backs up for blocks, onto the Expressway Service Road itself. He said that the Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Dept. of Transportation to request the signal timing be adjusted to improve traffic flow through the intersection.

Regarding the proposed QNS Light Rail Line along the Lower Montauk Line tracks that run between Jamaica and Long Island City, he said the Committee voted in favor of requesting an Environmental

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Impact Study of the proposed project to determine its feasibility, as well as render a clearer definition of the scope of the project.

Regarding the proposed light rail line that would transport passengers from South Brooklyn to Northern Queens, known as the Interborough Express (IBX) Rapid Transit Project, Mr. Butkiewicz reported that the Committee discussed the proposed route through our Board area. He said that they decided to request that the NYCT-MTA conduct a feasibility study for the use of the rail tunnels that run underground in the cemetery at Metropolitan Avenue, just west of 69 Street, in Middle Village, and thereby eliminate the need for a grade level crossing at Metropolitan Avenue.

Mr. Butkiewicz said that the Committee continues to review traffic calming requests, as well as traffic signals and All-Way Stop signs, and roadway markings, particularly in school speed zones. He said that requests should be emailed to the Board Office ahead of time, to give Committee Members enough time to investigate the locations prior to their Meeting so they'll be prepared to discuss them in a timely manner.

In closing, he announced that the next Committee Meeting will be conducted in person at 7:30pm, on Tuesday, August 29th in the Board 5 Office.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member, asked if the Committee considered a request from the Ridgewood Property Owners Civic Association to install Speed Bumps on Putnam Avenue, and to add signage on Gates Avenue that would permit parking on one side of the street, whenever parking is restricted on the other side of the street, in Ridgewood, similar to the signs that have been posted in Brooklyn Heights. Mr. Butkiewicz said that he had not received their request.

Old Business

Regarding the application for a cannabis dispensary at 74-03 Metropolitan Avenue, with the NY State Office of Cannabis Management, in the absence of Maryann Lattanzio, the District Manager explained that at last month's Board Meeting, her motion to challenge the proposed location of The Cannabis Place at 74-03 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, because it's located less than 500 feet from Positive Beginnings, a local preschool, at 72-52 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, was tabled due to the late hour that it was brought up for discussion, under **New Business**, last month.

Mr. Giordano read into the record his letter to the NY State Office of Cannabis Management to request an extension of time to submit the Board's recommendations regarding the application that was presented to the Board at our Public Hearing that was conducted on June 14th, by Mr. Orduna of Social Equity CAURD JV LLC, doing business as The Cannabis Place, to open a retail cannabis dispensary at 74-03 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village. In his letter, he described the concerns that were raised during that Public Hearing, as follows:

- 1) The proposed site is less than 500 feet from the positive Beginnings Preschool, which is located at 72-52 Metropolitan Avenue.
- 2) That the location in question is in the prime part of Metropolitan Avenue shopping area where children and teenagers walk to and from school and where young people go to eat and shop with their parents and loved ones.
- 3) That the adjacent residential community could be adversely impacted by the proposed cannabis retail dispensary being close to homes.
- 4) That this proposed dispensary will bring significantly more vehicular traffic to an already very congested commercial area.
- 5) That this proposed site for a retail cannabis dispensary may also be considered as the base for a cannabis delivery business, and for a smoking room.
- 6) That people who would be buying cannabis at this location may too often choose to smoke what they have purchased on and adjacent to Metropolitan Avenue.

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Since no action was taken on this matter at last month's Board Meeting, the Board Chairperson asked the pleasure of the Board.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member, stated his objections to the sale of marijuana anywhere in our Community Board 5 area. He said that he is opposed to the legalization of marijuana and made a motion to oppose the licensing of any such establishment in our District. He said that he had read an article about a child who died after ingesting marijuana. Ethan Chan, a health professional, objected to his statement by saying that marijuana is not poisonous, but other additives, such as fentanyl, that are being mixed in with the product illegally can be lethal. He said that as a public health matter, it would be better to establish industry standards for the sale and distribution of this product, with strict enforcement against illegal operations. After some discussion of the matter, Peggy O'Kane seconded the motion on the floor, as proposed by Mr. Kerzner.

After a general discussion of the motion on the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the matter which failed by a vote of – 32 – opposed, - 6 – in favor, - 0 – abstentions, and – 0 – not voting.

Fred Haller, a Board Member, made a motion to oppose the proposed cannabis dispensary to be located at 74-03 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, for all of the above-referenced reasons as described by the District Manager in his letter to the NYS Office of Cannabis Management. Walter Clayton seconded the motion.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor which tied, with a vote of – 19 - in favor, - 19 - opposed, - 0 - abstentions, and - 0 – not voting. Therefore, this recommendation was not adopted.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Arcuri adjourned the Board Meeting on a motion from the floor at 9:07pm.