



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 December 13, 2023

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Carol Benovic-Bradley; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Maritza Carmona; Robert Cermeli; Ethan Chan; Deepak Chaudhari; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Daniel DeBrucker; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Katarzyna Syta; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Jasmine Valle

Board Members Absent

Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Jessica Boiardi; Michael Byc; Salvatore Crifasi; Patricia Crowley; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Derek Evers; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; April Narsasian; Melissa Rebecca; Lily Scarabino; Dennis Stephan; Patrick Trinchese; Maryanna Zero; Brandon Zwagerman

ELECTED OFFICIALS and STAFF

Clare Collins – Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Johnathan Betancourt – U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
Tianna Armstrong – U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C. D.
Philip Wong, - NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD
Linda Fogal – NYC Council Member Joann Ariola, 32nd CD
Juan Mayancela – NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 34th CD
John D'Angelo - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD
Irene Stathatos – NYS Senator Michael Gianaris, 12th SD
Maria Valdez – NYS Senator Julia Salazar, 18th SD
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Miles Ashton – NYS Assembly Member Steven Raga, 30th AD
Melissa Villalobos – NYS Assembly Member Juan Ardila, 37th AD
Viola Isufaj - NYS Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
John Maier, Board 5 Staff

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

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livestreamed via YouTube, where anyone can watch this meeting at their convenience, by clicking on the link that's posted on our Board's Homepage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5.

The Board Chairperson announced the first Order of Business as

PUBLIC FORUM

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board Member and Member of the Civilian Observation Patrol in the 104th Precinct (104COP), reported that last week, she saw a rat in her backyard for the first time since she moved in 30 years ago. She said that she called 311 to report it and asked the Board staff to follow up on this complaint to the Dept. of Health.

Ms. Lattanzio also announced that 104COP is recruiting volunteers to join their organization. She said that volunteering for 104COP is a great opportunity to help your community. She welcomed anyone interested in learning more about their organization to speak with her after tonight's Meeting. For more information, she welcomed them to visit their website at www.104COP.org.

Paul Pogozeleski, president of the Middle Village Property Owners and Residents Association, said that he's been organizing volunteers to beautify local streets through community cleanups, by removing graffiti with a power washer, cutting overgrown grass, and placing new potted plants in front of local storefronts on Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village. He said that he's also asked local shopkeepers to cooperate by watering their new potted plants and keeping their sidewalks clean.

Mr. Pogozeleski also asked about the installation of new 5G towers at several sites in Middle Village. He said he'd like to know who decides where these large towers are allowed to be installed.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member and Member of the Board of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association, expressed concerns about the proposed City of Yes Zoning Text Amendment for Housing Opportunity, which is the third phase of the proposed Initiative that is slated to come before the Board for a vote next year. He said that he is opposed to it because the Department of City Planning seeks to meet the City's need for additional housing units by allowing property owners in the outer boroughs to convert their basements and garages into residential units, as well as to build new homes in their backyards, among other measures. He said that these proposed Text Amendments could permit the number of units per zoning lot to double or triple in size, which would change the character of neighborhoods with 1 and 2 family homes forever. For this reason, he won't support the above-mentioned changes, as proposed, in the City of Yes Initiative.

Justin Carter, the owner of Nowadays, and Gareth Solan, the director of Nowadays, informed everyone that they've been operating a beer garden, located at 56-06 Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood, for the past 10 years without complaints. Mr. Carter asked if anyone had any questions or complaints about their establishment. He said that most of their patrons live in the neighborhood and enjoy the atmosphere in their place.

Gareth Solan said that from October to April, they move their operation indoors on this site. This Fall, a new Mexican restaurant opened on their site, with a menu that mostly includes tacos being served fresh daily to their customers. They said that they're open during the afternoon and evening 7 days a week and welcomed everyone to pay them a visit.

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Daniel DeBrucker, a Board Member and Parish Associate of the Ridgewood Presbyterian Church, located at 59-14 70 Avenue in Ridgewood, spoke about problems at the former Capital One Bank building on the corner of Forest Avenue, right next-door to the Church. He said that this building is being used as a nightclub on weekends now, with loud music disturbing the neighbors until the early hours of the morning. In addition, he said that there's often a pile of bags full of garbage in the backyard. This past year, he said that he's seen rats running across the Church property, coming from there. In addition, he said that the occupants serve alcoholic beverages to their patrons, without a liquor license. He asked the Board to work with the proper authorities to shut down their operation and requested that the Dept. of Health take action to eradicate the rats on this site.

Chairperson's Report

Vincent Arcuri

The Board Chairperson wished everyone a Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, Good Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year, and took attendance of Board Members who were present. He recognized both District Manager Gary Giordano, and Staff Member John Maier as present.

The Board Chairperson recognized the representatives of local elected officials who were present and invited them to address the Board, as follows:

On behalf of **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr**, Clare Collins announced that their office will host a Public Safety Town Hall with the United Sikhs, at 3pm on Sunday, December 17th, at the Sikh Cultural Society, located at 95-30 118th Street, in Richmond Hill to address the community's concerns about hate crimes. She said that representatives of the NYPD will be on hand to answer questions and listen to their concerns.

Regarding the Community Board Membership applications, she said that they'll be posted online on the Queens Borough President's website on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024. She said that any Board Members who are up for renewal will be reminded to reapply. She also explained that this month, Kahleel Bragg, the new Director of Queens Community Boards, will send emails to Board Members who have reportedly attended less than 50% of the monthly Board Meetings this year, requesting an explanation for their poor attendance. For more information, she welcomed calls to their office at (718) 286-2974, as well as his email address at Kbragg@queensbp.org. In closing, she wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

On behalf of **Congresswoman Grace Meng**, Tianna Armstrong said that the Congresswoman has been working to secure funds for New York City. She pointed out that, under the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan, the average Queens resident is saving over \$2,000/year in healthcare premiums, and seniors who are covered by Medicare are saving \$450/year on insulin, under the Affordable Care Act Plan. In addition, the Affordable Connectivity Program saves New York City families an average of \$30 per month off their internet service bills. Furthermore, she said the Congresswoman supports the Federal Communications Commission's proposal to expand access to the internet by allowing schools and libraries to loan Wi-Fi hotspots to students and educators through Federal funds that were passed by Congress.

On another note, she said that the Congresswoman is disgusted by the hate filled attacks that have occurred all over the country this past year. She reminded everyone that no one should be targeted because of their faith or ethnic background. She welcomed calls for assistance and information at their District Office at (718) 358-6364.

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On behalf of **City Council Member Robert Holden**, Phil Wong announced that representatives from the Dept. of Buildings will be on hand at their District Office tomorrow, from 10am to 1pm, to answer questions about building violations, work permits, building applications and inspections, etc. He advised constituents to bring their summonses along with them to learn what they should do to get them resolved. He also announced that from 11am to 3pm on Thursday, December 21st, a representative from the Office of Administrative Tribunals and Hearings (OATH) will be available to meet with constituents who have received violations regarding their property, with respect to their business or home. The representative will advise them about how they can respond to their summonses, he said.

Mr. Wong announced that they're conducting a Coat Drive until December 18th for distribution to American Veterans at the Borden Avenue Residence. He welcomed everyone to drop off donations at the District Office, located at 58-38 69 Street, in Maspeth.

In closing, he said that families with young children are welcome to visit with Santa in their office from 3pm to 5pm on Friday, December 22nd which will be followed by a Christmas Party from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. He asked that all attendees RSVP by calling their office at (718) 366-3900.

On behalf of **City Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez**, Juan Mayancela reported that they attended the Outreach Session that was conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency this past Monday night in Bushwick, regarding the planned demolition of the former Wolff-Alport Chemical Company property, located at 1127 and 1129 Irving Avenue, in Ridgewood. He explained that this is a Super Fund site and demolition is necessary to remove radiologically contaminated building materials and the contaminated soil underneath it. He said that, along with Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Council Member Gutierrez has requested a follow up meeting on this project to inform Ridgewood residents.

He also reported that the Dept. of Buildings issued an emergency declaration for repairs to a sidewalk shed that was falling apart in front of 614 Woodward Avenue in Ridgewood, and it was made safe yesterday by crews from the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development.

In closing, he welcomed constituents to attend their annual Christmas Event at the Moore Street Market off Broadway in Brooklyn, on Friday, December 22nd, from 12 Noon to 2PM, when families can have their pictures taken with Santa during the festivities.

On behalf of **NY State Senator Addabbo**, John D'Angelo wished everyone Happy Holidays, and announced that they're also conducting a Coat Drive this year, in cooperation with New York Cares. He said that coats can be dropped off at their District Office at 66-35 73 Place, in Middle Village, until further notice. In addition, he said that small home owners are welcome to pick up free rain barrels at their office.

On behalf of **NY State Assemblyman Michael Gianaris**, Ahtzin Campos introduced herself as the Community Liaison in the District Office and wished everyone Happy Holidays. She welcomed calls for assistance to their District Office at (718) 728-0960.

On behalf of **NY State Senator Julia Salazar**, Maria Valdez said that she looked forward to working with the Members of Community Board 5 in Queens and welcomed everyone to attend their annual Holiday Party from 12 Noon to 7pm, next Wednesday, December 20th at 24 Moore Street, in Brooklyn.

On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi**, Kevin Wisniewski wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season. He thanked everyone who participated in their Housing Resource Fair and Mobile Office

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Hours events last month and announced that their next Mobile Office Hours event will be held in Middle Village in January. He welcomed everyone to follow the Assembly Member on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/AssemblymanAndrewHevesi/>.

Mr. Wisniewski informed everyone that the MTA/NYC Transit has posted a revised version of the Queens Bus Network Redesign on their website this month. He welcomed calls from constituents with any concerns about its implementation, particularly the proposed changes to the B-20 Bus Route in Queens.

On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga**, Miles Ashton wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked everyone who donated to their annual Toy Drive and Sock Drive which just ended today and was picked up from their office for distribution to needy families in the area.

He welcomed constituents to meet with the Assembly Member during Mobile Office Hours at the Woodside Public Library from 2pm to 4pm tomorrow, as well as at the Elmhurst Public Library from 2:30pm to 4:30pm next Wednesday afternoon.

In closing, he informed everyone that office staff will be working remotely during the last week in December, and the office will be closed to visitors. He welcomed calls for information and assistance to their office at (718) 651-3185.

On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila**, Melissa Villalobos wished everyone Happy Holidays. She said that she was happy to report that the Mammogram Mobile Unit Event that was held in front of the Ridgewood Public Library on December 8th was very successful, where over 20 women received free services.

She reminded everyone that the Assembly Member serves as a Member of several Committees in Albany, including the Labor, Education, Social Services, Libraries, Technology, and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Committees. She welcomed input from constituents on any legislative issues that are currently under consideration by these Committees, or that should be introduced on the floor.

In closing, she welcomed calls for information or assistance to their office at (718) 784-3194, Mondays to Thursdays, or via email directly to the Assembly Member at: ardilaj@nyassembly.gov.

On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar**, Vjola Isufaj wished everyone Happy Holidays and congratulated the Glendale Kiwanis Club for hosting a wonderful Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony last week.

Ms. Isufaj reported that for Thanksgiving, their staff gave away 350 turkeys at their office, and they were able to distribute a few hundred more throughout their District.

She reported that their office continues to work closely with Sheriff Miranda to address the proliferation of illegal smoke shops in their District.

On behalf of **City Council Member Joann Ariola**, Linda Fogal introduced herself as a member of the office staff in the 32nd District Office. She said that as of January 1st, 2024, the new boundaries of District 32 will cover a large portion of Glendale. Regarding the Mayor's proposed Budget cuts, she said that the Council Member is opposed to any further cuts to the Fire, Police and Sanitation Departments. She wished everyone Happy Holidays. She distributed copies of their newsletter to those at tonight's meeting and welcomed calls for more information to their office at (718) 738-1083.

The Board Chairperson pointed out that we're still waiting to hear about a replacement for D.I. Kevin Coleman, the Commanding Officer of the 104th Police Precinct. He said that they're conducting interviews for prospective candidates for his position next week.

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On behalf of **Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez**, Johnathan Betancourt reported that their office will continue to monitor plans to clean up the toxic waste at the Wolff-Alport site on Irving Avenue in Ridgewood. He said that staff attended the Outreach Session on this project that was held in Bushwick on Monday night, and the Congresswoman plans to request that the Environmental Protection Agency do more public outreach in Ridgewood to keep residents and local businesses informed about the work in progress and timetable for completion.

Mr. Betancourt gave a brief legislative report stating that the Congresswoman recently introduced new legislation in the House, referred to as the Education Against Hate Crimes Act, which would award Federal grants to state, local and nonprofit organizations to teach how to prevent prejudice and how to confront prejudice. He said that the Congresswoman condemns all forms of hate crimes and has been very upset to see the spike in the number of these crimes this year.

Regarding complaints about a Postal Relay Box in Maspeth that was out of service for months, he was happy to report that it's been repaired and is now fully functioning.

In closing, he reminded everyone that the Small Business Administration is providing low interest disaster loans for businesses that were damaged during severe storms that occurred in New York on September 28th to 30th this year. He said that Congress will host a Virtual Workshop regarding Flood Disaster Assistance for renters, homeowners, nonprofits, and small businesses soon. For more information, he left flyers to distribute to those present and welcomed calls from constituents to their office at (718) 599-3658. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

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 November 8, 2023. On a motion from Walter Clayton, that was seconded by Dorie Figliola, the minutes were adopted, as submitted.

Liquor, Wine and 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 Applications

- 1) Hibernia Hill Corp. *d/b/a Glenpatrick's* 53-73 65th Place, Maspeth, NY 11378 [B/T]
- 2) Girl World New York, LLC *d/b/a Earthly Delights* 57-38 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R] *
- 3) Gas Gas NYC Inc. *d/b/a District 385* 57-36 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R] *
- 4) **Andrea's Chicken Corp.** 56-27 61st St, Maspeth, NY 11385 [R]

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) 5 Time Champs Inc. *d/b/a Courtside Lounge* 69-08 Myrtle Ave, Glendale, NY 11385 [B/T]
- 2) Wyckoff Weirfield Corp *d/b/a Trans Pecos* 915 Wyckoff Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [B/T]
- 3) Hungry Burrito Taco Inc. *d/b/a Hungry Burrito Taco* 811 Seneca Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]

New Wine, Beer & Cider Applications

- 1) **Green Spot Cafe Inc.** 61-05 Madison St, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [B/T] *
- 2) Haven Cafe NY Inc. *d/b/a Beyond Bagels & Deli* 63-98 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374 [R] *

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewals

- 1) 71-08 Restaurant Corp. *d/b/a Glendale Diner* 71-08 Myrtle Ave, Glendale, NY 11385 [R]
- 2) Angel Fire Buffet Inc. *d/b/a K & K Super Buffet* 341-345 St Nicholas Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]

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3) G A V Restaurant Corp. *d/b/a Good Eats Diner* 69-32 Grand Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378 **[R]**

Other Notifications

1) Poppers Locarno LLC *d/b/a HOLO* 1563 Decatur St, Ridgewood, NY 11385 **[B/T] (LWB&C) ****

2) Grove Productions LLC *d/b/a Nowadays* 56-06 Cooper Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 **[B/T] (LWB&C) ****

3) **Seneca Fiesta Corp.** 603 Seneca Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 **[B/T] (LWB&C) ****

4) Bermeo Food Corp *d/b/a El Manaba Restaurant* 341 St Nicholas Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 **[R] & (LWB&C) ****

5) Kalimkosella Group LLC *d/b/a Pan* 1563 Decatur St, Ridgewood, NY 11385 **[R] (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/13981>.

** They will be applying for a **New Year's Eve Permit**.

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

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

Demolition or Construction Notifications

Mr. Arcuri reported that since last month's Board Meeting, the Board Office received demolition notices for two separate properties in **Maspeth**:

- 1) **59-43 56th Road, (Block: 2689; and Lot: 57)** - 1-family brick home and garages in rear yard; and
- 2) **55-31 69 Street, (Block: 2500; and Lot: 13)** -2-story attached house and garage, in connection with the construction of a 1-story commercial building adjoining Maspeth Federal Savings Bank.

In addition, the Board Office received notifications about Excavations at two other properties at:

- 1) **81-10 Penelope Avenue, in Middle Village** -for a detached garage in the rear yard; and
- 2) **1624 Jefferson Avenue, in Ridgewood** -for the construction of a 6-family house on this lot,

adjacent to a 1-family house.

The Board Chairperson asked that anyone who has questions about any of these sites to contact the Board Office and request staff to investigate further.

He pointed out that Deputy Inspector Kevin Coleman was reassigned to the 109th Police Precinct last week, and there's been no word about who his replacement will be yet.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager wished everyone a wonderful Holiday Season, and good health in the New Year. He said that there are facial masks available for anyone who'd like to wear it, since statistics show an increased rate of spread of COVID related illnesses.

Regarding Deputy Inspector Kevin Coleman's reassignment to the 109th Police Precinct in the Flushing/Whitestone area, the District Manager said that interviews for candidates to fill his position are scheduled for December 19th in the Precinct Stationhouse.

The District Manager reported that work will begin in January to decontaminate a Super Fund site at the former Wolff-Alport Chemical Company at 1127 and 1129 Irving Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said this site is located adjacent to Cooper Avenue, on the Brooklyn-Queens border. He said that the Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the cleanup, which will begin with the demolition of two buildings on this site. In the meantime, this site has been completely fenced off and work crews will spray water onto the

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site to keep the dust down while they're working. He said that the site is expected to be cleared of demolition debris by the end of April. He said that the most recent progress report on this project were distributed to all Board Members present at tonight's Meeting.

He said that fortunately, the radioactive material isn't made up of volatile compounds, so the ground water hasn't been contaminated in the vicinity of this site, according to the environmental assessments that have been performed on this site during the past two decades.

He reported that once the debris has been cleared away, the contractor will begin excavating the contaminated soil on this site and then transport it to out-of-state facilities, either in Michigan or Idaho. He explained that the contamination in the soil may be only 4 feet deep in some areas of this site, but the worst level of radiation is in the ground underneath two of the buildings on site.

Steve Fiedler, a Board Member, asked what the site is contaminated with. The District Manager replied that radioactive Thorium isotopes are in the ground as well as in the sewer system in the vicinity of this site. He said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection plans to flush out the sewer lines to remove any contaminants in them. But, if that doesn't work, they'll dig up and replace the sewer and water mains in that area, as needed, he said.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member, asked how many feet deep they are required to excavate the soil, under this remediation project. The District Manager said that they're required to remove all the contaminated material from this site.

The Board Chairperson explained that since this site was used to produce radioactive isotopes for the Manhattan Project during the 1940's, for the development of the atomic bomb, there's been no public information available about this site until about 20 years ago.

The District Manager reminded everyone that the Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1973, during the Nixon Administration. He cited another example of a Super Fund site in our Board area as the Newtown Creek, where copper smelting plants along the waterway dumped their industrial waste for many decades. He said that the Creek has been under remediation for over 20 years.

The District Manager said that the public information process regarding this site has been sketchy. He said that, prior to Monday night's Public Outreach Meeting on this project, the last public meeting about any plans to remediate this site was held in the Summer of 2017. He said that since then, the businesses who held leases to operate out of the buildings on this site had to be evicted and were offered \$40,000 compensation to relocate. The property owners retain ownership of their land, but the buildings will not be replaced under the terms of this settlement.

Robert Cermeli, a Board Member, asked what plans have been made to transport the contaminated debris from this site. The District Manager replied that there's been no decision as to how to transport the hazardous waste from this site yet. Mr. Cermeli asked for updates on the work in progress at this site from now on. The District Manager agreed.

The District Manager reported that, given the City's projected budget deficit for this year Fiscal Year, a 5% budget cut went into effect across all City agencies in October, with another 5% budget cut expected to begin in January, which might be followed up by another 5% budget cut in April, if the City's revenue stream doesn't improve soon. He said that our Board has had a good year in certain respects, having gotten so many roadways resurfaced at night, sewer projects completed, and water mains replaced where needed. In closing, he wished everyone a Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Liquor License and Cannabis Committee

Maryann Lattanzio

Maryann Lattanzio, Committee Vice-Chair, reported that the Committee met in the Brewery Keenan Heiser American Legion Post 1815, at 68-01 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale, on Monday, November 27th, 2023 to meet with prospective applicants for Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries in the Board 5 area. She said that while all of the applicants were invited to attend the Committee Meeting, the applicant for a proposed site at 66-74 Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood, did not respond to the Committee's questionnaire that is sent to each applicant, and failed to attend the Committee Meeting. She said that at their Meeting, Committee Members interviewed each applicant separately, giving each one an opportunity to speak about their business plans one at a time.

Ms. Lattanzio explained that the applicant for the proposed site at **64-40 Myrtle Avenue**, which is the site of a Gas Station in Glendale, withdrew the application from consideration, by saying that they'd prefer to pursue their plans to open a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at their other property, the Mobil Gas Station at **71-05 Myrtle Avenue**, in Glendale.

Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee voted to oppose granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at **64-40 Myrtle Avenue** because the proposed location is immediately adjacent to the Saints Church, at 64-34 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation to oppose the proposed site. The motion carried by a vote of -31- in favor; -2- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the proposed site for a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at **71-05 Myrtle Avenue**, on the site occupied by a Mobil Gas Station and a Liquor Store in Glendale, Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee voted against this proposed site because of its proximity to Forte Prep Charter School at 69-20 Cooper Avenue, as well as its location directly across the street from McDonald's. She said that 3 Committee Members voted to oppose this site, and 2 Committee Members voted to have no objection to it.

Fred Haller, a Board Member, asked if a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary is prohibited from opening next to a Liquor Store, according to the Office of Cannabis Management guidelines. The District Manager replied that he knows of nothing to prohibit them. He explained that according to their guidelines, a proposed Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary cannot be located within 200' of a church, within 500' of a school, or 1000' of another Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary.

The Board Chairperson pointed out that this proposed site is closer to the church at 72-02 Myrtle Avenue, than it is to the Forte Prep Charter School on Cooper Avenue, which is another reason to deny this application.

As there was no further discussion of this matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation to oppose granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. The motion carried by a vote of -23- in favor; -10- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the proposed site for a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at **66-74 Fresh Pond Road** in Ridgewood, Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee voted unanimously against this proposed site because of its proximity to a public park, the Benninger Playground on Madison Street, which is just west of Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood.

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Diego Leclery, a Board Member, questioned whether the Office of Cannabis Management's guidelines stipulate that proposed Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries are prohibited from operating near any public parks or playgrounds, day care centers, or McDonald's. The District Manager replied that the Committee is concerned about siting any Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries near to community facilities that are used by children and teenagers, which includes all the above.

Eric Butkiewicz, a Board Member, pointed out that the applicant for the proposed location failed to comply with the Committee's request to fill out a questionnaire about the proposed business, or to attend the Committee Meeting to address their concerns. He said that the applicant could potentially be a bad neighbor if they're already ignoring the role of the Community Board prior to opening their business at this location.

After a general discussion of this matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation to oppose granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. The motion carried by a vote of -26- in favor; -7- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the proposed site for a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at **66-33 Fresh Pond Road**, Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee's vote was – 3 - in favor with – 2 - opposed, for a recommendation that the Community Board has no objection to granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. In response to a question from the floor, she explained that two Committee Members opposed the Committee's recommendation because it's closer to Benninger Playground than the other site at 66-74 Fresh Pond Road which was rejected by the Committee. She said that it's located on the opposite side of Fresh Pond Road from Benninger Playground, unlike the other site at 66-74 Fresh Pond Road.

Ed Lettau, a Committee Member, agreed with her account of their Meeting. He pointed out that Office of Cannabis Management guidelines prohibit siting two Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries within 1000' of each other. In the absence of the other proposed applicant, who didn't respond to their request to fill out a questionnaire or attend their Meeting, he said that three of the five Committee Members voted to have no objection to this site.

Lee Rottenberg, a Board Member, said that the licensed shops where cannabis products are permitted to be sold are not allowed to display their products in the window, such as you see happening now at the illegal shops. So, they won't attract the attention of children walking past, he said.

As there was no further discussion of this matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation of no objection to granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. The motion carried by a vote of -26- in favor; -7- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the proposed site for a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at **78-10 Cypress Avenue** in Glendale, Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board has no objection to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. Ms. Lattanzio said that when she asked the owner if he intends to rent the apartments to tenants above the store, he said that he intends to occupy the 2nd floor for office space. In addition, she said that he plans to expand his business and occupy the vacant building next-door, as well. She pointed out that this location is a corner property, directly across the street from the Used Car Lot on Cypress Avenue.

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As there was no further discussion of this matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation that the Board has no objection to a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. The motion carried by a vote of -25- in favor; -7- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the proposed site for a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at 55-14 Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood, Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee voted unanimously against granting a license to the applicant to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site due to its proximity to a house of worship across the street. She said that the Committee also objects to this location because they've already posted signs in their window advertising the sale of cannabis on site. She reported that an armed robbery reportedly took place inside this shop on December 4th. Theodore M. Renz, a Board Member and the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, said that this business has no license to sell cigarettes or tobacco products either, and yet they are doing so.

The Board Chairperson reminded everyone that the Committee's recommendation is to oppose granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at this location because it's located well within 200' of a house of worship.

As there was no further discussion of this matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee's recommendation to oppose granting a license to operate a Retail Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at the proposed site. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of -32- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the Committee met together in the Board 5 Office on Monday night, December 11th, to discuss the proposed CITY of YES for ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY City wide Zoning Text Amendment with representatives of the NYC Dept. of City Planning under applications N240010ZRY and N240011ZRY.

He said that Derek Jasmin and Scott Solomon, both of whom are City Planners in the Queens Office of City Planning, gave a power point presentation to our full Board at the monthly Board Meeting in November. He explained that this Initiative includes 18 Provisions, detailing how they plan to encourage more business and more entrepreneurship, to have fewer vacant storefronts throughout the City. He said that their entire proposal is a 500-page document.

He said that the Committee has decided to focus on specific proposals in this Initiative. He described the 11th Provision which pertains to allowing home businesses, including dog grooming, barber shops, and so forth, to operate in residential homes and/or apartments.

He said that Committee Members are very opposed to this Provision, because it would negatively impact on the quality of life of surrounding home owners and residents.

He said that the Committee will meet next month in the Board Office on January 8th to discuss this Zoning Text Amendment further.

Public Safety Committee

Maryann Lattanzio

Maryann Lattanzio reported that the Committee met with Detective Michael Berish, of the Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Police Precinct, to review the 104th Precinct's crime statistics and patrol strength, among other matters, in the Board Office last Wednesday, December 6th. Ms. Lattanzio

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announced that the 104th Police Precinct Commander Kevin Coleman is being transferred to the 109th Police Precinct, and that a Deputy Inspector from Queens North Borough Command will be assigned to oversee the Precinct on an interim basis, until a new Precinct Commander is assigned. She said that candidates for the Commanding Officer's position will be interviewed in the Stationhouse on December 19th, 2023.

She said that at their Meeting, Detective Berish reported that a cannabis dispensary has opened at 55-14 Myrtle Avenue but hasn't been granted a license yet and was robbed at gunpoint recently. He believed that they only stole cash from the register at the time. He explained the difficulty of closing illegal cannabis shops because it involves the Sheriff's Department. He said that the Sheriff must assign his staff to visit each location that's been reported to them to purchase the product for sale, then send it out to their lab for tests to make sure of its contents, and lastly, return to the scene to confiscate the product stored on site that's been identified as illegal. He said it's a very time-consuming process.

Ms. Lattanzio said that Detective Berish also reported on the Crime Statistics for the past Year-to-Date, and for the Past 28 Days, in the 104th Police Precinct, comparing 2023 to 2022. He told the Committee that, in the past 28 days, there's been a decrease of 20% in the overall incidence of violent crimes in the 104th Precinct. He said that the number of Rapes reported was up by 1, which was a domestic violence incident; Robberies were down by 14; Felony Assaults were down by 2; Burglaries were down by 9; Grand Larcenies were up by 7; and Grand Larceny Auto crimes were down by 36%.

For Year-to-Date statistics, Detective Berish told the Committee that the incidence of Murder is up by 1, for a total of 4 this year, as compared to 3 last year. He said that the incidence of Rape is up by 3, all of which are domestic violence cases, and the number of Robberies are up by 15 cases this year, compared to 2022. In addition, he reported that the number of Felony Assaults are down by 18 this year, and Burglaries are down by 69, compared to 2022, and lastly, Grand Larceny cases are up by 41 this year compared to last year, and Grand Larceny Auto cases are up by 52 this year compared to 2022.

Ms. Lattanzio said that Detective Berish also reported the Year-to-Date Crime Statistics per Sector in the 104th Precinct, as follows:

In Sector A, which is Glendale, comparing 2023 to 2022:

The number of reported Homicide cases is up by 1.

Rape cases are down by 1.

Robbery cases are down by 2

Felony Assault cases are down by 9

Burglaries are down by 10

Grand Larcenies are up by 18

Grand Larceny Auto cases are up by 4

In Sector B – Ridgewood, comparing 2023 to 2022:

The number of reported Rapes is up by 3

Robbery cases are up by 10

Felony Assaults are down by 3

Burglaries are down by 58

Grand Larceny cases are up by 18

Grand Larceny Auto cases are down by 1

Sector C – Maspeth, comparing 2023 to 2022

Homicide cases are up by 2

Rape cases are down by 2

Felony Assaults are down by 10

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Robberies are down by 5
 Burglaries are up by 3
 Grand Larceny is down by 13
 Grand Larceny Auto cases increased by 19, mostly tires and rims

Sector D -Middle Village, comparing 2023 to 2022

Homicide 0
 Rape cases are up by 2
 Robberies are up by 12
 Felony Assaults are by 4
 Burglaries are down by 4
 Grand Larceny cases are up by 17
 Grand Larceny Auto cases are up by 28

At their Meeting, Detective Berish also informed the Committee about the current staffing levels in the 104th Police Precinct. He said that there are currently 139 Police Officers, 17 Sergeants and 7 Lieutenants assigned to patrol the 104th Precinct. He said that patrol strength in the Precinct should be at least 155 Police Officers. He said that there are approximately 23 Police Officers assigned to each tour of duty in the Precinct, with 15 or 16 out on patrol at one time, which leaves only 4 patrol cars per tour being utilized.

Regarding response time averages, he told the Committee that the average response time to crimes in progress ranges from 2 to 8 minutes per call, 40 to 90 minutes for calls in backlog, and approximately 4 hours for all other 3-1-1 calls.

Regarding Year-to-Date summoning activity in the 104th Precinct, Detective Berish told the Committee that a total of 8,427 parking tickets have been issued, mainly for blocking hydrants and driveways, double parking and covered plates, and a total of 6,370 summonses for Moving Violations were issued, with 3,677 them being summonses for Red Lights, Speeding, Texting While Driving, and Failure to Yield.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member, asked if it would be possible to assign only one Police Officer per vehicle on patrol in the 104th Precinct, to improve their response times. Ms. Lattanzio replied that it's probably a safety issue. The Board Chairperson replied that it's due to a Labor Management Agreement that's legally binding on all parties to the agreement.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, November 28th in the Board Office, to review the most recent traffic and pedestrian safety requests, as well as to discuss the status of the revised Queens Bus Route Redesign by the MTA-NYC Transit, among other matters.

He said that the proposed Queens Bus Network Redesign has just been posted up on the MTA's website, and the Committee will review any additional changes that are being proposed to local bus routes before reporting back to the Board on it.

Regarding repeated complaints from Glendale residents about the noise generated by the freight rail line that's operated by the New York and Atlantic Railway, particularly in the middle of the night, Mr. Butkiewicz informed everyone that the Committee agreed to write a letter to our Congressional Representatives to request that a Quiet Zone be designated in residential areas that lie on both sides of this freight rail line in our Board area. He thanked Citizens United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES) for their advocacy on this issue.

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Mr. Butkiewicz encouraged everyone to please report hazardous roadway conditions and/or dangerous intersections, and so forth, to the Board Office.

In closing, he welcomed anyone interested in attending the next Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 30th, 2024, and asked them to call the Board Office at (718) 366-1834 to inform the staff that they're planning to attend in person.

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board Member, asked why more Citibike racks have been installed on 65 Place at 53 Avenue, in front of the Co-Op buildings. She said that there are enough Citibike stations in this area of Maspeth already, and they're not being utilized. Mr. Butkiewicz replied that the Committee is in the process of evaluating this situation. He said once all the data is compiled, he'll give a full report on their analysis of the utilization rate of Citibike stations to the full Board.

Robert Cermeli, a Board Member, asked if there's a breakdown of the number of traffic accidents involving cyclists who ride Citibikes each year. Mr. Butkiewicz said that he'd look into it. He said that the Committee has been working to improve the safety of cyclists in general, particularly in the vicinity of the Ridgewood Reservoir.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the District Manager thanked Donald Passantino for running the sound system during the Board Meeting, and the Board Chairperson adjourned the Board Meeting on a motion from the floor at 9:52pm.