



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
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March 17, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Kham Bhatta
Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Mark Buhrmester
Vicky Chan
Muquith Choudhury
Shiv Dass
Sonya Davis Roberts-
Michael De Valera
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Renetta English
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Larinda Hooks
Abdur Rahim Howlader
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Edward Kiernan
Marta Lebreton
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Laverne Nimmons
Nuala O'Doherty
Dorothy Phelan
Megan Rockwell
Fausto Rodriguez
Jairo Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero
Tammy Rose
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Dawn Siff
Fahad Solaiman
Jimmy Smith
Frank Taylor
Arthur Teiler
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Hamlett Wallace
Edwin Westley

ABSENT

Haiko Cornelissen
Vasantraï Gandhi
Joyce Julian
Stephen Kulhanek
Ralph Moreno
Marco Munoz
Ladislá Pérez
Lobsang Salaka
Marlene Tapper
Toi Washington-Simon

Guest

Deputy Mayor Philip Banks, Public Safety
David Mandel, NYC Cultural Affairs
Zia Dawood, Qns Library
June Semann, DDC
Michelle Luna, Rep., Congresswoman
Ocasio-Cortez
Lili Pioche, Rep., Assy Aubry Office
James Mongeluzo, Rep., NYC Comptroller
Weilai Rice, CM Shekar Krishnan
Shahed Chowdhury, Rep., CM Cruz
Brenda Barrera, Rep., Assy Gonzalez Rojas

Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Teleconference.

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken at that time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andrew Sokolof Diaz, 89th Street Tenants Unidos Association, expressed concern that dozen of the tenants from 89th Street apartments were burglarized. Some tenants filed Police reports with the 115th Precinct but some were told they could not. They have gotten different excuses why they can't make a report. Mr. Sokolof said they feel because they are mostly immigrants that they are being discriminated and he asked the Board Members to advocate for the longtime residents.

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, told Mr. Sokolof that the Board advocated for a meeting with the tenants of 89th Street, Elected Officials and the 115th Precinct to be taken place on March 18, 2022.

Victor Rodriguez, resident, said it is difficult to get through the streets on 34th Ave Open Streets. It's not necessary for an open street where there is nothing happening. "These streets are not being used. It's a nightmare!" He said, that the street closure is causing a traffic problems on the Community Board 4 side and tax payers should not have to be inconvenience.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Deputy Mayor Philip Banks

Deputy Mayor Philip Banks, Deputy Mayor of New York City for Public Safety, reported that he served 30 years with the NYPD retiring as Chief of the Department. He has returned as Deputy Mayor for Public Safety. Deputy Banks said that NYC Mayor Eric Adams created the office of Public Safety in order that all public safety agencies fall under the umbrella of one office to increase efficiently. Deputy Banks said that in his office he coordinates NYPD, FDNY, Department of Correction, Department of Probation, MOCJ (Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice), Office of Domestic Violence and Hate Crimes, Sheriff's Office and corporate the law enforcement aspects of Health & Hospital and Parks Police. Deputy Banks said that the Mayor's number one agenda and objective is to develop public safety. He is focus on Quality of life and getting guns off the street.

Board Member Ulrick Gedeon said that they should add the Department of Traffic as part of public safety.

Deputy Banks said that the Department of Traffic falls under Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez of Transportation.

Board Member Sonya Davis Roberts said that residents are concern that Officers responding to 911 calls answer hours later or do not show up at all. There has been concerns that Officers have been calling back the caller in front of the people who they were complaining about. As well as Officers have been failing to enforce complaints.

Deputy Banks said it is hard to answer when there is no specifics but it's unacceptable that Officers show up hours later. He would like to drill down on the 911 system.

District Manager Giovanna Reid said that the 115th Precinct needs additional Officers. She asked if one of the Neighborhood Safety Teams will come to Community Board 3.

Deputy Banks said that the Neighborhood Safety Teams are in the top 30 precincts that have a lot of shootings. He said that they are looking into technology that can record shots fire and working on legislation to for harsher penalty for selling illegal guns.

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, said that the 115 Precinct is down 75 Officers.

Deputy Banks said that is a large amount of Officers to be down. He will take a look at the data and get back to Mr. Taylor.

A resident said that residents are concerned about ADA violations on 34th Avenue. She requested a meeting for a discussion with Deputy Banks to speak about safety concerns.

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Deputy Banks said absolutely yes they can coordinate a meeting.

A resident asked if the Mayor could help the tenants of 89th Street who suffered lost in the fire as he helped the families of the fire in the Bronx.

Deputy Banks promised to look into what kind of financial help the Bronx tenants received.

Board Member Megan Rockwell asked why the City is allocating Police to have interaction with street vendors and small business owners who are trying to make a living.

Deputy Banks said he will forward the question to the Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer.

Jackson Heights Library

Anna M. King, Project Manager, DDC

Per Cent for Art, David Mandel, Community Liaison

David Mandel, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, gave a presentation on the Percent for Art Program.

Mr. Mandel said that in 1982, Local Law 65, the Percent for Art Law was passed, which states that 1% of the capital funds appropriated for newly constructed or reconstructed City-owned buildings or sites must be allocated for works of art.

Mr. Mandel said that commissions are installed in new or reconstructed City-owned buildings and structures, such as; courthouses, Parks, Cultural Institutions, Police Precincts, Fire Stations, Streetscapes, Plazas, Libraries, Schools, Health Centers and Detention Centers.

Zia Dawood, Queens Public Library, said the project at the Jackson Heights Library is currently in the design phase. Construction is expected in a year. The intent is to renovate library completely and add an addition 3000 square feet to the back. There will be approximately 21,000 square feet of usable space.

June Seman, DDC, said the construction is expected to start in the winter of 2023. The completion for project is expected in early fall of 2025.

Mr. Mandel explained the Artist selection panel process:

First Meeting:

- Introduction to Percent for Art
- Architect presents the project's architecture and highlights potential artwork locations
- Review past work of artists under consideration
- Select finalists and alternates

Second Meeting

- Artists present their proposals with Q&A from the panel
- Discussion and voting
- Artist is selected to award the commission

Artist Selection Panel Composition:

Voting Panelists:

- DCLA Commissioner or Designee (Panel Chair)
- Representative of Percent for Art Program (DCLA)
- Representative of Design Agency (DDC)
- Representative of Sponsor Agency (QPL)
- Three representative of the public who are knowledge about public art, the project and the community in which the project will be located

Advisory Panelists:

- Architect/Design Team
- Public Design Commission (PDC)

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- Program Staff (DCLA, DDC, QPL)
- Local Borough President, Council Member and Community Board representatives
- Local organizations and community groups
- General public

Jackson Heights Branch Library Percent for Art Process next steps and anticipated timeline:

- Initiation / Outreach meet with CB3 March 17, 2022
- Artist Selectin Panel 1 March 23, 2022
- Artist Selection Panel 2 June 6, 2022
- Selected Artists Present Proposals (Conceptual Design) to CB3 Late 2022 / Early 2023
- Public Design Commission Public Hearing Conceptual Design Review Late 2022 / Early 2023

Panelist considerations are welcomed. Provide a short letter of interest with email address and phone number: Percentinfo@culture.nyc.gov. Artists' recommendations can also be sent to the email.

Board Member Ed Westley suggested they change the deadline to give artists a chance to register. He said he heard that the library was supposed to be a regional library. He asked who is funding it.

Mr. Dawood said that he didn't hear that it was supposed to be a regional library. He said that it's being funded by capital funds from varies council members and the Mayor.

A resident asked if they coordinated with the public school next door about the construction.

Mr. Dawood said they are going to be sensitive to all surrounding buildings.

Board Member Hamlett Wallace asked if the Jackson Heights Library is a landmarked building.

Mr. Dawood said that the building is not landmarked but that they will preserve as many elements as possible.

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, invited the presenters to attend a Landmark Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

S.L.A. New Wine/Beer & Liquor License Applications:

Himalayan Group LLC dba Bamboo House & Bar 76-03 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (Corporate Change)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Corporate Change. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Bamboo House & Bar.

The owner was not present.

Espana Sports Bar, Inc dba Espana Sports Bar – 81-03 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (New- Full Liquor)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor License. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Espana Sports Bar.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The owner brought the restaurant and is retiring from the MTA to operate it.

Board Member Jairo Rodriguez asked if the owner knows the background of the business.

The representative said that he explained the negative history of the restaurant to the owner.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked if there is any relation to the previous owner.

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The owner said that he is not related to the previous owner.

Emoji Burger, Inc. dba Emoji Burger – 80-07 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine/Beer license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Emoji Burger.

The owner said that being able to sell wine and beer would help the business drastically. They will keep the same family friendly environment.

Board Member Tammy Rose said that during the epidemic Emoji Burger feed the neighborhood by staying open for people coming home late from work. She looks forward to having a hamburger with a beer.

Board Member Dawn Siff said that Emoji Burger are lovely to the kids and her family has been eating there for a decade.

37-10 114th St. ML Funding LLC dba Holiday Inn LGA Airport – 37-10 114th Street, Corona (New-Full Liq. & Temporary Permit)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of the Holiday Inn.

The owner said that he took over the hotel in October 2021 from the owner in an auction. They plan to open in April 2022. The license is for room service and grab and go.

Gimega Corp. dba La Pequena Colombia – 83-27 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (Corp. Change)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Corporate Change. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of La Pequena Colombia.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The business has been around for 30 years. It's a family oriented restaurant. He said it's a change of ownership.

El Paraiso Rest. & Sport Bar Corp. – 99-10 37th Ave, Corona (New Full Liq. & Temporary Permit)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of El Paraiso Restaurant & Sport Bar Corp.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The restaurant has been opened for 22 years. The children of the owner are going to operate the business.

Board Member Fausto Rodriguez asked if they were operating as a restaurant.

The owner said yes they are operating as a restaurant.

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, asked the owner how many seats and table are in the restaurant.

The representative answered for the applicant. He said there are 17 tables, 34 seats and 13 bar stools.

Board Member Jairo Rodriguez said he doesn't see the reason for the restaurant to be open so late because there are not a lot of people in the area to attract business.

The owner said that there is always people around to eat at the restaurant.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked if there were any violations.

The owner said they do their best and that everything is running ok.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Motion # 10 - Adoption of the Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Dorothy Phelan, seconded by Lisa Mesulam, to adopt the agenda, it was passed unanimously.

Motions By Committees:

Business Economic Development. - (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

S.L.A. New Wine/Beer & Liquor License Applications:

Himalayan Group LLC dba Bamboo House & Bar 76-03 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (Corporate Change)

Tabled until next meeting.

Espana Sports Bar, Inc dba Espana Sports Bar – 81-03 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (New- Full Liquor)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **disapproval** of an application for an on-premise Full Liquor license for this applicant due to the problematic history of the location and oversaturation in the immediate area.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester said that the Espana Sports Bar should not be punished because of the previous owner.

Board Member Jairo Rodriguez said that the SLA is well aware of the location.

Motion # 11 - Espana Sports Bar, Inc dba Espana Sports Bar – 81-03 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (New- Full Liquor)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, the motion to **disapprove** the application was passed with 30 in Favor, 5 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Emoji Burger, Inc. dba Emoji Burger – 80-07 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for a Wine/Beer/Cider license for this applicant.

Motion # 12 - Emoji Burger, Inc. dba Emoji Burger – 80-07 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Ed Westley, the motion to **approve** the application was passed with 31 in Favor, 4 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

37-10 114th St. ML Funding LLC dba Holiday Inn LGA Airport – 37-10 114th Street, Corona (New-Full Liq. & Temporary Permit)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Hotel Liquor License for this applicant provided that a stipulation has been signed stating that the applicant respectfully notify the Community Board of any change in the use of the property as a good neighbor and that alcohol is confined to the inside of the property. The stipulation was signed.

Motion # 13 - 37-10 114th St. ML Funding LLC dba Holiday Inn LGA Airport – 37-10 114th Street, Corona (New-Full Liq. & Temporary Permit)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Lisa Mesulam, the motion to **approve** the application was passed with 31 in Favor, 3 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Gimega Corp. dba La Pequena Colombia – 83-27 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (Corp. Change)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for a Corporate Change of an existing Full Liquor license for this applicant

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Motion # 14 - Gimega Corp. dba La Pequena Colombia – 83-27 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights (Corp. Change)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Fausto Rodriguez, the motion to **approve** the application was passed with 30 in Favor, 4 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

El Paraiso Rest. & Sport Bar Corp. – 99-10 37th Ave. Corona (New Full Liq. & Temporary Permit)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for a Full Liquor license for this applicant provided a stipulation has been signed. The Stipulation was signed.

Motion # 15 - El Paraiso Rest. & Sport Bar Corp. – 99-10 37th Ave. Corona (New Full Liq. & Temporary Permit)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Fausto Rodriguez, the motion to **approve** the application was passed with 19 in Favor, 15 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Chairperson's Report

Frank Taylor, Chairman, reported that he attended the Bangladesh Business Association, a performance by the Jackson Heights Orchestra and a meeting with the Mets.

Mr. Taylor said he has attended many Committee meetings and cautions civility. Civility is something that must be in all the meetings in order for processes to continue in a positive manner. The Board Chairs work very hard in preparing their meetings and are always looking for solutions.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid reported that the renovation of the Jackson Heights Library was one of the top priorities on the Capital Expense for many years. There will be more meetings so stay tuned.

Ms. Reid reported that most of the vendors in the streets of Community Board 3 are licensed. They are permitted to be 20 feet away from an establishment. More on the subject can be taken up at the Business Economic Committee Meeting.

Ms. Reid reported that DEP is in the process of rectifying issues from Hurricane Ida along Astoria Blvd. through 23rd Avenue.

Ms. Reid announced that Board Member Vasantrai Gandhi has stepped down after serving 32 years on the Board.

Motion # 16 - Adoption of the February 17, 2022 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Ed Westley, seconded by Lisa Mesulam, to adopt the February 17, 2022 Minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety Committee Report

Sonya Davis Roberts, Co-Chair of Public Safety Committee, reported that on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, the Public Safety Committee hosted a committee meeting with Chief Johnson and Firefighter Zachery Bitzer from FDNY. Also, in attendance Deputy Inspector Alterheri and Officer B. Gonzalez from NYPD.

Deputy Inspector Alterheri briefed the committee on NYPD response time, the NCO officers and he touched on the safety of the open streets program and the homeless under the 69th Street and 35th Avenue Bridge. He took time to answer questions.

FDNY gave a briefing on the dangers of Lithium batteries, propane cans, they gave fire safety tips and addressed fire safety education. The Chief and Firefighter further answered questions about outdoor structures in front of our local restaurants.

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Traffic & Transportation Committee Report

The Traffic & Transportation Committee met on Monday, March 7, 2022 via videoconference. Jason Banrey, Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner, from The Department of Transportation was present.

The committee reiterated concerns raised by board members and the community regarding the elimination of bus stops on the Q66 bus line along Northern Boulevard, particularly the stops located near the Northridge/Southridge NORC and IS145. DOT advised that there are plans to add a stop on 92nd Street but that they cannot proceed until a sidewalk shed that was erected by the apartment building is removed. DOT insists on waiting to create this new bus stop instead of bringing back the stops that were removed at 91st and 93rd Streets. DOT also advised that the leadership at IS145 did not object to the bus stop removal. Several Board Members encouraged DOT to contact the IS145 PTA and will be providing contact information to DOT.

DOT will bring reports from the environment study of 34th Avenue Open Streets at a future meeting.

Health and Social Services Committee Report

Vivian Dock, Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, reported that the committee met on February 28, 2022. Officer Bayron Gonzalez gave a briefing on how they try to help homeless individuals. They offer services but it's up to the individual to accept it.

The Department of Homeless Services portion will be rescheduled due to absent of the representation. A new representative has been assigned.

The committee discussed the Leon Von Holden Healthcare Expo tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at the Corona Health Center. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

Legislators' Report

Council Member Tiffany Cabán Office

A representative for the office of Council Member Tiffany Cabán announced that on Saturday, March 19, 2022 the office is celebrating a grand opening and having a Participatory Budgeting Expo. Everyone is welcome.

CM Caban along with other Elected Officials demanded that residents from Astoria Houses get their gas back on. If anyone is having repair issues contact the office.

District office is located at 30-83 31st St., Astoria, NY 11102. For assistance, call 718-274-4500, or email: osrosado@council.nyc.gov.

Assembly Member Jeffrion I. Aubry Office

Lili Pioche, representative for Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry, reported that Assy Aubry and elected officials hope to have the State Budget completed on time by April 1st.

There is tax prep help at the office for people making \$50,000 or under.

There will be a coat giveaway at the end of March. For more information call (718) 457-3615.

Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz Office

Shahed Chowdhury, representative for the office of Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz, announced that the office held a Know Your Rights immigration forum, Small Business/Community Rapid Test distribution and vaccination clinics.

There is a vaccine event, clean up, legal housing clinic will all be coming up soon.

They are working on the State budget.

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The District office is open through appointment-only at 41-40 Junction Blvd, Corona, NY 11368. Call 718-458-5367 to make an appointment, or email chowdhs@nyassembly.gov. Any ideas for community projects or legislation ideas. For future events go to the Assemblywoman's social media @CatalinaCruzNY

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Luna, representative for Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, reported:

Eligible New Yorkers can access NYC Free Tax Prep services at: www.nyc.gov/taxprep.

Register for our upcoming town hall March 24, 2022 at 6:00pm:

<https://ocasiocortezforms.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=21>

To view last month's town hall visit

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6XBnYptBnproA_ydn-b0A

To be notified about the next town hall, please sign up for the newsletter to get updates:

English Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>

Spanish Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>

Submit a casework request:

<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency>

Legislative comments and general questions: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact>

Whom should our local post offices be named after?:

<https://airtable.com/shrDHvItK8mGqLbtI>

Contact the Office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez at 718-662-5970 or on the website at ocasio-cortez.house.gov.

Council Member Shekar Krishnan Office

Weilai Rice, District Director for District 25 Council Member Shekar Krishnan, announced that "The Rat Academy Training" virtual event is on Monday, March 28th 2022, 4pm-6pm.

Register at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/5639842/Rat-Academy-Registration?eventid=a1Q4V00002VnbxOUAR&Programname=Pest%20Control%20Services>

Email: Krishnan@council.nyc.gov or call (929) 293-0206.

Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas

Brenda Barrera, Constituent Services Liaison for Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas, announced that they are having a virtual legal housing workshop on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm. There will be an opportunity to make an appointment with a legal housing attorney after the workshop.

New York State has announced that eligible homeowners and renters may apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which can provide up to \$751 depending on income, household size, and how they heat their home. A family of four may have a maximum gross monthly income of \$5,249 or an annual gross income of \$62,983 and still qualify for benefits — a modest increase from the previous year's threshold. To apply go to myBenefits.ny.gov. HEAP deadline was extended to April 29, 2022.

Assy Gonzalez Rojas office is hosting a Paper Shredding event on Saturday, April 9th from 10 AM - 2 PM at 95- 18 Northern Blvd. St. Marks AME Church. Limit of 5 Boxes

E-Waste Drop off is available at Assy Gonzalez Rojas office Mondays from 10 AM-4 PM. Call the office to set up a time for the drop-off.

Call 718-457-0384 or Email: gonzalezrojasj@nyassembly.gov

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NYC Comptroller Office of Brad Lander

James Mongeluzo, representative for NYC Comptroller Office of Brad Lander, reported:

A Better Way Than 421-a

The High-Rising Costs of New York City's Unaffordable Tax Exemption Program -

<https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/a-better-way-than-421a/>

Economic Benefits of Coverage for All - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/economic-benefits-of-coverage-for-all/>

Call 646-689-6509 / jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov

New Business

Frank Taylor, Chairperson, reported that on Friday, March 18, 2022 at 3:00pm there will be a meeting with NYS Senator Jessica Ramos and Tenants of 89th Street. Mr. Taylor encouraged Board Members to attend.

Motion # 17 - To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Lisa Mesulam, and seconded by Ed Westley, to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon*