



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
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September 17, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Kham Bhatta
Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Mark Buhrmester
Muquith Choudhury
Haiko Cornelissen
Sonya Davis Roberts
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Renetta English
Vasantraï Gandhi
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Abdur Rahim Howlader
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Edward Kiernan
Stephen Kulhanek
Marta Lebreton
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Laverne Nimmons
Veronica Ng
Nuala O'Doherty
Philip Papas
Ladislá Pérez
Dorothy Phelan
Megan Rockwell
Fausto Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero
Tammy Rose
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Lobsang Salaka
Frank Taylor
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Hamlett Wallace
Toi Washington-Simon

ABSENT

Shiv Dass
Larinda Hooks
Joyce Julian
Carlos Andres Lopez
Ralph Moreno
Esteban Peralta
Jairo Rodriguez
Jimmy Smith
Marlene Tapper
Arthur Teiler
Pat Thorpe
Edwin Westley

Guest

Captain Mascia, 115 Pct
Amanda Nasner, Qns Dir., DHS
Ciara Thompson, NAICA
Ricardo Cosme, NAICA
Yvonne Ballard, Adult Shelter Operations
Jessica Schabowski, Mayor's Office
James Mongeluzo, Rep., NYC Comptroller
Maribel Hernández, Rep., Congresswoman
Ocasio-Cortez
George Hadjiconstantinou, Rep., Assy.
DenDekker Office
Taqoia Jones Rep., CM Moya's Office

Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Teleconference.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Shanel Thomas-Henry, Community Outreach Manager for the LaGuardia Redevelopment Program, reported that the Community Outreach Office was closed over the summer due to the pandemic; however, the staff was working remotely. She gave an update on what the Outreach Office has done while working remotely and upcoming events:

- In partnership with Langston Hughes Library, there was an online STEM Program with over 80 students from grades 6 to 8
- An online Sustainability Camp attended by 40 students
- Six Vaughn College Scholarships winners interned at the Port Authority
- Total of 11 Scholarships awarded to Vaughn college students
- In July, a new spacious Terminal B opened
- Every Tuesday and Thursday online orientation with the Council for Airport Opportunity
- Wednesday, September 23rd resume workshop with Elmcor
- Friday, September 18th webinar on Microsoft Office and minority women business enterprise certification with the Port Authority

Ms. Thomas-Henry announced that the draft EIS document was made available at the end of August and the public comment period is now through October 5th. There are some workshops as well as hearings next week.

Ms. Thomas-Henry said, as it relates to the AirTrain project, there has been a request for proposals provided to the public and that they are looking for a professional architecture and engineering design services firm for the Flushing Bay Promenade. She said, if the AirTrain were to move forward, part of that plan does require the Port Authority to do significant improvements to the Flushing Bay Promenade. This plan would include beautification of the main gateway to Flushing Meadows Corona Park, provide amenities for the local community and other park users, improve the Ditmars Blvd. entrances and Pedestrian Bridges at 27th Ave and 31st Drive, as well as alleviate disruption to park resources.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

115 Precinct

Captain Anthony Mascia, Executive Officer from the 115 Precinct, reported on the crime statistics for the last 28 days:

- One murder
- Zero Rapes
- Robberies down 29% (19 in total)
- Felony assaults down 21.9% (25 in total)
- Ten burglaries (versus nine last year during the same time period)
- Stolen vehicles up 25% (this includes mopeds and bicycles)
- Felony assaults up 15% (these were classified as domestic violence)
- Grand larcenies up 25% (60 in total)

Some of the grand larcenies were scam calls extorting money from the elderly. Captain Mascia said it's important that the community inform elderly residents of the scams.

There were 311 noise complaints for noise coming from Northern Boulevard. Captain Mascia said they have spoken with the bar and restaurant owners to try and get compliance with the music as well as the incoming vehicles arriving in our area.

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty said that along 94th and 95th Street between 35th and 37th Avenues there has been a persistent problem with ongoing drug dealing and associated violence.

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Captain Mascia said the 115 Precinct is aware of gang activity in that area. Residents should continue to make calls to the police.

Board Member Muquith Choudhury expressed concerns about the vendors and homeless people at Diversity Plaza.

Captain Mascia said the homeless issue continues to be a problem at Diversity Plaza and he will reach out to Homeless Services again and have more police present.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked if Officers from the 115 Precinct were diverted to patrol the recent protests and how the decision is made to deploy officers.

Captain Mascia Officers said that officers from the 115 Precinct do, at times, get assigned to protest coverage in other parts of the city and that the department will move manpower as needed. Captain Mascia noted that NYPD has changed the days off for a lot of different parts of the NYPD to create more available manpower on the weekends so that other units can chip in that weren't normally off on the weekends.

Chairperson Renetta English asked what can be done about a food truck that has been on a residential block for months with no food being sold.

Captain Mascia asked Ms. English to provide the location and he will look into it.

Laura Freeman, resident, expressed concern about a group of 12 young men who hangout every night between 103rd and 104th Street on 39th Avenue until the early hours. They hang out in chopped up cars with the radio loud and smoking hookah. When neighbors ask the group to lower the music, they get cursed out or the group puts the music louder. Ms. Freeman said there have been calls to 311 and the Community Board. The NCOs from Sector D have spoken to the individuals but the problem persists. She said that the neighbors feel like they are being held hostage by the group and are desperate for a resolution.

Captain Mascia said he works nights and has heard the noise coming from that area. He said it's concerning. There has been a lot of 311 calls from that area. He said the Roosevelt Avenue Task Force, which covers that area every Tuesday, will be alerted of the problem.

Board Member Frank Taylor stated that there has been a lot of issues on Ditmars Blvd. between 114th and 98th Street. He said anytime someone calls the 115 Precinct they are instructed to call 911 and then no one shows up.

Captain Mascia explained that there's a slight delay when the precinct is called. When a call goes through 911 the Officers get a text message. Captain Mascia said, just as the 911 operator is typing the information, it's going to the steady sectors and that it's better to call 911 versus the precinct.

Board Member Ann Brown said, on the 4th of July, a call was placed to 311. Three minutes later, according to 311, the Police responded, and it was closed out. Ms. Brown said she finds it hard to believe that Police responded in three minutes.

Captain Mascia said he can't imagine that the Police responded to the call in three minutes – unless they were already at the location. He said he is not sure and would have to look into it.

Marguerite Henderson, resident, asked if there were any arrests in the murder that occurred in the building where she lives.

Captain Mascia said the investigation continues and he can't give all the details but they are following many leads.

Board Member Fausto Rodriguez asked if police defunding affected the 115 Precinct.

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Captain Mascia said that there are no new recruits and, when an officer retires, there are no replacements, but he can't say that is due to defunding.

Board Member Rev. Peter Herron said that on the side of the Leverich Memorial Church on 103rd Street and 32nd Avenue, there are young men who seem to be living out of a van. They hang out smoking hookah and leave the area a mess.

Captain Mascia said that these are quality of life concerns that he will advise the NCOs to investigate.

DHS & NAICA - IBIS/ALOFT HOTELS

Amanda Nasner, Queens Borough Director for the New York City Department of Homeless Services, reported DHS was occupying the Marriott Hotel and now moved to the IBIS Hotel. It's a general population shelter serving 172 employed and unemployed single males who are seeking permanent housing. It occupies 86 units. There are 44 staff members, 22 Security Guards per shift, a Site Director, Administrative Assistant, Director of Operations, Security Director of Operations, Security & Operations Manager, Social Services Supervisors, seven Social Service Caseworkers, Employment Specialists, one Program Associate, two Housing Specialists, seven shifts Supervisors, several Monitors and one Residential Aid.

Ms. Nasner said this is a temporary solution for these individuals. They are trying to create an environment where the clients can do things on their own with little support. The individuals who come into the shelter system go through intake that includes psycho-social assessments for placement. The client goes through an assessment at an intake center on 30th Street in Manhattan. When the client arrives at the assigned shelter, he then meets with the Operation Staff who conducts an orientation and goes through the good neighbor policy. Afterwards, they meet with their caseworker to set goals. Clients meet with a case manager on a weekly (or bi-weekly) basis. Ms. Nasner said the NAICA (Neighborhood Association for Intercultural Affairs) staff reiterates the good neighbor policy and asks their clients to be good citizens.

Ricardo Cosme, Executive Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, reported on a brief history of NAICA, which was established in 1974 and that the mission was to provide free legal services for families and individuals facing eviction or whom have cases in Bronx Housing. Now, NAICA has grown to the point where they continue to provide services for individuals that are facing eviction and need housing services.

Mr. Cosme said there are sites that are located in front of schools and churches. NAICA has a great relationship with stakeholders because of quarterly community advisory board meetings which includes the Community Board, elected officials, the local precinct, businesses and faith-based organizations. That gives them an opportunity to address any issues or concerns that may affect the community.

Ms. Nasner noted that they are looking to start an Advisory Board in the Community.

Ciara Thompson, Executive Director of Transitional Housing with NAICA, said they assist the client on how to properly budget. The clients are being prepared to be out in the community.

Board Member Vivian Dock asked if the clients have been counted in the Census.

Yvonne Ballard, Associate Commissioner for Adult Shelter Operations, said that there's no individual shelter that's participating with the Census because they have given the numbers as an agency.

Chairperson Renetta English asked if the count to the Census is submitted by neighborhood.

Commissioner Yvonne said she was not sure how the count was submitted.

Pat Beckles, resident, asked about the procedures for COVID-19 testing.

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Ms. Thompson said clients get tested every three weeks by medical providers who come to the hotel.

Ms. Beckles asked if the clients continue to receive services after they leave the shelter and find a job.

Ms. Thompson said they provide services for a year after leaving the shelter to make sure they are comfortable.

Ms. Beckles said there have been complaints of occupants at the shelter urinating on resident's lawns and harassing seniors at the Senior Living Center.

Ms. Nasner encouraged anyone who has any issues to email her directly or call the 24-hour hotline. They will figure out if that individual is a resident of the shelter and, if so, find another site for them.

Board Member Toi Washington-Simon asked if there were plans to acquire space at the Aloft Hotel, which is now vacant and is a neighbor to the IBIS.

Ms. Thompson said that they will only be operating from the IBIS.

Chairperson Renetta English asked for clarification on temporary housing.

Ms. Nasner said the goal is to close out all cluster sites by 2021 and to close out all commercial hotels that they are using by 2023.

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty asked if there any way to keep the people who are homeless in a shelter in their own neighborhood.

Ms. Nasner said that the administration is trying to give individuals the opportunity to stay in their neighborhood.

Noris Matherson, resident, asked when the contract at the IBIS expires.

Ms. Nasner said she is not sure but at the end of 2023 they should be out of the facility.

Board Member Sonya Davis Roberts asked if any of the Clients have been convicted of any sexual or violent offense.

Ms. Thompson said that, now, there is no one who has been convicted of a sexual or violent offense at the shelter.

Ms. Davis Roberts asked if a convicted sex offender, who must register as a sex offender, is going to live at the shelter and if the community be notified.

Ms. Nasner said that they cannot give out information that there is a sex offender in the shelter. Sex offenders are already on a public registry that anyone can access.

District Manager Giovanna Reid asked about overnight staffing and security, medical services and nursing services on the premises.

Ms. Thompson said there are three shifts. Eight residential aids and 22 security guards on the overnight staff. An operation manager that works till 12:00 a.m.; however, there is no medical staff at the site.

Ms. Reid asked if the clients have a curfew.

Ms. Nasner said that the clients have a 10:00 p.m. curfew.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

FY2022 Capital & Expense Budget - (Elba Buendia & Rev. Peter Herron, Co-Chairs)

Elba Buendia, Co-Chair of Capital Expense Committee, called upon the public for recommendations, concerns or suggestions to add to the Capital & Expense Budget for 2021.

Board Member Richard Mullings suggested Metrocard stations.

Chairperson Renetta English said if anyone has any suggestions, they can email or call the Community Board.

Business Economic Development. - (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

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

Valdes House Bar Rest. Corp. - 91-09 31st Ave., East Elmhurst (New-Wine/Beer)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine/Beer license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Valdes House Bar Restaurant Corp.

The representative for the owner said that the restaurant has a full kitchen where they make the food. He said the owner agreed to a stipulation that the committee requested.

9504 Restaurant Corp. - 95-04 37th Ave., East Elmhurst (New - Full Liq.)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of 9504 Restaurant Corp.

The representative for the owner said that the restaurant is a small place that will be serving Peruvian dishes.

Alex Pizza Deli Corp. - 70-20 35th Ave., Jackson Heights (New - Wine/Beer)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine/Beer license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Alex Pizza Deli Corp.

The representative for the owner said the restaurant holds 16 people and has been at the location for three years. The restaurant serves pizza and Italian dishes.

Michelada House NY II Inc. - 88-19 Roosevelt Ave., Jackson Heights (New - Wine/Beer)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine/Beer license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Michelada House NY II Inc.

The representative for the owner said that the business is a family Mexican restaurant. The restaurant has 14 tables and 62 seats.

Pro Siam Inc. d/b/a Thaan - 84-22 37th Ave., Jackson Heights (New - Full Liq.)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Pro Siam Inc.

The representative for the owner said that the restaurant has been operating since February. It's a small restaurant that seats 12 people and has a bar with four stools. They specialize in Thai-Asian fusion food.

Land Use - (Hamlett Wallace, Chair)

BSA CAL#: 315-90BZ - 82-06 Astoria Blvd.

Hamlett Wallace, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking extending terms of an existing variance for a gas station with a convenience store. It's located at the corner of 82nd Street and Astoria Boulevard. Mr. Wallace called upon the representative.

Hiram Rothkrug, representative from Vassalotti Associates Architects, said that the gas station has been there for 60 years. The extension of terms is for the next ten years without any changes to the gas station. It is a 24-hour station that has a 1,100 square-foot convenience store.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Renetta English, Chair, opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion # 41 - Adoption of the Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Stephen Kulhanek, to adopt the Agenda, was passed unanimously.

Motions By Committees:

Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

Valdes House Bar Rest. Corp. – 91-09 31st Ave., East Elmhurst (New-Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premises Wine & Beer license for this applicant provided that a stipulation was signed. The stipulation was signed.

Motion # 42 - Valdes House Bar Rest. Corp. – 91-09 31st Ave., East Elmhurst (New-Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Laverne Nimmons, to **approve** the application was passed with 23 in Favor, 6 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

9504 Restaurant Corp. – 95-04 37th Ave., East Elmhurst (New – Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premises Full Liquor license for this applicant.

Motion # 43 - 9504 Restaurant Corp. – 95-04 37th Ave., East Elmhurst (New – Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Ed Kiernan, to **approve** the application was passed with 26 in Favor, 4 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Alex Pizza Deli Corp. – 70-20 35th Ave., Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premises Wine & Beer license for this applicant provided that a stipulation is signed. The stipulation has been signed.

Motion # 44 - Alex Pizza Deli Corp. – 70-20 35th Ave., Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Mark Buhrmester, to **approve** the application was passed with 27 in Favor, 3 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Michelada House NY II Inc. – 88-19 Roosevelt Ave., Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends approval of an application for an on-premises Wine & Beer license for this applicant provided that a stipulation has been signed. The stipulation was signed.

Motion # 45 - Michelada House NY II Inc. – 88-19 Roosevelt Ave., Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Fausto Rodriguez, to **approve** the application was passed with 24 in Favor, 4 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Pro Siam Inc. d/b/a Thaan – 84-22 37th Ave., Jackson Heights (New – Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends approval of an application for an on-premises Full Liquor license for this applicant.

Motion # 46 - Pro Siam Inc. d/b/a Thaan – 84-22 37th Ave., Jackson Heights (New – Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Fausto Rodriguez, to **approve** the application was passed with 27 in Favor, 4 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

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Land Use – (Hamlett Wallace, Chair)

BSA CAL#: 315-90BZ – 82-06 Astoria Blvd.

Hamlett Wallace, Chair of Land Use Committee, reported that in the matter of an application regarding, 82-06 Astoria Boulevard, Queens, New York, Blue Hills Fuels, LLC - Owner of Record, is seeking extending terms of an existing variance in a R4 Zoning District, Use Group 16b for the operation of a Gasoline Service Station with convenience store accessory use, on the southeast corner of 82nd Street and Astoria Boulevard.

The Owner is requesting an application for:

- Extension of the term of the variance for an additional period of ten years - (Current Expiration Date: January 25th, 2021).
- New Certificate of Occupancy required. Existing Certificate of Occupancy to expire January 25, 2021.

The Land Use Committee, after review of this matter, recommends the application for the extension term of a variance for an additional ten years be **approved**.

Motion # 47 - BSA CAL#: 315-90BZ – 82-06 Astoria Blvd.

Upon motion duly made by Hamlett Wallace, seconded by Ed Kiernan, to **approve** the application was passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Renetta English welcomed back fellow members of the board. She said that the time went far too quickly. COVID-19 had a major impact on everyone's lives.

"Our community suffered loses and changed many aspects of our lives. But, through it all, the community has prevailed. I am happy to report that despite the COVID-19 epidemic, the Queens Community Board 3 office was fully operational."

Community Board 3 distributed over 20,000 masks in East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and North Corona. Ms. English thanked the Community Board 3 members, the US Census/NYC Census representatives, volunteers, and our elected officials for their assistance throughout the summer.

Community Board 3 sponsored a very successful "Community Cleanup" of the Flushing Bay Promenade. The "Flushing Bay Promenade Clean UP" was held on September 12, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and the New York City agencies and organizations that participated were:

- Queens Community Board 3 Members
- Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry
- Councilman Francisco Moya
- Ditmars Boulevard Block Association
- Elmcors
- East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association
- Guardians of Flushing Bay
- Dominico American Society of Queens
- Our Lady of Sorrows Parish
- Fr. Billini Association
- Kiwanis of Corona & East Elmhurst
- National Association of University Women
- Flushing North Shore Branch
- NYC Parks Department
- NYC Department of Sanitation
- Regal Heights Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center

Ms. English said Board Members and residents attended a memorial for Claire Schulman.

Ms. English also noted that the Census count for Community Board 3 has gone up – BUT there are still a lot of residents that have yet to be counted.

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District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid reported that the word is getting out about the Community Board 3 Board Meeting and more participants are joining "virtually." She said that Community Board 3 had a presence all around the community with some sort of an activity in every neighborhood in Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst and Corona.

Ms. Reid reported that, on September 30th, there will be indoor dining with a maximum capacity of 25% and outdoor dining will continue for a short time.

Ms. Reid said she will double check with the Department of Homeless Services about the clients at the shelters being counted for the Census.

Ms. Reid said that next month the Board will take up the issue of the Capital Expense Budget.

"We are currently operating in Fiscal Year 2021. We are about to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2022 next month." She went on to say that the Capital Expense Budget has to be submitted by October 31st and the District needs will also have to be released by October 31st.

Ms. Reid said it's been difficult working remotely and not having access to files. She said the office staff has managed to prevail and thanked them for their outstanding work.

Ms. Reid said that all Community Board 3 meetings will continue to be virtual. "We will not, in the very near future, conduct any meetings in person."

Motion # 48 - Adoption of the June 18, 2020 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Frank Taylor, to adopt the June 18, 2020 Minutes was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Airport Report

Ann Brown, Airport Chair, reported that the FAA released the Draft EIS on August 21st. There's a 45-day comment period where the public has the opportunity to make comments and voice their concerns until October 5th. Ms. Brown reminded the Board Members of her report in June about the Community Board along with other organizations that signed on to a Letter of Support for the Guardians of Flushing Bay. The letter was written to all the Congressional leaders requesting that the representatives refuse any Port Authority request to allot any type of federal stimulus money that's going towards the AirTrain. Ms. Brown encouraged Board Members to take a look at the EIS and register for the available workshops to voice their concerns.

Business Economics Committee Report

Edmund Rosenbaum, Business Economics Committee Chair, reported that he wants to get volunteers to canvas the businesses in the area and get their information so that the Community Board can begin sending them information from Small Business Services and the Chamber of Commerce as well as information on grants and information that is important for local businesses.

Legislators' Report

Office of the NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

James Mongeluzo, representative for NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer Office, announced that the office has gotten \$2 million back for people that were not properly compensated on jobs they did for work that was contracted out by the city. He said that a lot of the money is owed to the Community Board 3 area. Anyone who is owed money for work they did on city projects should search the NYC Comptroller Web site.

There is a Back to School guide that has information – not just on public schools – but Catholic schools too. The guide has other supplemental information that parents might be interested in getting for review.

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The NYC Comptroller sent out a letter to the Department of Sanitation asking them to figure out how better to make our city clean.

Anyone who wants to put in a claim for property damage can contact the office and potentially get money for compensation for damage to property (e.g. damage from a tree falling on a house, motor vehicle crashing into a property, etc.). Residents can file a claim but it doesn't mean they will be automatically compensated. Residents have 90 days from the date of the incident to file a claim.

For more information go to the website at: comptroller.nyc.gov

Council Member Francisco Moya Office

Taquoia Jones, representative for Council Member Francisco Moya Office, reported that the Council Member has given out thousands of masks. The next mask giveaway will be on Saturday, September 19th at Eternal Love Church and on Saturday, September 26th at the Seven Day Adventist Church.

Ms. Jones said that the office has also organized several community cleanups with the Sanitation Department, Parks Department and ACE (The Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless). And, if there is any illegal dumping and problematic areas of garbage, please call CM Moya's Office.

CM Moya funded local restaurants in partnership with Hispanic Federations to distribute thousands of meals to families. City Council allocated \$25 million in emergency funding for pantries and emergency food to be provided citywide.

CM Moya called for the emergency fund to help provide low-income undocumented immigrants with assistance for burials.

Ms. Jones announced that CM Moya was selected as one of the "Queens Heroes" for City & State NY Magazine.

Assembly Member Michael DenDekker Office

George Hadjiconstantinou, representative for Assembly Member Michael DenDekker Office, announced a book giveaway on Saturday, September 19th and September 26th at the Jackson Heights Shopping Center from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday, October 10th there will be a shredding event at the Jackson Heights Shopping Center from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mayor's Office

Jessica Schabowski, representative for the Mayor's Office, reported that the Mayor has been working on advocating for the Federal Government to provide a stimulus for the state to provide long-term borrowing authority. He is working with labor union leaders to prevent the layoffs of 22,000 city employees. The Mayor announced, this week, that all Mayor's office employees will be taking a "furlough-week" to address the ongoing budget crisis.

There is a testing lab now based in Manhattan and launched by New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) that will be called the "Pandemic Response Lab." This facility is dedicated to processing COVID-19 tests within 24-to-48 hours. Ms. Schabowski said that the Mayor is encouraging everyone to get their flu shots.

The Mayor's Office been working to support a lot of small businesses with the open restaurants program. Starting September 30th, there will be indoor dining at 25% capacity. Ms. Schabowski said that if all goes well the capacity could go up to 50% by November 1st.

On September 21st, schools will be opening with "Blended Learning." On October 1st, middle schools, high schools and secondary schools will open. There will be 4,500 additional staff to address staffing needs with the blended learning model.

The city will reallocate a portion of the Department of Sanitation budget to support litter basket pickup on city streets, and that the funds will restore about 65 sanitation trucks

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tasked with basket collection across the city — a 24 percent increase from current levels. The Mayor's office is partnering with community-based organizations to sponsor community cleanups of streets and parks.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Maribel Hernández Rivera, District Director for Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, announced that Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has been very focused on virtual Town Halls. She has done Town Halls on Police Brutality, the Census and a Town Hall with Telemundo in an effort to reach out to the “hardest-to-reach” communities.

In July, appropriations was the focus where they were able to pass a few amendments, including a ban on the purchase of chemical weapons as well as protecting public housing and eliminating opportunity zones.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Kamala Harris introduced the Climate Equity Act, which ensures that communities on the front lines of the climate crisis are focus when it comes to climate and environment policies.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez and Representative Nydia Velazquez introduced the Puerto Rico Self Determination Act to create a “Status Convention” whose delegates would be elected by Puerto Rican Borders and would develop a long-term solution for Puerto Rico's territorial arrangement.

In August, the Congresswoman participated in the oversight hearing with Postmaster DeJoy. At the Hearing the Congresswoman pushed Postmaster DeJoy to release a detail calendar to the committee and she also urged him to respond to the community's request for a disability ramp at Jackson Heights Post Office.

Ms. Hernández Rivera said, regarding the Census, that enumeration is not the same as being counted. Enumeration takes a lot of guessing from the Censors – but it's not the same. She said that's how many “hard-to-reach” communities are undercounted. The community needs to push for more people to be counted. The Congresswoman is pushing for the Census deadline to be moved to October 31st.

If anyone wants to nominate somebody who has gone above and beyond during the COVID-19 crisis and is part of the community (or a loved one in our community who has been lost to the virus), to contact the Congresswoman's office.

Motion #49 - To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, and seconded by Lobsang Salaka to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon*

*Reviewed and Edited by
Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Board Secretary*