



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606
Jackson Heights, New York 11372
Telephone: (718) 458-2707 Fax: (718) 458-3316
Website: www.CB3QN.NYC.GOV
Email: Communityboard3@nyc.rr.com

April 16, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Muquith Choudhury
Vivian Dock
Renetta English
Vasantrai Gandhi
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Larinda Hooks
Abdur Rahim Howlader
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Joyce Julian
Nabaraj Kc
Edward Kiernan
Stephen Kulhanek
Marta Lebreton
Bill Meehan
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Laverne Nimmons
Veronica Ng
Philip Papas
Dorothy Phelan
Megan Rockwell
Fausto Rodriguez
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Marlene Tapper
Arthur Teiler
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Hamlett Wallace
Toi Washington-Simon

ABSENT

Haiko Cornelissen
Shiv Dass
Sonya Davis Roberts
Margaret Dozier
Carlos Andres Lopez
Richard Mink
Ralph Moreno
Nuala O'Doherty
Esteban Peralta
Ladislav Perez
Jairo Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero
Tammy Rose
Lobsang Salaka
Jimmy Smith
Frank Taylor
Pat Thorpe
Edwin Westley

Guest

NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer
Kate L. Herts, Ph.D.
Lisa Atkins, Rep., Qns President Office
Michele Hernandez, Rep., Congresswoman
Ocasio-Cortez
Rep., NYS Senator Ramos
James Mongeluzo, Rep., NYC Comptroller
Zachariah Boyer, Rep., NY Public Advocate
Qibin Ye, Rep., CM Dromm Office
Lili Pioche, Rep., Assy. Aubry's Office
George Hadjiconstantinou, Rep., Assy.
DenDekker Office

Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Teleconference

Renetta English, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken at that time.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer reported the community has been hit very hard by Coronavirus. "Nobody anticipated this, but we will get through this together. There are struggles to small businesses. People are burying their parents or their grandparents. Two weeks ago, I lost my own mother to this terrible virus and there's very little closure because you can't have a funeral. You can't morn in the traditional way."

Comptroller Stringer said that part of the work his office is doing is to bring about a real discussion about why some communities, mostly communities of color, are being hit extra hard by the virus as opposed to other communities. He said that they are seeing everywhere they go that it really goes to the health disparities that have existed for many years. Doctors have been seeing people of all ages with preexisting conditions. They say it starts at an early age with no pollution plants, obesity issues and overcrowding in our communities. Comptroller Stringer said he is going to send Community Board 3 a number of reports. One is on *New York City Frontline Workers* and another on *Communities of Color That Have Been Impacted*. "I'm going to try to use this office to think about ways to finally end this inequality and at the same time fight the virus."

Board Member Nabaraj Kc said that there is a lack of thermometers and Tylenol in the community. He asked if the NYC Comptroller Office make some kind of donation to the community.

Comptroller Stringer said that his office doesn't give out money. They watch the money. He said they can work with other community based organizations and partner with Elected Officials to help. He added that they established a webinar for small businesses translated in 12 different languages.

2nd Vice Chair Dr. Laverne Nimmons asked if there is any other place in Community Board 3 for people to get tested for Coronavirus other than Elmhurst Hospital.

Comptroller Stringer said that the testing procedures in the City and State is haphazard. He said he will have to get back to the community with specific testing locations. He commented that the Mayor should have ordered 500,000 tests instead of 50,000 in accessible locations.

Board Member Muquith Choudhury asked if it's possible that people who have few symptoms can be tested for the virus.

Comptroller Stringer said that is what we should be building towards. Also, people who are asymptomatic should be tested because they could be a carrier of the virus.

"I'm going to do everything as Comptroller to fight in the City budget for a real campaign to bring resources into the City for massive expanding testing for our communities."

Chairperson Renetta English asked about the financial impact since a lot of the businesses are closed.

Comptroller Stringer said that we have to do everything to get a better stimulus package because a lot of immigrants will not be eligible. We have to come up with a program to meet the needs of our immigrant communities. He said Congresswoman Maxine Waters is right about helping people with rent and getting cash to those people who are struggling. He said we never had a budget like this not since the 1970's when the city was in the verge of bankruptcy. Comptroller Stringer said he will continue to update the city as the Chief Financial Officer. He said questions can be directed to NYC Comptroller liaison James Mongeluzo.

Resident Marjorie Clark asked what the City is doing to streamline the paperwork to access support for small businesses with less than 10 employees.

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Comptroller Stringer responded that the City has done nothing or not enough to help small businesses. Minority owned businesses have been struggling before the Coronavirus pandemic. That is why the *M/WBE University for Minority and Women in Small Business Club* was setup. "We are doing a webinar with State, Federal and Local Officials for diverse businesses translated into 12 languages."

Resident Margaret Flanagan complimented the NYC Comptroller on working with Office of Management and Budget on non-profit contracts. She said to please continue the good work because non-profits support our community in so many ways.

Comptroller Stringer said he told the Mayor's Office that "They can't cancel contracts or fail to register a contract in the middle of a spend because you got reimbursed the money that the non-profit already put out. They're the ones that are the least likely to be able to reopen."

Comptroller Stringer said "We're going to have to be very careful and thoughtful about how we slowly turn on the economic spigot. We don't want to go back to a social distancing issue. But we also have to think about the communities that have traditionally been hurt when times are tough. Usually when there are budget cuts they go after the summer jobs and seniors. It's a lot harder to have creativity to keep those programs open. So I'm going to talk a lot more about this in the city but I do think that the economy for people we care about really starts with our not for profits."

Ms. English expressed condolences to Comptroller Stringer having lost his mother. She thanked him for taking the time to answer the community's questions.

Presentation – Impact of Covid-19 on Mental Health Kate L. Herts, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Psychologist, New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Kate L. Herts, Ph.D, Clinical Psychologist at New York Presbyterian Hospital at Weill Cornell, gave a presentation on how COVID-19 is effecting people's mental health.

Negative Impact on Mental Health in China

- 1210 respondents from 194 Cities
- 53.8% rated psychological impact of the outbreak as moderate or severe
- 16.5% reported moderate to severe depressive symptoms
- 28.8% reported moderate to severe anxiety symptoms
- 8.1% reported moderate to severe stress levels

Dr. Herts said that this is much higher than normal rates of depression and anxiety in the community. They also saw a small percentage who are reporting pretty severe stress. But the focus should be on the depression and anxiety. Those are significant disorders that require treatment.

Mental Health of Healthcare Workers in China

- 1257 respondents from 34 hospitals
- 50.4% reported symptoms of depression
- 30.4% reported symptoms of insomnia
- 71.5% reported distress

Healthcare workers are at higher risk for mental health problems due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Just like the elderly, people who have lost a loved one and people who have young children are also at higher risk. Dr. Herts said when they look at the mental health of healthcare workers in China and look at it again over a thousand respondents from a number of different hospitals, those numbers go way up for depression. Half of the healthcare workers were experiencing symptoms of depression. This is very serious because depression can negatively impact your job performance and your quality of life.

COVID-19 and Mental Health in New York

- All-time high calls to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of NYC in March

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- “Of the callers who mention COVID-19, more than 20 percent have reported experiencing a high level of anxiety” – Dawn Brown, director of community engagement at NAMI
- Increased volume of calls, texts and chats to NYC Well Mental Health Hotline this year vs. last year, attributed to the city promoting NYC Well for people distressed about COVID-19
- American Association of Suicidology says crisis centers “are experiencing dramatic increases in calls”
- Predicted increases in domestic violence and difficulties staying sober

“There are two high risk groups that we are particularly worried about,” Dr. Herts said. “We predict that there will be increases in domestic violence as people are forced to quarantine together and that there are concerns about people who had been attending AA Meetings and may feel more anxious or depressed and thus will possibly lose their sobriety.”

- Stress during this outbreak can cause:
 - Anxiety about your health
 - Anxiety about the health of loved ones
 - Low mood
 - Grief if loved-one lost
 - Loneliness due to social isolation
 - Financial insecurity of job loss results in anxiety and depressive symptoms, in addition to possible food insecurity
 - Difficult concentrating
 - Worsening of chronic mental health problems
 - Increase use of alcohol and drugs
 - Increased susceptibility to domestic violence during quarantine

What Can You Do?

- Connect with others
- Limit news consumption
- Follow a routine
- Exercise regularly
- Avoid alcohol and drugs
- Eat healthy well-balanced meals
- Normalize you feelings
- Help someone who is struggling
- Do activities you enjoy
- Take it one day at a time
- Practice mindfulness

Dr. Herts reminds us that this will end at some point but for now we need to take it one day at a time and be present in the moment.

Resources:

- Mental Health and Coping during COVID-19, CDC
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>
- COVID-19: Coping and Emotional Well Being, NYC Health
 - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-mental-health.page>
- Parenting Strategies for Challenging Times webinar series, NYP YAC
 - <https://www.nyp.org/youthanxiety/important-notice>

Board Member Lisa Mesulam said they are only screening if you have proof of having the virus not if you probably had it. She also stated that testing to see if you could donate plasma is difficult. Instead of taking it from people who are in good shape they take it from people who are almost dying.

Dr. Herts said part of the anxiety is that we're all feeling we don't know if we can get tested if we need to and that being anxious and worried about it is very normal. At this time there's not a whole lot that we can do about it except for the community to keep asking for more

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testing. New York Presbyterian is working on making their own tests instead of waiting to get them from somewhere else. Dr. Herts said New York Presbyterian is a big hospital system and they are trying to help other hospitals in the area. For example, by taking overflow patients from other places. She said hopefully they will be able to help the community at some point.

Chairperson Renetta English asked about the impact on the health providers.

Dr. Herts said there's definitely an impact on health providers. There is an Emergency Hotline, Liaison Department, psychologists or psychiatrists to every department in the hospital. They can reach a counselor at any time.

Board Member Muquith Choudhury said a resident wanted to transport his mother from Elmhurst Hospital to New York Presbyterian but the ambulance is only taking patients to Elmhurst Hospital.

Dr. Herts said it's best to ask a physician but maybe walk or find another way to get to an Emergency Room of the hospital that you want to be treated.

Board Member Marlene Tapper said that a doctor can have an ambulance take a patient to the hospital that they are affiliated with versus a different one.

Ms. English thanked Dr. Herts for an informative presentation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

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

Que Rico Taco! Corp. – 33-07/09 89th Street, 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 Que Rico Taco! Corp.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The representative said that the restaurant has been around since 2009. They were approved for a license but because they did not provide the Certificate of Occupancy to the State Liquor Authority they never got the license.

Mr. Cangrejo NY Corp. – 79-09 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (Class Change)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Class Change. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Mr. Cangrejo NY Corp.

The owner said they have lot of special occasions celebrated at the restaurant and the patrons ask for liquor.

Mr. Rosenbaum asked what makes his restaurant different from other restaurants.

The owner said we are the only one in New York serving Columbia Food specializing in Pacific Seafood.

Board Member Joyce Julian was concerned that the restaurant is small and holds 45 people. She asked if there is a fire exit.

The owner said there is no secondary fire exit. The back of the restaurant is part of the establishment next door so there is no room.

Mr. Rosenbaum said that for occupancy of 45 a secondary egress is not a requirement.

District Manager Giovanna Reid said On Roosevelt Avenue some of the locations do not have or are not required to have a second means of egress. The Department of Buildings granted the approval for the alterations application. So it may not have a second means of egress. Ms. Reid said that a secondary egress should not be an issue for this application.

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Casa Rubio Restaurant Inc. – 98-05 Northern Blvd., Corona (Renewal – Full Liquor)

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

The owner's son spoke for his father who was present. He said the restaurant is a family owned restaurant specializing in Latin food. They been operating for 19 years in the community.

Swim Two Birds LLC – 76-05 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Full Liquor)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Swim Two Birds LLC.

The owner said he is a chef from Canada and trained in France. Swim Two Birds is going to be an elegant restaurant in Jackson Heights with the concept being causal.

Resident Margaret Flanagan asked about the hours of operation.

The owner said that the hours of operation are from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion # 24 - Adoption of the Agenda

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

Motions By Committees:

Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

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

Que Rico Taco! Corp. – 33-07/09 89th Street, Jackson Heights (New-Wine/Beer)

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

Motion # 25 - Que Rico Taco! Corp. – 33-07/09 89th Street, Jackson Heights (New-Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to **approve** the application was passed by 25 in Favor, 3 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Mr. Cangrejo NY Corp. – 79-09 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (Class Change)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economics, reported the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premises Full Liquor license for this applicant provided a stipulation has been signed. The Stipulation was signed. He said that public convenience has been proven in terms of the 500 foot rule by the applicant being a restaurant focused on Colombian seafood.

Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the 500 foot rule is a loose interpretation by the State liquor Authority to prevent over saturation. In order for an applicant to forgo the 500 foot rule they are subject to a hearing by SLA. They have to prove what their individual public convenience is to their area. Mr. Rosenbaum said that we have found in the motion and interpretation that the restaurant is unique therefore, they have met the public conveniences of the area.

Motion # 26 - Mr. Cangrejo NY Corp. – 79-09 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (Class Change)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Fausto Rodriguez, to **approve** the application was passed by 25 in Favor, 3 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

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Casa Rubio Restaurant Inc. – 98-05 Northern Blvd., Corona (Renewal – Full Liquor)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economics, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of a renewal application for an on-premises Full Liquor license for this applicant provided a stipulation has been signed. The Stipulation has been signed.

Motion # 27 - Casa Rubio Restaurant Inc. – 98-05 Northern Blvd., Corona (Renewal – Full Liquor)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Bill Meehan, to **approve** the application was passed by 23 in Favor, 5 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Swim Two Birds LLC – 76-05 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Full Liquor)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economics, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of a renewal application for an on-premises Full Liquor license for this applicant provided a stipulation has been signed. The Stipulation has been signed.

Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the Committee knows what the applicant requests and then presents suggestions and try to come to a mutual agreement. The Committee has been asking all businesses to agree that the last call will be one hour before closing.

Motion # 28 - Swim Two Birds LLC – 76-05 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Full Liquor)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Bill Meehan, to **approve** the application was passed by 18 in Favor, 8 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Renetta English said that when friends call to see how she is doing she tells them that, "I live in the center of a national pandemic that has impacted our wonderful community of East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and North Corona." She went on to say that she has personally lost family members and friends. "We also know many of whom have recovered. But the precious lives that we have lost has been very painful. Staying in our homes to protect ourselves, wearing our gloves, our masks and standing six feet away from each other to try to flatten this curve has definitely been an experience for me personally."

Ms. English thanked all of the essential workers who are on the frontlines. Our doctors, our nurses, our first responders, those that are working in emergency services, transit workers, those that are cleaning our buildings, the grocery stores workers, the pharmacy workers and all of those that are central workers that have to go to work every day. She said she is grateful to be able work from home but it's not easy. Ms. English said anyone who is not feeling well should go get themselves checked.

Ms. English thanked all of the teachers especially students that have to deal with not seeing their friends and using a new mode of education.

Ms. English reported that the April 1st census day for a successful event. She stressed that numbers are quite low in the community and encouraged all of those in the area to fill out the Census. It can be done online.

The Acting Queens Borough President, Sharon Lee, will be making appointments for terms to begin on May 31, 2020.

She thanked the Board Members for being dedicated and answering the various e-mails and participating in the video conferencing meetings.

Ms. English wished all in attendance a Happy Passover, Happy Easter and Happy Earth Day and Happy Ramadan. She also said that April is Autism Awareness Month.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid reported that the Community Board Office is still operating. The office is still responding to calls while operating remotely. If residents have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Community Board 3. In addition, Community Board 3 is continuing to conduct committee meetings and Full Board Meetings via Teleconference. "We are still effective and moving."

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Ms. Reid reported that Community Board 3 was very impacted by this crisis and she has been participating in Teleconference meetings with the Department of Health, the Mayor's Office and other agencies advocating for the community to get additional testing sites for the district. She assured everyone that Community Board 3 continues to advocate for additional assistance

Ms. Reid reported that street closing permits for the month of May have been canceled by the Mayor's office. She will keep the community updated on any further changes.

Ms. Reid said that there were some requests for locations to slow down traffic. There were a couple of approvals one which was 93rd Street. She will keep the community posted in next month's report.

Ms. Reid stressed if you are not feeling well call 911 for an ambulance to take you to the hospital. "Unfortunately, there are residents in our community who did not call and when they did seek assistance it was too late."

Ms. Reid said, "I want to thank everyone for condolences I received for the passing of my brother. I appreciate every single one of you and appreciate your support." She expressed condolences to Board Member Toi Washington-Simon who also lost a family member.

Chairperson Renetta English reiterated that Community Board 3 has been advocating for Community Board 3 because Elmhurst Hospital should not be the only option the neighborhood to go get tested.

Board Member Lisa Mesulam said that there is a COVID-19 testing place on the south side of 80th Street and Northern Blvd.

Board Member Abdur Rahim Howlader said many of the people from the Bangladesh community need medical assistance. He asked how to get into the temporary hospital in the park.

Ms. Reid said at her briefing with the medical examiners, she will raise the issue and report back.

Motion # 29 - Adoption of the March 19, 2020 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Bill Meehan, to adopt the March 19, 2020 Minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Health & Social Services Committee

Chair Vivian Dock reported that the Committee met via Teleconference on April 2, 2020 to discuss Community Board 3's Annual Leon Von Holder Memorial Healthcare Expo 2020. It is to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the Corona Health Center 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Committee discussed participant responses, flyer, distribution of volunteer assignments, donations forms, entertainment, refreshment donation, raffle donations, giveaways for Community Board table donations, and monetary donation.

Ms. Dock said that due to COVID-19 there is a standstill. The health fair may need to be postponed. Next meeting is to be scheduled.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Chair Marta Lebreton reported that the Parks Committee met on Thursday, March 26, 2020. There was a presentation by the Parks Department on the World Fairs Marina redesign.

Ms. Lebreton said they came before the committee before and asked the Board for a letter of support. Then the World's Fair Marina redesign changed and the Committee asked them to come back to present. The Committee asked for clarification that the entrance would not be moved from Community Board 3 side. There might be another meeting to further discuss the redesign.

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The Committee discussed all programming events being closed at the parks. Dog run and playground closed. All basketball hoops have been removed.

Ms. Lebreton said the beautification project is on hold and will be determined later on at the next Parks meeting.

Ms. Lebreton announced that on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., the Queens Borough President's Office will have a "Virtual Interface Vigil" broadcast live.

Legislators' Report

NY State Senator Jessica Ramos Office

A representative for NY State Senator Jessica Ramos, reported that the office is working diligently to successfully transition to the online digital system and continue to monitor the Coronavirus health crisis currently impacting New York State. She said they are really trying to utilize online platforms, digital communication and social media forum. The Senator's office continues to provide the community with the most up to date information and resources by directly connecting experts to constituents so that they get the answers they need.

NY State Senator Ramos office is paying special close attention and collaborating with corresponding state agencies to combat challenges they are seeing in regard to hospital, housing, transportation, education, immigration, labor, unemployment, and small businesses.

The office is physically closed but still available to assist the community with any concerns during usual office hours, Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Any questions or concerns contact should be directed to 917-209-2567

The representative said that NY State Senator Ramos expresses gratitude to CB3 and its leadership for working diligently to successfully transition to the online digital system in order to continue to service the community.

Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry Office

Lili Pioche, representative for Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry, reported that the office is open but not accepting any visitors. The office can be reached from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Ms. Pioche said the Assemblyman has everyone in his heart and he prays for everyone's safety.

Mayor's Office

Jessica Schabowski, representative for the Mayor's Office, announced a partnership with the Open Society Foundations which will establish the New York City COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief Program. Undocumented immigrants and their families have largely been excluded from Federal COVID-19 Relief Programs. This program, which will be headed by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, will create a citywide network of community based organizations that will provide direct one-time emergency relief payment to immigrant families. The relief payments will be in the amounts of \$400 for an individual, \$800 for a couple, or a single parent with children and \$1000 for families with multiple adults and children.

The City will provide hotel rooms to all health care workers who are at risk of being exposed or contracting COVID-19 at work. Community based referrals for those who are unable to socially distance themselves at home. The outreach will be conducted by the Department of Health in areas with the highest rates of illness and death.

Chairperson Renetta English asked if there are hotels in Community Board 3.

Ms. Schabowski said she can provide a list of hotels to Community Board 3.

Ms. English said that Community needs more testing sites in the area.

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Ms. Schabowski responded that it's contingent on getting testing supplies. New York is now creating testing kits to be available in May.

District Manager Giovanna Reid asked about the Medical Examiner's Office response time.

Ms. Schabowski said there have been expansions in hospital capacity and funeral homes to be able to hold bodies. The City did not anticipate that they would have such a massive need so there are some delays. She said they did get some assistance from the Federal government.

Ms. Reid asked if Community Board 3 residents have access to the temporary hospital site in the park.

Ms. Schabowski said that the park is an overflow if Elmhurst Hospital doesn't have enough capacity for patients.

Board Secretary Kevin Hughes-Noboa said that a resident has concerns about agencies handling the recurring homeless problem by the BQE.

Ms. Schabowski said she would have to contact DHS and see if anything can be done.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Hernandez, representative for Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, announced that people with Direct Deposit should have received their stimulus check this week. Social Security recipients will receive it through their social security benefits starting next week. Starting April 26, 2020 the IRS will start issuing the paper checks to individuals at a rate of five million checks per week. It's going to take 20 weeks to get all the paper checks out. Individuals who have the lowest incomes will receive their checks first. Ms. Hernandez said anyone has questions about eligibility should reach out to the office.

Ms. Hernandez encouraged all in attendance to sign up to receive weekly COVID-19 newsletters. Anyone who seeking assistance can call the office to leave a message and someone will return the call. To contact Michelle Hernandez directly, call: 917-831-7658.

Office of NYC Comptroller Office

James Mongeluzo, representative for the Office of NYC Comptroller Office, said any questions for the Comptroller can be sent by email for a follow up response. The four links that Comptroller Stringer mentioned will be sent to CB3.

The Comptroller's Office Resource Guide for COVID-19 is available on the website. It's a comprehensive database of information on ways people can get assistance. Mr. Mongeluzo said he will also send the report on "New York City Frontline Workers" as it describes a lot of people in the area, especially in Jackson Heights, North Corona and East Elmhurst. In addition, it provides information on how the NYC Comptroller Office is advocating to help people who fit that category.

Council Member Daniel Dromm Office

Qibin Ye, representative for Council Member Daniel Dromm Office, announced that Council Member Daniel Dromm has been advocating for resources needed in our community. They have a Newsletter that periodically has community updates and resources.

Grow NYC has weekly distributions on a first come first serve basis on Wednesdays at 41-01 75th Street.

The Community Legal Clinic is still available for anyone who needs an appointment with attorney or immigration issue can contact the office at dromm@council.nyc.gov or call 718-803-6373 and leave a message so that someone can get back to you as soon as possible.

Assemblyman Michael DenDekker Office

George Hadjiconstantinou, representative for Assemblyman Michael DenDekker Office, announced that the office has been posting a lot of COVID-19 related updates in the Assembly

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Member Michael DenDekker newsletter. The office is still answering phones Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. although working remotely.

The office is helping people with all kinds of casework especially issues regarding the Department of Labor and unemployment.

The Department of Labor waived the requirement to make a phone call in order to complete the application and that instead individuals from the Department of Labor will be calling the applicants themselves within 72 hours if they need to follow up on their application. If someone doesn't receive a call contact the Office at: 718-457-0384 or email: DenDekkerM@nyassembly.gov

The Office of New York City Public Advocate Office

Zachariah Boyer, representative for The Office of New York City Public Advocate Office, announced that the constituent services have been working around the clock to make sure that they handle cases, including helping individuals sign up for SNAP, cash assistance, housing and mental health resources.

NYC Public Office has put out a statement calling on the Mayor to bring back the Summer Youth Employment Program that was cut out of the New York City budget. Mr. Boyer asked for any Summer Youth Employment Program provider to contact him.

Every New York City resident can receive three free meals a day. Meals can be picked up at various locations 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any questions contact: zboyer@advocate.nyc.gov or call (646) 397-3435

To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, and seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon*

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