



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.  
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February 18, 2021

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**ABSENT**

Kham Bhatta  
Carlos Andres Lopez  
Ralph Moreno  
Esteban Peralta  
Fausto Rodriguez  
Jairo Rodriguez  
Ladislá Pérez  
Dorothy Phelan  
Jimmy Smith  
Pat Thorpe  
Edwin Westley

**Guest**

Assy. Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas  
Jessica Schabowski, Rep., Mayor's Office  
Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, CEO Elmhurst Hospital  
Regina Bain, Rep., Louis Armstrong House  
Darryl White, Rep., NY State Atty General  
Max Weprin, Rep., Qns Boro Pres Office  
Michele Hernandez, Congresswoman  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Mary Jobaida Rep., NYS Sen. Ramos  
TaQuoia Jones, Rep., CM Moya's Office  
Qibin Ye Rep., CM Dromm's Office

**Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Teleconference.**

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

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**

#### **Project STIQ**

Jessica Reyes, coordinator for Project STIQ (Supporting Teen in Queens) from Planned Parenthood of Greater New York, said their goal is to work in partnership with schools and community based organizations in Community Board 3.

Project STIQ delivers free programming for middle school and high school aged youth to promote positive futures, inform decision making and offers age appropriate health information. There are also workshops for adults.

If anyone is interested in becoming a community partner or wants more information, they should email [projectstiq@ppgreaterny.org](mailto:projectstiq@ppgreaterny.org) or call 443-418-2432.

#### **Dog Run**

Hallie Iannoli, resident, said that there is an incredible need for additional space for dogs. There is the 69<sup>th</sup> Street dog run and Landing Lights but nothing in the heart of Jackson Heights. She encourages dog lovers to show support and check out *Jackson Heights Dog Lovers* Group on Facebook and Instagram.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

#### **Regina Bain - Executive Director - LOUIS Armstrong House Museum**

Regina Bain introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum. She expressed being proud of the legacy of executive directors who have come before her, including Jeff Rosenstock, Kenyan Adams, BJ Adler, and Michael Cogswell, who led the Lewis Abstract House Museum for decades.

Ms. Bain said the mission of the Louis Armstrong House Museum is to sustain and promote the cultural, historical and humanitarian legacy of Louis Armstrong. They are preserving and interpreting Armstrong's house and grounds, collecting and sharing archival materials that document Armstrong's life and legacy as well as developing programs for the public that educate and inspire.

Since the pandemic, The Louis Armstrong House has been closed to tours. While closed they have been preparing to re-open by making sure ventilation in the spaces are as strong as possible. To make sure everyone is safe they have been inputting an HVAC system throughout the House. Parts of the roof had to be replaced because there have been leaks and the interior had to be refurbished due to damage.

The house that the next door neighbor, Selma Heraldo, left to the Louis Armstrong House Museum is going to be renovated to become office space and be used for events. There will be a multimedia interactive exhibit that, at times, will be a Jazz club with flexible seating. The plan is to hold performances and other community events. Also, the archives, which are housed at Queens College, will be coming back to 107<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Bain said the construction has been put on hold because of the pandemic but hopefully it will be ready in June to welcome guests in the Fall for tours.

Until the re-opening of the Louis Armstrong Museum online there is "Armstrong Now" where contemporary young artists go to do research in the archives and to create new works. Followed by a series of talkbacks. *Voices of Freedom* is available for free on the website.

There is an education initiative at the Louis Armstrong Archives that includes an in-depth series of workshops to inspire a new generation of artists in high school (and beyond) to create new works on the legacy of Louis Armstrong. In addition, there is a possibility for teachers to bring teaching artists into their schools to do interactive workshops. For more information, visit [www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org](http://www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org).

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Ms. Bain said that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Louis Armstrong. They are discussing how to share the tradition of the jazz funeral and other traditions from various countries to acknowledge the people who have died from COVID-19.

Olivia Lewis, resident, asked if the construction was union labor.

Ms. Bain confirmed “yes” and that they are working with City University of New York Queens College to do the work.

Board Member Nuala O’Doherty said that 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Open Street Coalition has open culture spots that welcomes performances from The Louis Armstrong Museum.

### **Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas**

Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas reported that the Assembly office for District 34 has been operating since January 1, 2021. The office is currently located at 75-35 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue at the Jackson Heights Center.

They have been helping constituents with a lot of issues and hosting virtual meetings along with a few in-person events. The office is not encouraging in-person appointments but appointments can be made for a video chat. Staff members speak Spanish and Bengali. Additional language translation can be provided if requested.

Assy. Gonzalez-Rojas reported that they held two COVID-19 testing events free of charge and held their first paper shredding event in the shopping center. They plan to host more paper shredding events every few months in different parts of the District to reach different communities.

Assy. Gonzalez-Rojas announced that on February 25, 2021 there will be a Town Hall Meeting on the topic of COVID-19.

Assy. Gonzalez-Rojas said she has been co-sponsoring bills that were passed relating to helping small businesses, housing, health care and criminal justice

She immediately submitted co-sponsorship of *Coverage For All* which ensures that every person in the community, including undocumented immigrants, have access to health care.

Assy. Gonzalez-Rojas signed a letter to Governor Cuomo with over 30 other colleagues to urge him to restore the 24/7 MTA service. She said essential workers and many people need “round-the-clock” access to public transportation.

Assy. Gonzalez-Rojas said she will be a fighter for issues regarding transportation, health care, immigrant justice, small businesses, schools and educational institutions, in an effort to make sure we're all getting the resources that we need.

There are hardship forms that will help those who are concerned about foreclosure or eviction at <https://www.nycourts.gov/covid-eefpa.shtml>

The New York City Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the Queens Chamber of Commerce are offering small business grants to businesses with 20 or fewer employees in neighborhoods hardest hit by the pandemic. More info at <https://edc.nyc/program/queens-small-business-grants-program>

The Paycheck Protection Program has resumed, and people will have until March 31 to secure a loan. More info at <https://www.newsday.com/business/small-business-covid-loans-sba-ppp-employees-jobs-economy-1.50112770>

Areila Taveras, Executive Director of the Latino Restaurant Association in Queens, asked if she is working on getting a new hospital for Queens.

Assy Gonzalez-Rojas said she has met with NY State Chuck Schumer to talk about needing more health services to the District.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Assy Gonzalez-Rojas can be contacted at 718-457-0384 or [gonzalezrojasj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:gonzalezrojasj@nyassembly.gov)

### **Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, CEO Elmhurst Hospital**

Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, CEO for Elmhurst Hospital, reported that one of her main priorities is to make sure that the rebuilding of the inside infrastructure of the hospital is completed and that they are ready for the next pandemic. One of the important things is trying to get ICU beds. A lot of capital help is needed. She said that elected officials are on board to try to get more space. They also would welcome a new hospital if possible.

Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde assured everyone that the hospital has taken every precaution to keep everyone safe. The hospital is ready for anyone who needs care. They also are ready to give vaccine shots.

Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde said she is humbled and proud to have been selected to be the new CEO of Elmhurst Hospital. "It was a hard time for the hospital but if we were old before we are older now."

Board Member Frank Taylor asked why there are not Urgent Care locations under the Elmhurst umbrella.

Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde said that her predecessor tried to build an express care but it was used for COVID-19 patients. Now the space is being used for vaccine. She said they are working with NY State Senator Jessica Ramos but the issue is developers who don't want to give up space.

Board Member Megan Rockwell asked if they will reopen a daycare in the space at Elmhurst Hospital.

Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde said hopefully, after people get vaccinated, the daycare will come back.

Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde can be contacted at [arteegah@nychhc.org](mailto:arteegah@nychhc.org)

### **Mayor's Office - Jessica Schabowski, Queens Borough Director, CAU**

Jessica Schabowski, representative for the Mayor's Office, reported that the Health Department today issued updated guidance on face coverings, which has proven to be one of the most critical tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The guidance recommends that people over the age of two should wear, snug, fitting masks with 2 or 3 layers of material to better prevent unfiltered air from passing through the mask. Alternatively, New Yorkers may wear two masks with a cloth based covering over disposable mask. She also suggested higher grade masks like N95 for people at greater risk, including those 65 or older, those with underlying medical conditions, those who care for someone who is sick and people who are in prolonged close contact with non-household members while indoors.

Ms. Schabowski reported that there have been more than 10% of the adults vaccinated in New York City. Since vaccinations began in December, 317,000 doses were administered. The Mayor's Office continues to advocate for more supply from the Federal Government. Check out: [www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](http://www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder)

The Mayor also announced a plan to vaccinate homebound seniors. The City launched on-site senior vaccination clinics at retirement communities and HPD senior buildings. When the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is available, City agencies, such as FDNY and home healthcare partners, will be able to reach the vulnerable population.

They are conducting door-to-door operations and doing robo-calls to target the neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by COVID-19.

Board Member Marta Lebreton asked if the Citi Field site for vaccine was set up exclusively for Queens's residents.

Ms. Schabowski said that the Citi Field site was set up by the City's resources to reach out to not just Queens residents but also the most vulnerable population.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Board Member Lobsang Salaka asked if there is any plan to reach out to people who don't have a computer or speak English.

Ms. Schabowski said The Mayor's Office has been engaging in outreach to communities, creating a team of canvassers model that includes the community and directly connects with individuals to educate them on how to navigate the vaccine system to get appointments. They have been engaging with people who speak different languages.

### **New York State Attorney General – Darryl White**

Darryl White, representative for New York State Attorney General, announced that the Attorney General is promoting the Protect Our Community initiative. The Attorney General wants to make it a priority and expand the outreach in Queens and the Bronx.

Mr. White said they have been working their way around to Community Boards virtual meetings to talk about some of the services.

- Consumer Issues
  - Identity Theft
  - Credit/Debit Card Fraud
  - COVID-19 Scams
  - Fake Charities
- Housing Issues
  - Deed Theft
  - Tenant Harassment
  - Mortgage Fraud
  - Illegal Evictions
- Civil Rights
  - Housing
  - Employment
  - Environment Injustice
  - Immigration Fraud
- Seniors
  - Scams that target Seniors and the Elderly
  - Elder Abuse
  - Power of Attorney Issues
- Workers Right
  - Minimum Wage
  - Overtime
  - Workplace Conditions

Mr. White said that unfortunately seniors get scammed the most. There is a presentation called a *Smart Senior* that can be requested.

To request an appointment RSVP, contact [Darryl.White@ag.ny.gov](mailto:Darryl.White@ag.ny.gov) or call 718-560-2040 or 646-668-6474

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)**

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

##### **Cantina Sports Bar Corp. – 37-64 103rd Street, Corona (New – Full Liquor)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Cantina Sports Bar Corp.

The owner said that she is from Ecuador and has applied for a New Full Liquor license for the sports bar. She noted that the business is closed at the present.

Board Member Lobsang Salaka asked why she is applying for a liquor license.

The owner said that she brought the business from someone else.

Board Member Frank Taylor asked if she has any experience running an establishment.

The owner said that she has 10 years' experience working in different bars.

Mr. Taylor asked about the number of seats in the sports bar.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

The owner said that it holds 35 patrons.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked if there has been any violations.

The owner said no and that this is the first time that she is applying for a Liquid License.

Board Member Joyce Julian asked if food will be served.

The owner said that they will sell finger food.

### **El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc. – 93-16A 37th Ave. Jackson Heights (Met. of Operation Change)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Method of Operation. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Restaurant Inc.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The representative said when the initial application was filed many years ago the applicant did not put in the Method of Operation.

Board Member Sonya Davis Roberts asked if the business is close to residential houses.

The representative said that there is residential houses a block away but not on the same block.

Board Member Lobsang Salaka asked why they are getting a DJ when they get a Method of Operation.

The representative said the DJ is to make it an enjoyable environment. It is not going to be a nightclub with dancing.

Mr. Salaka expressed concern over congestion in that area. He said there should be a security guard.

The representative said they added security. The restaurant is going to make sure there is an egress and an ingress that is properly managed.

### **El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc. – 93-16A 37th Ave. Jackson Heights (Corporate Change)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Corporate Change. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Restaurant Inc.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The representative said that the owner has brought in a partner who has some experience in the restaurant industry.

### **Aroma Café 1 Inc. dba Mr. Pancho's Café – 86-09 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine/Beer license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Mr. Pancho's Café.

The owner said it is his first time applying for a Wine/Beer license.

Board Member Sonya Davis Roberts asked if there has been any problems with NYPD or any fines.

The owner said he just brought the business and it's not open yet.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

### **2007 Melanie Deli & Grocery Corp. – 95-02 35th Ave, Jackson Heights**

#### **(New – Eating Place Beer)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking an Eating Place Beer license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of 2007 Melanie Deli & Grocery Corp.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The owner has been operating at the location since 2011. There are tables in the back and the owner wants to upgrade to Eating Place Beer.

Board Member Richard Mullings said that the location is a problematic area known for gang activity. He asked if there will be some kind of security.

The representative said that there will be no security. The owner has been operating for 10 years without security. The representative said there were no issues or complaints.

Mr. Rosenbaum said that he had concerns back in 2018 when the applicant appeared before the Committee. There were past issues in that exact area but the Police found no activities when they responded to 911 calls.

Board Member Frank Taylor asked what hours will they be serving beer.

The representative said that the current hours of operation are 7:00am – 2:00am. But due to COVID-19 they close at midnight. The owner intends to sell beer from 11:00am to 11:00pm.

Board Member Lobsang Salaka asked if they were going to operate as a restaurant.

The representative said they were going to remain a Grocery Deli store.

### **Blue City Lounge Corp. – 107-11 Northern Blvd., Corona (New – Full Liquor)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Blue City Lounge Corp.

The representative said that the owner is an event coordinator for St. John's University and wants to open a family restaurant. The location has a history of problems but the owner is making changes including added security.

The owner said she has experience in catering events and is well aware of event planning process.

Board Member Richard Mullings said that he remembers the location at Capelli's Café. He asked if they were affiliated with the previous owner and play music at the location.

The representative said that it's a restaurant not a lounge. The music is going to be limited to Monday, Wednesday and Sunday until Midnight.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **Motion # 8 - Adoption of the Agenda**

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

### **Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)**

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

### **Cantina Sports Bar Corp. – 37-64 103rd Street, Corona (New – Full Liquor)**

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

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

applicant due to adverse history at the location, past disapproval by Community Board 3 and the New York State Liquor Authority and making false statements to the committee.

### **Motion # 9 - Cantina Sports Bar Corp. – 37-64 103rd Street, Corona (New – Full Liquor)**

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Frank Taylor, to **disapprove** the application was passed unanimously.

### **El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc. – 93-16A 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jackson Heights (Met. of Operation Change)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for a change in the Method of Operation of an existing on-premises Full Liquor license for this applicant provided that a stipulation has been signed. The Stipulation was signed.

### **Motion # 10 - El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc. – 93-16A 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jackson Heights (Met. of Operation Change)**

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to **approve** the application was passed with 33 in Favor, 2 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

### **El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc. – 93-16A 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jackson Heights (Corporate Change)**

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

### **Motion # 11 - El Puerto de Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc. – 93-16A 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jackson Heights (Corporate Change)**

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to **approve** the application was passed unanimously.

### **Aroma Café 1 Inc. dba Mr. Pancho's Café – 86-09 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **disapproval** of an application for an on-premises Wine & Beer license for this applicant due to the NYPD filing a formal report with the New York State Liquor Authority regarding unlicensed and after-hours operations at the location.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked was the violation against the applicant or the previous owner.

Mr. Rosenbaum said the complaint was in January which falls in the timeframe after the current owner brought the location.

### **Motion # 12 - Aroma Café 1 Inc. dba Mr. Pancho's Café – 86-09 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer)**

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to **disapprove** the application was passed unanimously.

### **2007 Melanie Deli & Grocery Corp. – 95-02 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Eating Place Beer)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an Eating Place Beer license for this applicant.

### **Motion # 13 - 2007 Melanie Deli & Grocery Corp. – 95-02 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Eating Place Beer)**

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to **approve** the application was passed with 28 in Favor, 6 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

### **Blue City Lounge Corp. – 107-11 Northern Blvd., Corona (New – Full Liquor)**

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 provided that a stipulation has been signed. The Stipulation was signed.

### **Motion # 14 - Blue City Lounge Corp. – 107-11 Northern Blvd., Corona (New – Full Liquor)**

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to **approve** the application was passed with 28 in Favor, 6 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Renetta English read her report:

*In February, we have so much to celebrate, the many contributions of African Americans to our community, the Chinese and Tibetan New Year, Dominican Heritage Month, Mardi Gras and Presidents Day. Because of COVID-19 these festive celebrations had to be celebrated in smaller groups or even remotely this year. We must also acknowledge our members who have decided to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and this month they are receiving their second dose. Please remember that once you do receive the vaccine you still have to continue to protect yourself by wearing your masks, washing your hands and continue practicing social distancing from those that do not live in your households.*

*Thank you to Vivian Dock, Ulrick Gedeon, Edwin Westley and the members of Jackson Heights Beautification Group for their assistance in distributing masks and shields to those in the community at the Lions Food Pantry in Jackson Heights. This is important what these members did, you made time in your schedule to participate in community related projects sponsored by the Community Board.*

*Congratulations to our newly elected 2021-2022 Executive Board and new Member at Large, Megan Rockwell.*

*New Co-Chairs:*

- *K. Toi Washington-Simon, Co-Chair, Health and Social Services Committee*
- *Muquith Choudhury, Co-Chair, Environment / Sanitation Committee*
- *Ulrick Gedeon, Chair, Co-Chair, Public Safety Committee*

*Finally, it's important that you attend the upcoming Community Board committee meetings, the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Open Street Forums and review the bill proposed by the City Council. This bill will impact issues related to Land Use -2186-2020 - Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for New York City.*

### **District Manager's Report**

District Manager Giovanna Reid reported that when snow falls, particularly when a significant amount falls, refuse collection or garbage is secondary to snow removal. Next step will be to remove the garbage and then recycling. Ms. Reid said if there are locations within the District where a collection has not occurred, call the Community Board 3 office at 718-458-2707. She noted that, "The Sanitation Department has done a yeoman's job in removing the snow."

Ms. Reid reported because of the recent snow storm there were a few power outages in the District. Many of the location's service was restored. "As of eight o'clock this evening, there are four locations where there is still an outage but anticipated restoration will be by 11:00 PM. If anyone is aware of any location where there is electrical outages, call or send an email to the office. Con Edison can also be contacted directly at 1-800-752-6633."

Ms. Reid reported that the application for One Marina Road, which was reviewed back in October of 2020, has been withdrawn. The application was to construct a concession near the arena. They were also going to re-organize and relocate piers 1 and 3. They are going to do work that does not require a special variance.

There is a guide for *COVID Relief for Small Businesses* which indicates what funds are available to small businesses.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Ms. Reid congratulated all the Executive Officers, Members at Large, Executive Director Regina Bain and Helen Arteaga-Landaverde.

### **Motion # 15 - Adoption of the January 21, 2021 Monthly Minutes**

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Frank Taylor, to adopt the January 21, 2021 Minutes, was passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Land Use Committee**

Hamlett Wallace, Chair of Land Use Committee, reported that the Land Use Committee has received a proposal from the Speaker of the City Council, Corey Johnson. CM Johnson has a master plan entitled *Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for New York City*. Mr. Wallace said it is causing an uproar at other Community Boards.

Mr. Wallace read from the proposal Int. 2186-2020:

*This bill would create a ten-year comprehensive planning cycle connecting Budget, Land Use, and Strategic Planning processes. The cycle would include a review of City conditions, including racial and socio-economic disparities, access to opportunity, displacement risk, short- and long-term risks, impacts of prior development and budget decisions, and current and projected infrastructure needs. A Citywide Goals Statement would set targets for housing, jobs, open space, resiliency infrastructure, City facilities, schools, transportation, public utilities, and other infrastructure.*

*The plan would include:*

- *Strategic policies for achieving Citywide goals*
- *An analysis of the Zoning Resolution and recommended changes;*
- *District Level Targets to distribute growth, infrastructure, amenities, and services equitably*
- *Community District land use scenarios*
- *Community District budget needs. Council adoption of the plan and extensive outreach would be required.*

Mr. Wallace said that the Bill requires everyone's attention. It will increase real estate development in every Community Board and lead them into a single family zoning. It also wants to create a long term plan for Land Use decisions in New York City without or minimal community input.

Mr. Wallace encouraged all in attendance to attend the virtual Public Hearing on February 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Traffic and Transportation**

Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair of Traffic and Transportation, reported that the Traffic & Transportation Committee met with the Department of Transportation on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via video-conference.

DOT will be holding six online forums to discuss the future of the 34th Avenue Open Street starting February 24, 2021 to discuss the future of 34<sup>th</sup> Street Open Streets and gather community input. Some of the forums will be in other languages (dates/times TBD), specifically Spanish, Tibetan, Nepali, Hindi and Bengali.

DOT provided an update on a proposal for the installation of bicycle sleds (also known as bicycle corrals or racks) on 34th Avenue. Bicycle sleds will be installed at the following locations in the near future:

- 34th Avenue at 82nd Street; in front of St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- 34th Avenue at 78th Street; adjacent to the Travers Park plaza
- 34th Avenue at 69th Street; in front of PS398

Mr. Kiernan said that DOT reported that the agency will not move forward with a proposal for the installation of a protected bike lane along Ditmars. DOT will continue to work with members of the community and the block association to resolve any other concerns.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Mr. Kiernan said that DOT is beginning to look at transit improvements on Northern Blvd. They are talking about removing bus stops to increase bus speeds. They will continue to brief the committee as the proposal moves forward.

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty asked if DOT will have public meetings on the plan for Northern Blvd.

Mr. Kiernan said that DOT and MTA will get back to the committee. He said they are specifically looking at Northern Blvd between Main Street and BQE. That is the Q66 bus route.

### **Queens Borough President's Office**

Max Weprin, representative for Queens Borough President's Office, announced that the deadline for Community Board applications is Friday, February 19, 2021.

Mr. Weprin announced that there is Small Business Grants Program for Queens's small businesses in need of \$20,000 to support operational expenses. For more information contact [www.queensbp.org/smallbusinessgrant](http://www.queensbp.org/smallbusinessgrant).

On Wednesday, February 10, 2021 Citi Field opened up as a mass COVID vaccination site. Mr. Weprin reported that the borough president is continuing to advocate very strongly for more dosages of the vaccine and more sites in Queens.

For more information, contact [Mweprin@queensbp.org](mailto:Mweprin@queensbp.org)

### **Legislators' Report**

#### **Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Michele Hernandez, representative for Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, reported that Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez worked with the state to bring a popup vaccine site to the first Baptist Church in East Elmhurst. They were able to secure 500 appointments for local community members. She also identified other locations that the state should consider for vaccination sites.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez has signed a letter to appeal Trump era guidelines around emergency rental assistance.

FEMA funeral assistance will soon be available for reimbursement of up to \$7,000 for people who lost loved ones due to COVID-19.

The office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez will be hosting a Wounded Warrior Fellow. The fellowship program will fund a veteran for a 2-year period. The position pays \$52,000 a year with benefits and will be based out of the district offices in Queens and the Bronx. The "Wounded Warrior Fellow" will join the team as a caseworker and field representative. To apply and review eligibility requirements, visit [www.USAJOBS](http://www.USAJOBS). The office can be contacted at 718-662-5970.

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

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

#### **Council Member Francisco Moya's Office**

TaQuoia Jones, representative for Council Member Francisco Moya's Office, announced that there are three mobile testing vans from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Dorie Miller, Centro Andino Comunitario and Our Lady of Sorrows.

The Council Member has partnered with the organization Urban Upbound for tax preparedness. Prepare your taxes online by visiting <http://www.uutax.org/>. For more information or to speak with a representative about scheduling an appointment, call URBAN UPBOUND at (718) 784-0877.

## February 18, 2021 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Any questions or concerns contact: [Tajones@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Tajones@council.nyc.gov) or call (718) 651-1917. For more updates on events in the District follow on all social media channels: @FranciscoMoyaNy

### **Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office**

Qibin Ye, representative for Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office, announced that CM Dromm is allocating additional funding towards a cleanup along 69<sup>th</sup> Street from 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Northern Blvd on top of existing pickup services. It will start when details are finalized with the Sanitation department.

Ms. Ye announced that on Monday, February 22, 2021, construction will begin on Northern Playground.

### **New York State Senator Jessica Ramos Office**

Mary Jobaida, from Senator Ramos's Office, announced that Senator Ramos is co-sponsoring some virtual community workshops on 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Open Streets with NYC DOT. To know more about upcoming events, please call 718-205-3881 or send an email to [maryjobaidasenate13@gmail.com](mailto:maryjobaidasenate13@gmail.com)

### **Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry Office**

Lili Pioche, representative for Assembly Jeffrion Aubry's Office, announced that effective February 24, 2021, York College will be a vaccination site. The plan is to vaccinate 3,000 people.

Any questions call the office at 718-457-3615

### **Motion # 16 - To Adjourn**

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, and seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by  
Clara Colon*

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