

The City of New York
Queens Community Board 3
82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606, Jackson Hts, New York 11372

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2005
Armstrong School

at: I.S. 227, The Louis

32-02 Junction Boulevard
East Elmhurst, NY 11369

PRESENT

Khaleeq Arshed, M.D.
Patrick Beckles
Earline Berry
Mizanoor Biswas
Cristina Borrero
Emma Brandt
Shiv Dass
Vivian Dock
Vasantraï Gandhi
Darryl Hoss
Joyce Hucless-Julian
Capers Johnson
Edward P. Kiernan
Lorraine Kresse
Stephen Kulhanek
Grace Lawrence
Marta Lebreton
Armstrong House
Thomas Lowenhaupt
Harbor Tunnel
Martin Maier
Lisa Mesulam
John Moran
Ralph Moreno
Mayo Peralta
Thomas Raffaele, Esq.
Joseph Ricevuto
Leoncio Romero
David Rosero
Arturo-Ignacio Sanchez
Felicita Santiago
Jimmy Smith
Arthur Teiler

ABSENT

Jose Bernal
Richard Cecere
Howard Dent
Margaret Dozier
Blanca Fonseca
Ann Hicks Gill, Esq.
Luis A. Gomez
Judy Grubin
Norma Jimenez
Ana Lopez
William H. Salgado, Esq.
Patricia Thomas
Jorge Zamora

GUESTS

Deslyn Downes, Louis

Marnie McGregor, Cross

Guy Harding, Architect
Yvonne Garcia, B.P.O.

Approximately 30 Residents

Augusto Tiongson
Orlando Tobon
Edwin Westley
Hamlett Wallace
Beninnida Yagual
William Young

Giovanna Reid, D.M.
Irene Voss, Recorder

PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

7:30 P.M.

**I.S. 227, The Louis Armstrong School
32-02 Junction Boulevard, E. Elmhurst, N.Y.**

Richard Cecere, Chairman was unable to attend tonight's meeting. First Vice Chairman, Augusto Tiongson presided and opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The First Vice-Chair introduced Deslyn Downes, Officer and Director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum in East Elmhurst.

Ms. Downes advised that several hundred students from the Louis Armstrong Middle School recently attended a free jazz concert for kids. More activities are planned in the coming months.

The Cross-Hudson Tunnel – An Alternative View

The First Vice-Chair introduced Marnie McGregor, a member of "Move New York-New Jersey" -- Cross-Harbor Tunnel Coalition.

Ms. McGregor advised that the coalition has over 130 members comprised of elected officials, community groups, transportation groups, urban planners and civic associations throughout the city. The coalition was solely formed to express support for the Cross-Harbor Tunnel infrastructure project to greatly reduce the amount of congestion coming into the City. The group has been working closely with Congressman Nadler who represents the upper west side of Manhattan. The proposed project would connect the rail freight lines of New York City to the rest of America. It would connect Bayonne, New Jersey to the 65th Street yard in Brooklyn, under the Hudson River (5.5 miles), to the existing Bay Ridge line, up through Brooklyn and to the Montauk Branch that runs through Queens. Ms. McGregor noted that one controversial factor of the proposal is the erection of a facility in west Maspeth, Queens (C.B. #5). It would take goods from the rail line onto trucks that would transfer them back into Manhattan, to parts of Queens and Brooklyn where rail deliveries can be made directly. 95% of critical goods come in by truck over the George Washington Bridge into our region, causing major traffic congestion. The Tunnel will take as many as 1 million trucks a year off of New York City streets, she said. Lastly, Ms. McGregor stated that the Tunnel will encourage economic

growth by creating as many as 23,000 new long-term jobs in the five boroughs, as well as an additional 1,000 construction jobs.

PUBLIC HEARING

BSA #131-05-BZ – 72-01 / 72-11 Roosevelt Avenue / 37-61 / 37-69 72nd Street / 72-18 Broadway

Augusto Tiongson, Land Use Committee Chair, advised that the application will be reviewed at the September meeting.

BSA Cal. No. 164-99-BZ – 79-03 Roosevelt Avenue

An application to allow the continuation of an entertainment / dancing establishment for three (3) additional years.

Guy Harding, architect, advised that the applicant is seeking to extend the term of variance for another three years to allow the continuation of an eating/entertainment/dancing establishment. There will be no changes made. There have been no complaints filed from either the community or from the planning board; there are no outstanding violations.

The following queries and comments by Board Members ensued:

- **Q.** -- Darryl Hoss -- Have there been occurrences of crowds in front of the establishment?
- **A.** -- Yes, there have been instances of crowding during soccer games.
- Lisa Mesulam -- She has observed large crowds i/f/o the establishment in the past.
- David Rosero -- A waiting area is needed to accommodate the people.
- Grace Lawrence -- During soccer game matches the establishment needs to implement crowd control.

D.C.A. / 1158427 / N.W. Corner at 73rd Street and Broadway

An application to the Department of Consumer Affairs for the establishment of a newsstand.

Stephen Kulhanek, Traffic/Transportation Chair, advised that the location of the proposed newsstand would be stationed in front of the Astoria Federal Bank on 73rd Street and Broadway. Mr. Kulhanek read a letter from the Astoria Federal Savings Bank addressed to the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs and why they are in opposition to the proposed newsstand. It is the Committee's recommendation that the newsstand application be denied.

Mike, a Jackson Heights resident, -- A newsstand would clutter up the street even more.

Speaking on behalf of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group, Darryl Hoss stated that J.H.B.G. is opposed to the newsstand for the following reasons: For security reasons the newsstand would be an impediment for police to have a full view of the bank's lobby; it would attract graffiti and increase litter; it would be in competition with establishments in the immediate vicinity that carry the same items.

The following comments, concerns and queries were posed by Board members:

- Emma Brandt --Traffic on 73rd and Broadway is already horrendous – drivers would stop to buy an item at the newsstand and tie up traffic even more.
- Vasantraï Gandhi -- The majority of people who buy from newsstands are pedestrians who reside in the area – they don't usually drive to purchase a newspaper or other item.
- Mizanoor Biswas -- There are already two food vendors in front of the Astoria Federal Bank and another two on the other side of 73rd Street -- we don't need another newsstand at this location.
- John Moran -- Because the area is already very congested, a newsstand would not be feasible – they also attract graffiti and create more litter. Further, there are two food carts on Broadway and 73rd Street that are in close proximity to each other. There is always a question about the sanitary conditions of food vendors.
- William Young -- There is a newsstand at 74th Street and 37th Avenue – another one is not needed.
- **Q.** Martin Maier -- *What role does the Community Board play in the process?*
 - A.** Giovanna Reid advised that the Community Board is given the opportunity to comment on an application. The Department of Transportation will look at the proposed site to determine whether it is a sidewalk obstruction. It then goes to the Art Commission for review. Ultimately, the application is submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs who issues the permit.
- Tom Raffael -- Buses turn left on 37th Road to drop off passengers at the subway. In addition, taxis and other private vehicles drop off and pick-up people during the rush hours further increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Darryl Hoss -- The community doesn't need another newsstand -- Newsstands take away the business of the local stores that pay high rents. The neighborhood stores also sell newspapers and other items that a newsstand sells.

Health/Social Services Committee -- Syringe Exchange Program (S.E.P.)

N.Y.C. Department of Health, along with A.C.Q.C., will submit a proposal for the implementation of the Syringe Exchange Program at Mt. Horeb Church, located at 109-20 34th Avenue, Corona, N.Y.

Vivian Dock, Committee Chair, reported that the N.Y.C. Department of Health and the AIDS Center of Queens County (A.C.Q.C.) are in collaboration for the implementation of

an S.E.P. at Mt. Horeb Church. Ms. Dock introduced Phil Glotzer, Executive Director of the A.C.Q.C.

Mr. Glotzer advised that A.C.Q.C. has been working with C.B. #3's Health/Social Services Committee. The Board has approved the operation of a S.E.P. subject to finding an appropriate site. We met with Reverend Pickett, the Board of Directors and the deacons of Mt. Horeb Church. They unanimously approved the Syringe Exchange Program. Mr. Glotzer added that the Program's foremost goal is to reach out into the community and save lives.

The following queries and comments ensued:

Q. Edwin Westley -- *Why wasn't it feasible for the Program to operate from the Department of Health site on Junction Boulevard?*

A. The hours of operation were not appropriate and D.O.H. is also located in a commercial area. It was discussed with the Commissioner of Health – he decided that the church would be a more appropriate site.

Q. *Will the Program open in other areas of C.B. #3?*

A. We plan to open a site in Corona. If the need develops in other areas, A.C.Q.C. will come back to the Community Board to discuss other areas of concern. It will be an ongoing process.

Vivian Dock introduced Reverend Pickett of the Mt. Horeb Baptist Church.

Reverend Pickett advised that the ministry (Corona, East Elmhurst Clergy Association) has been working alongside A.C.Q.C. for over one year on the proposal for a S.E.P. in the Corona community. He stated that he does not enter into anything lightly. Rev. Pickett stated that he visited a S.E.P. site at Bethesda Baptist Church in Jamaica. Rev. Pickett emphasized that the Program does not give out drugs--they give out clean needles to prevent the dreaded HIV/AIDS. At the same time, the Program educates the addicts by saving lives and getting them to a healthier place. Drugs are a problem in the Corona community. Mt. Horeb Church believes that preventative medicine goes a long way -- we must do everything it can to service the community by preventing disease, he said.

Q. Emma Brandt -- Who will be counseling the addicts?

A. A.C.Q.C. does the counseling. The church is only the host site.

Grace Lawrence -- Many churches and organizations don't take an interest in community problems. She commended and thanked Reverend Pickett and his Church for joining with the community for making this a worthwhile project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Augusto Tiongson, Vice-Chair, opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The First Vice-Chair advised that the following be **added** and amended to read:

- Under the heading, Public Participation – “The Louis Armstrong House Museum”;
- Under the heading, Committee Reports: “Technology Advisory Committee”

Motion #20 – 2005

Upon motion duly made by Augusto Tiongson, seconded by Thomas Raffale and unanimously carried, the amended June 16, 2005 Agenda was adopted.

MOTIONS BY COMMITTEE

Motion #21 – 2005 BSA Cal. No. 164-99-BZ -- 79-03 Roosevelt Avenue – An application to allow the continuation of an entertainment / dancing establishment for (3) additional years.

Augusto Tiongson, Land Use Committee Chair, advised that it was confirmed that there was no record of complaints or violations. The Committee recommended approval of the application with the following condition:

- o To prevent obstruction of the public sidewalk, the establishment is requested to monitor its patrons by not allowing them to wait and congregate in front of the establishment.

Motion #22 – 2005 BSA Cal. No. 164-99-BZ -- 79-03 Roosevelt Avenue

Upon motion duly made by Tom Raffaele, seconded by Steve Kulhanek, with a vote of 36 in favor and 2 opposed, Community Board #3 recommended approval of the application with the following proviso:

The establishment have its staff monitor patrons and prohibit them from congregating in front of the nightclub.

Traffic/Transportation – D.C.A. / 1158427 / Newsstand at N.W. Corner at 73rd Street and Broadway

Stephen Kulhanek, Chair, reported that the Committee met and it was their consensus that the application be denied for the reasons that were presented in the Public Hearing session. He added that newsstands are franchised out and the City gets a portion of the money.

The following queries and comments by Board Members ensued:

- Applications for this newsstand has come before this Board at least three times in the past;
- *Please keep the Board apprised of the progress of the application.*

Motion # 23 – 2005

Upon motion duly made by Stephen Kulhanek, seconded by Darryl Hoss, to disapprove the application. With a vote of 34 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention the motion was carried.

Health / Social Services – Syringe Exchange Program (S.E.P.)

Vivian Dock, Chair, reported that the Committee recommends that the C.B. #3 approves the proposal from the N.Y.C. Department of Health, along with A.C.Q.C., for the Syringe Exchange Program at Mt. Horeb Baptist Church, located at 109-20 34th Avenue, Corona.

The following comments and queries ensued:

- It was stated that the Program was not suited for a commercial district environment -- it seems that it really doesn't belong in a residential environment. Out of respect for Rev. Pickett, a "yes" vote will be cast.
- The church is the best site for such a program.
- Mt. Horeb Church, the A.C.Q.C. and everyone else that is involved is to be commended.
- **Q.** -- How will people who are in need of the Program be made aware of it?
- **A.** -- A network of churches and other associations will come together to spread the word into the community. There will be lots of communication and lots of outreach.
- People from the church can offer an important message to the addicts. Other agencies/organizations need to work together with the church.
- The site should be set up in the community where the problem exists.

Motion # 24 – 2005

Upon motion duly made by Augusto Tiongson, seconded by Darryl Hoss for the approval of the Syringe Exchange Program site at Mt. Horeb Baptist Church, located at 109-20 34th Avenue, Corona, N.Y was unanimously approved.

Augusto Tiongson commended the Health / S.S. Committee for their dedication in making the Health Fair, held on June 11, 2005, a great success.

District Manager's Report

Giovanna Reid welcomed new Board Members Earline Berry, Dr. Khaleeq Arshed, William Young and Felicita Santiago.

Giovanna Reid updated the Board as follows:

- Enclosed in the District Manager's Report are the ratings from the Dept. of Sanitation as it relates to the cleanliness of the streets and sidewalks.
- Sanitation complaints are among the top ten complaints that the District Office receives. Agency staffing issues are raised every year when the capital/expense budget is reviewed. The Community Board always requests that staffing levels and equipment for Sanitation be reviewed because there has been very little change while our population has significantly increased.

Housing complaints are second on the list. An average of 20 notices a month are received pertaining to demolitions which lead to new construction.

The District Office is inundated with D.E.P. complaints, i.e. catch basins and open hydrants. D.O.T -- Pot holes / sink holes are also major complaints.

Forestry – Tree planting and pruning requests, especially during the spring, summer and fall seasons.

- Consumer Affairs – Violations to street vendors and various businesses. From 2004 – 2005, 208 violations were issued.
- Liquor License Notices – 20-25 are received each month for new or renewed licenses. The list for new or renewed licenses are included in the District Manager's Report every month.
- Street and Sidewalk Closings, i.e. street fairs/festivals, flea markets, street art show. Approximately 40 applications have been processed for 2005.
- Parks Department – Considering that Parks has very small staff, Community Board #3 has received a 96% rating.
- Newsstands -- The Community Board has 60 days to comment on the application. The agencies that are involved in the application process are D.O.T., the Art Commission and the Dept. of Consumer Affairs. The Community Board and our elected officials follow these applications to the end. In response to a query, Giovanna advised that the Department of Consumer Affairs cannot refuse anyone's application, no matter how many times they apply.

- The M.T.A. has reported that the 74th Street/Roosevelt Avenue escalator is now open. The bus terminal will be opening very shortly.

Adoption of April 2005 Minutes

Augusto Tiongson advised that on page 4, under 97-15 Northern Boulevard, the Minutes should be amended to include the words "*Land Use Committee*", in front of the word "Chair".

Motion #25 – 2005

Upon motion duly made by Tom Raffaele, seconded by Edwin Westley and unanimously carried, the amended April 21, 2005 were adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Personnel

Leoncio Romero, Chair, reported that the Committee met last week to discuss the budget for the fiscal year 2006, which runs from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 and is included in each member's package. While City Council has not approved the Mayor's budget, there are no changes for our operational budget.

Economic Development

Mr. Vasantrai Gandhi, Chair reported that the Committee met on June 9th to discuss the scope of the effects of population migration in C.B. #3. The scope of migration not only

comes from Manhattan, but from all over the country and the world. The project is being conducted by LaGuardia Community College. The Chairs from all communities were invited to this meeting -- only a few showed up. Mr. Gandhi requested that all Chairs attend the next Committee meeting. Migration is affecting our community in all respects, he said.

By-Laws

Tom Lowenhaupt, Chair, advised that the Committee met a couple of times. A variety of items in the By-Laws were reviewed on how they can be upgraded. The C.B. #3 By-Laws haven't been upgraded in 10 years; the Committee has been advised by different officers that certain procedures are not appropriate. One item that the Committee is looking at is, term limits. He welcomed the Board's opinion on this issue. Another meeting is scheduled for June 27th in the District Office. A preliminary report will be mailed to Board Members at the end of the summer. Changes to the By-Laws is a process and requires a 60-day notice to Board Members. It will be presented to the members as clearly as possible; ultimately they will vote on the changes. For people who don't quite understand the changes that are being proposed, a public hearing is a good way to discuss the issues.

Health/Social Services

Vivian Dock, Committee Chair, reported that the Leon Von Holden annual Health Expo, held on June 11th on Junction Boulevard, was a great success. She thanked everyone who played a part in making it happen, especially District Manager, Giovanna Reid and her staff. Giovanna was responsible for getting all 25 Health Care Providers to physically participate in the Expo. Information tables were set up -- there were giveaways, blood pressure and glucose screenings and much more. The Board of Health Center helped enormously by providing security and allowing us to use the building's restrooms. Vivian Dock thanked Co-Chair, Ana Lopez for bringing 3 volunteers from Father Billini Association who stayed the entire day. Ana also donated refreshments. Many thanks to David Rosero who was responsible for transporting the tables and chairs back and forth; to Marta Lebreton who was responsible for serving food and water to the Health Care Providers; to Ralph Moreno who distributed flyers; to Grace Lawrence who was in charge of registration and flyers. Also many thanks to Darryl Hoss, Luis Gomez and Norma Jimenez. Board members not on the Committee were: Tom Lowenhaupt, Hamlett Wallace, Augusto Tiongson, Jose Bernal, Blanca Fonseca, Felicita Santiago and Murlaina Tindall, (Assemblyman Jeff Aubry's office).

The Committee agreed that a letter be sent to Elmhurst Hospital for their lack of participation.

On May 23rd the Committee attended the State sponsored Bulova site toxic emission update at Dante's. The findings showed that there was no threat of contamination based on the studies, tests and findings. However, Vivian Dock advised that she is in possession of a response from a community resident about the Bulova contamination findings. The resident, after reading the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Report, believes that certain information was withheld. Vivian Dock advised that she will take the response to Committee and report on it at the September meeting.

Technology Advisory

Tom Lowenhaupt, Chair, distributed copies of the Technology Advisory Committee Report. The Committee recently met and the following items were discussed:

- *Roberts Rules* and on how it can be administered on-line.
- A way to record Committee meetings so that people can access them on the internet. If it is within the budget's means, the Committee is looking to use audio equipment for the purpose of internet access.
- The struggle between the telephone and cable companies – the phone companies are seeking to operate as a city franchise, like the cable companies are doing. They are talking to Albany and Washington in an attempt to avoid the franchising process. In the near future we would like the telephone companies to come before the Community Board.
- The fraudulent and devious practice of “*phishing*” on the internet (E-mail) -- a public meeting would be beneficial to make people aware of this serious problem.

NYC 2012 Olympic Impact Committee

Dr. Arturo Sanchez, Chair, reported that New York is competing with London, Madrid, Moscow and Paris leading to the International Olympic Committee's ultimate decision on July 6, 2005 from Singapore.

Borough President's Report

Yvonne Garcia presented certificates for 15 years of outstanding recognition and service to the Community Board and the Borough of Queens to the following members: Mr. Jimmy Smith; Mr. Ralph Moreno; Mr. Vasantrai Gandhi and Mr. Capers Johnson.

Tom Raffaele stated that he received a certificate for 20 years of service a few days ago.

New Business

The “Expo Home Design” store has recently closed its doors at the Bulova Corporate Center -- a “Home Depot Express” will move into the building/site. The community is concerned about increased traffic in the area due to deliveries, pick-ups, etc.

Augusto Tiongson, First Vice-Chair, thanked all for their participation, wished everyone a good summer and closed the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Voss