

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

**BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, May 19, 2005**  
**Armstrong School**

**at: I.S. 227, The Louis**

**32-02 Junction Boulevard**  
**East Elmhurst, NY 11369**

**PRESENT**

Khaleeq Arshed, M.D.  
Patrick Beckles  
Mizanoor Biswas  
Emma Brandt  
Richard Cecere  
Howard Dent  
Luis Gomez  
Darryl Hoss  
Norma Jimenez  
Capers Johnson  
Edward Kiernan  
Lorraine Kresse  
Stephen Kulhanek  
Grace Lawrence  
Marta Lebreton  
Ana Lopez  
Thomas Lowenhaupt  
Lisa Mesulam  
Ralph Moreno  
Mayo Peralta  
the Park  
Joseph Ricevuto  
William Salgado, Esq.  
Arturo Sanchez  
President's Office  
Felicita Santiago  
Sears  
Jimmy Smith  
Ackerman  
Arthur Teiler  
Peralta  
Augusto Tiongson  
Sabini

**ABSENT**

Jose Bernal  
Cristina Borrero  
Shiv Dass  
Vivian Dock  
Margaret Dozier  
Blanca Fonseca  
Vasantraï Gandhi  
Ann Hicks Gill, Esq.  
Judy Grubin  
Joyce Hucless-Julian  
Martin Maier  
Beryl Major  
John Moran  
Thomas Raffaele

**GUESTS**

Christine Polydorou, H.A.N.A.C.  
Alex Fioratos, H.A.N.A.C.  
Andrew Ronin, Queens Theatre in  
  
Raymond DeNatale, I.R.I.  
Hanna Nelson, I.R.I.  
Yvonne Garcia, Borough  
  
Alfonso Quiroz, Rep., Hon. Helen  
  
Fior Rodriguez, Rep., Hon. Gary  
  
Yonel Letelliere, Rep. Hon. Jose  
  
Shams Tarak, Rep., Hon. John

Orlando Tobon  
Monserrate  
Edwin Westley  
Hamlett Wallace  
William Young  
*Giovanna Reid*  
*Irene Voss*

Maurice Phillips, Rep., Hon. Hiram

*Approximately 40 Residents*

Richard Cecere, Chairman opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. He reminded members of the community that another Public Meeting on soil contamination at the Bulova site will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dante's Catering.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Damaras Lasser from the American Heart / Stroke Association.

#### **American Heart / Stroke Association.**

Ms. Lasser advised that May is stroke month. She noted some of the warning signs of stroke -- sudden numbness/weakness of the face, arm or leg; confusion; trouble speaking; loss of vision; trouble walking; dizziness; loss of balance or coordination and sudden severe headache with no known cause. Call 911 immediately if you experience any of these warning signs. Learn to recognize a stroke, because time lost is brain lost, she said.

Richard Cecere thanked Ms. Lasser for the informative information. He introduced Christine Polydorou from H.A.N.A.C.'s Lead Prevention Department.

#### **H.A.N.A.C. – Lead Prevention**

Christine Polydorou advised that H.A.N.A.C. is a not-for-profit organization. She further advised that the Health Department has determined that a part of Western Queens is considered to be one of two most at-risk neighborhoods in N.Y.C. for lead poisoning in children. HANAC, in collaboration with H.P.D., are offering free certification courses on the hazards of lead poisoning, methods of reduction and prevention. Landlords, homeowners, as well as tenants, contractors and maintenance personnel will benefit greatly from the courses, she said. Flyers were distributed on how to qualify for the lead abatement.

#### **H.A.N.A.C. – Weatherization Program**

Ms. Polydorou introduced Alex Fioratos of H.A.N.A.C.'s Weatherization Program. Ms. Polydorou stated that the program is funded by NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal. Weatherization is a means by which cold air can be prevented from entering and heat from leaving a dwelling unit, thus improving heating efficiency and fuel savings. Some of the weatherization services provided are -- boiler replacement/repair; refrigerator replacement and roof repair/replacement to ensure optimum energy efficiency. Any size building is eligible to apply, although there are certain eligibility guidelines that need to be met. Ms. Polydorou distributed flyers for further information on how to apply.

## **Queens Theatre in the Park**

Andrew Ronan, Director of Audience Development, advised that the Asian American Heritage Month Festival will begin on May 25<sup>th</sup> through May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Theatre. Every Asian country will be represented in some way, shape or form. The event promises to be exciting and best of all, it's free, he said.

The Chairman introduced Edwin Westley. Mr. Westley advised that tickets are available for a classical pianist's performance on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 p.m., at St. Joan of Arc. He further advised that free summer Sunday concerts at Travers Park will begin in June through July and August. Mr. Westley welcomed everyone to enjoy the wonderful eclectic entertainment.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Independence Residences, Inc. (IRI) -- 33-21 69<sup>th</sup> Street, Woodside, N.Y.**

A proposal to establish an additional residence (O.M.R.D.D.) located next door to Independence Residences, Inc. at 33-23 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The proposed site is a first-floor apartment of a privately-owned two-family home, where 24-hour support for two adults and an infant will be provided.

Richard Cecere, Chair, introduced Darryl Hoss, Health & Social Services Committee member. Mr. Hoss advised that Committee met with Independence Residences, Inc. He introduced Raymond DeNatale, Executive Director and Hanna C. Nelson, Director of Services for Independence Residences, Inc. (IRI).

Mr. DeNatale stated that IRI seeks to open a two-person IRI adjacent to its residences, located at 33-23 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The proposed IRI residence would be located on the first floor of a two-family residence adjacent to its eight-person residence located at 33-21 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The residence will support the family (a married couple with mild to moderate mental retardation) and their two-month-old baby boy. Prior to the birth of their baby, the couple received counseling and assessments from IRI, under the auspices of O.M.R.D.D. that determined their ability to take care of the child. They will continue to receive counseling and periodical assessments. Mr. DeNatale introduced Hanna Nelson, Director of Residential Services for I.R.I.

Ms. Nelson advised that the client has lived at IRI, 33-23 69<sup>th</sup> Street, since 1996 where she has developed many friendships in the neighborhood. It was determined that it would be good for this family to remain in the neighborhood. No complaints have been received from the community over the years.

One staff member will be on duty 24/7, alternating 8-hour shifts.

The following queries were posed:

*Q. -- Who owns the house?*

A. – The house is privately owned; the owners live upstairs.

*Q. -- Are there any other OMRDD certified residences within the zip code of 23-33 69<sup>th</sup> Street?*

A. – No, not within this zip code.

Q. -- Was the community notified of the proposed establishment of an I.R.A. for two adults and an infant?

A. -- Yes, an extensive public hearing notice was mailed to residents in the area.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Richard Cecere opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Motion #18 – 2005 Adoption of the Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Grace Lawrence, seconded by Emma Brandt and unanimously carried, the May 19, 2005 Agenda was adopted.

## **MOTIONS BY COMMITTEE**

### **Health & Social Services**

#### **Independence Residences, Inc. (IRI) -- 33-21 69<sup>th</sup> Street, Woodside, N.Y.**

Darryl Hoss advised that Committee proposed the following recommendations:

- That the premises is in compliance with city and housing and zoning regulations;
- The premises be used only for the intended I.R.I. resident and family;
- C.B. #3 will be notified of any planned changes in use;
- Two members of C.B. #3 be appointed to serve on I.R.I.'s advisory Board.

### **Motion #19 – 2005**

Upon motion duly made by Darryl Hoss, seconded by Stephen Kulhanek and unanimously carried, C.B. #3 recommended approval with the following stipulations:

- The premises be in compliance with city and housing and zoning regulations;
- The premises be used only for the intended I.R.I. resident and family;
- C.B. #3 will be notified of changes in usage of the facility, staffing and programs
- Re-establish the advisory board;
- Two members of C.B. #3 be appointed to serve on I.R.I.'s advisory board.

### **Adoption of the April, 2005 Monthly Minutes**

Richard Cecere advised that the April 21, 2005 Minutes will be reviewed at the June meeting.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Cecere noted that anyone who has not yet attended any of the performances/events at Queens Theatre in the Park is missing out on some wonderful entertainment.

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

Giovanna Reid added that the Queens Theatre is our Broadway in Queens. She welcomed new Board Member Dr. Khaleeq Arshed.

Ms. Reid advised that she recently met with the Department of Design and Construction. She updated the Board as follows:

- 2 left-turn bays will be installed on Astoria Boulevard / 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, w/b lane and on Astoria Boulevard/ 98<sup>th</sup> Street, w/b lane. The Community will be kept posted. The work will commence within the next couple of weeks;
- At next month's meeting the Board will review a Consumer Affairs application to establish a newsstand at 73<sup>rd</sup> Street and Broadway. The Traffic/Transportation Committee will review the matter.
- The Community Board office has been busier than ever since it has taken over the day-to-day processing of the operational budget documents. In the past, the budget was primarily handled by Borough Hall.
- The C.B. #3 office receives an ever-increasing number of Sanitation complaints. Housing; Department of Buildings and Department of Environmental Protection complaints are also on the rise.

In reply to a question about "311" responses to complaints submitted to them -- Giovanna Reid advised that a bill was recently signed by the Mayor. The bill would require the Department of Information & Technology / "311" to provide Community Boards with the number and types of complaints that have been submitted from the district. Names and addresses will not be provided. In addition, the data will not be current -- Community Boards are still requesting on-line access to current information. We're not getting everything we want right now, but it's a start, she said. Community Boards will continue to advocate for more access.

Tom Lowenhaupt added that he was at City Hall and present when the Mayor signed the "311" bill. At that time, he commented on the RSS Resolution that C.B. #3 passed last month. The RSS Resolution would allow all city agencies to have access to each other's information on the web.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **By-Laws**

Tom Lowenhaupt, Chair, advised that Committee requested pertinent information from the Borough President's office and from the C.B. #3 District Office. Another meeting will be set up shortly to review the documentation and the proposed changes in term limits and filling vacancies for Community Board Officers.

### **Health & Social Services**

Darryl Hoss advised that Committee met with Phil Glotzer of A.C.Q.C. to discuss the two possible sites for the Syringe Exchange Program (S.E.P.) -- Mt. Horeb Church @ 108<sup>th</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Latino Women in Action Offices @ 103<sup>rd</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Committee will again meet on May 25th for further discussions.

Also discussed at the meeting was C.B.#3's annual Leon Von Holden Health Fair to be held on June 11, 2005. Darryl Hoss urged all Board members, or anyone else who would like to help out to contact Ana Lopez.

## **Website Administration**

Jimmy Smith, Chair, advised that Committee is attempting to obtain as many E-mail addresses as possible from Board Members, organizations and constituents in the community. In this way C.B.#3 can E-Mail important information or notices in between our regular monthly mailing. Mr. Smith further noted that C.B.#3 leads the way in technology in comparison to other Community Boards.

## **Borough President's Report**

Yvonne Garcia introduced herself as the Borough President's "Advisor for Hispanic Affairs" and liaison to Community Boards #1, 2, and 3.

## **Legislators' Report**

Councilwoman Helen Sears' Chief of Staff, Alfonso Quiroz, advised that the Councilwoman is presently in budget hearings. He further advised on events that she is sponsoring:

- The 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of India on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall;
- A Town Hall Meeting on will be held on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights. The guest speaker is Commissioner Martha Stark, N.Y.C. Finance Department;
- A Town Hall Meeting was held on Public Safety in LeFrak City -- Commissioner Ray Kelly was a guest speaker. "Crime Prevention Tips" posters are readily available at the councilwoman's office.

Fior Rodriguez, Chief of Staff for Congressman Gary Ackerman, advised that the U.S. Post Master General's office has sent out warning notices to business areas in Queens about break-ins and mail theft from green U.S. postal storage boxes. Postal Inspectors are on the alert. Any mail tampering complaints and/or theft should immediately be reported to your Congressman, she said.

Yonel Letellier, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Jose Peralta, stated that the Assemblyman is very concerned about the safety of our streets – "kids are out there walking around with guns". Although there has been a decrease in crime overall, crime awareness is concentrated in the area of 90<sup>th</sup> Street and Roosevelt Avenue. The 115<sup>th</sup> and the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct's "Operation Impact" task force has been assigned to protect the neighborhood, he said. He added that sting operations are also in force along Roosevelt Avenue to seize I.D. fraud theft.

Mr. Letellier advised that the M.T.A. received a 1.5 million dollar check for the refurbishment of the 90<sup>th</sup> Street, 103<sup>rd</sup> Street and 111<sup>th</sup> Street subway stations. Work commenced for five weeks in October 2004 and suddenly came to a halt. The Department of Health was called in to observe the unsanitary, filthy conditions from pigeon droppings at these neglected stations. The M.T.A. has one excuse after another as to why services are being cut back and work halted, he said. New legislation needs to be introduced in order to gain more control of the MTA. Mr. Letellier stated that the community needs answers. The Assemblyman is requesting the community's full support.

Shams Tarak, representative for State Senator John Sabini's, noted that there is not one single working or installed telephone at the 74<sup>th</sup> Street / Roosevelt Avenue subway station. The Senator wrote to the President of the MTA about this serious safety issue. As yet, no representative from the MTA has responded.

Mr. Tarak advised that caseworkers in the Senator's office are reaching out to people via their satellite office. Tables have been set up in libraries and senior centers for people to ask questions and get answers. He further advised that metro card vans are stationed at various libraries and in front of the Bruson Building on 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Maurice Phillips, representative for Hiram Monserrate, reminded members of the community that a commemoration will be held for Malcolm X on Saturday, May 21, 2005. In his honor a street naming ceremony will take place at 12:00 Noon on 97<sup>th</sup> Street & 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Phillips further advised that City Council has passed another historic legislative item – the *Repeal of the Sunday Parking Meter Tax*. The *Repeal* will help the local economy and create jobs; he urged the community to sign petitions supporting this legislation. .

Richard Cecere, Chairman thanked everyone for their participation this evening and closed the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Voss