

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

Thursday, October 20, 2005
School

at: I.S. 227, The Louis Armstrong

32-02 Junction Boulevard
East Elmhurst, N.Y.

PRESENT

Dr. Khaleeq U. Arshed
Patrick Beckles
Earline Berry
Mizanoor Biswas
Emma Brandt
Shiv Dass
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Vasantraï Gandhi
Darryl Hoss
Norma Jimenez
Capers Johnson
Edward Kiernan
Lorraine Kresse
Stephen Kulhanek
Grace Lawrence
Marta Lebreton
Ana Lopez
Thomas Lowenhaupt
Martin Maier
Lisa Mesulam
Ralph Moreno
Mayo Peralta
Thomas Raffaele
Joseph Ricevuto
David Rosero
Jimmy Smith
Augusto Tiongson
Library System
Edwin Westley
Business Svcs.
William Young
Giovanna Reid

Aubry

ABSENT

Jose Bernal
Cristina Borrero
Richard Cecere
Howard Dent
Bianca Fonseca
Ann Hicks Gill
Luis A. Gomez
Judy Grubin
Joyce Hucless-Julian
John Moran
Leoncio Romero
William H. Salgado
Arturo Ignacio Sanchez
Felicita Santiago
Arthur Teiler
Patricia Thomas
Orlando Tobon
Hamlett Wallace
Beninnida Yagual
Jorge Zamora

Approximately 50 Residents

Guests

Peter Magnani, Director, Queens

Glynis Enriquez, N.Y.C. Small

Hon. Jeffrion Aubry, Assemblyman

Ivonne Garcia, Q.B.P.O.

Murlaina Tindall, Rep., Hon. Jeffrion

Leader

Augusto Tiongson, First Vice-Chair, opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Public Participation

Gene Stuart reported that the exits on the B.Q.E. are closed. He encouraged everyone to call "311" to report missing signage. They should accept comments from the public and be more fair.

Bob Benefatto advised that Helen Sears sends her greetings to the Board. He further reported:

- Alfonso Quiroz, former staff member, has left and is now working for Con Edison.
- Councilwoman Sears has voted against eliminating metered parking on Sunday.

Ken Moskowitz of the Kehilla advised that the Kehilla serves the aging; provides ESL and social service programs to new immigrants and all community residents for the last 15 years.

Mizanoor Biswas introduced Mr. Munan, President of the Jackson Heights Bangladeshi Business Association, Inc. who presented a check for \$1,000 for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Edwin Westley advised that the 16th Annual Children's Halloween Parade will be held on October 31st, beginning on 89th Street and 37th Avenue, at 5:00 p.m.

Shiv Dass reported that \$5000 was donated to the Pakistani Relief Fund.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Queens Library System -- An update on Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst and North Corona Libraries.

Peter Magnani, Director, Capital Program, Management/Facilities, Planning, updated the Board as follows:

Jackson Heights Library -- While the Jackson Heights branch is comparable in size to many of its peers, the neighborhood demographics and usage levels suggest a comparison with Flushing, a branch approximately four times its size. The library serves 15 schools, 13,000 children and 16,000 seniors.

Overcrowding is a critical issue. The library now oversees programs in literacy, extensive after-school tutoring, language and professional skills, programs oriented to an increasingly multi-lingual immigrant clientele.

The library's construction will cost a total of \$25 million; ten million dollars has already been raised. \$15 million dollars is needed. Work will begin within the next two years and completion is anticipated in the year 2010 or 2011. The existing building will be demolished and the new structure will have six stories with natural lighting. The library will have a quiet room for studying, a cyber center and video capacity in the auditorium.

During the period of construction a temporary library facility may be set up in trailers in the Jackson Heights shopping center or a nearby vacant car dealership showroom.

East Elmhurst Library -- The Borough President is waiting for certification on the vacant lot adjacent to the library. When that occurs, construction will begin.

The Corona Library is fully completed.

N.Y.C. Department of Small Business Services (S.B.S.) -- A presentation on services rendered by S.B.S. to minorities and women business owners / enterprises.

Glynnis Enriquez, Director of External Affairs, advised that the mission of S.B.S. is to improve small businesses, to encourage growth and create a strong work force through neighborhood development.

The agency works with businesses that employ less than 103 workers that is primarily comprised of women and minorities. Some of the main services that SBA provides are:

- Help certify your business as a Minority and/or Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) with the City of New York and become more competitive in the government procurement process;
- Can review your business plan to provide assistance in finding retail space and help negotiate a lease;
- Can provide advice about real estate;
- Can help you find ways to lower the cost of doing business in New York City.

PUBLIC HEARING

C.B. #3 By-Laws (Tom Lowenhaupt)

Tom Lowenhaupt invited the public and membership to comment on the proposed revisions to C.B. #3's By-Laws as it relates to term limits and filling vacancies. The following questions were posed:

Steven Kulhanek – Questioned whether the proposal will affect all officers?
Tom Lowenhaupt advised that all officers will be affected.

Edwin Westley – What did the Committee recommend?
Tom Lowenhaupt – The Committee made no recommendation on term limits.

Ralph Moreno – Advised that he strongly opposes the elimination of Term Limits. Why hold a public hearing on this issue? -- Term Limits is an internal issue and affects Board Members only.

Jimmy Smith – Asked whether the Board was voting on the issue this evening?
Tom Lowenhaupt – He replied, Board will vote on Term Limits at the November meeting.

Ken Moscovitz – Stated that organizations that do not have term limits tend to have the same officers.

David Rosero – Stated that he proposes no change to Term Limits – Term Limits should remain “forever”

Ana Lopez -- Stated that the proposal to change Term Limits is ridiculous. Term Limits allows every Board Member to have the opportunity to become an officer – change is good! “Forget about it!”

Capital & Expense Budget Priorities FY 2007 – A final opportunity for comment and recommendations by the community on the Board’s Budget Priorities. Chairman Jimmy Smith welcomed the public’s input and concerns:

Edna, an East Elmhurst resident, Capital Priority #3, “Expand East Elmhurst Library” -- An after-school program needs to be implemented. She added that the vacant lot adjacent to the library is an “eye sore”.

Consuelo Cabrero – Capital Priority #6, “Create Affordable Housing”, to be moved up to Priority #1.

Over 10,000 families in the Corona area cannot find affordable housing.

Murlaina Tindall – Capital Priority #13, 8, and 7 should be combined.

Pat Beckles -- Ditmars Boulevard is in severe need of repaving and should be a high priority.

Emma Brandt – On the issue of affordable housing, we need to get hold of the builders. Why should people pay exorbitant rents?

Ana Lopez -- Establish new Beacon Programs.

Augusto Tiongson – Remove Capital Priority #18, “Sound Proof #7 Subway Line” and Replace it with “create more bicycle lanes”. Erecting sound barriers in an open structure is not realistically feasible.

Tom Lowenhaupt -- Although the M.T.A. stated that it will not undertake such a project, soundproofing the #7 subway line can be accomplished through research, i.e. making wheels more resilient to grinding, etc.

Edwin Westley – Affordable housing needs to be addressed by C.B. #3. The Rockaway’s has a ten-year property tax abatement that gradually increases after ten years. One definition of affordable housing is 130 -180% of the median price of homes in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On behalf of Board members, Mr. Tiongson offered heartfelt condolences to Hamlett Wallace whose mother passed away on October 19, 2005.

Adoption of the Agenda

The First Vice-Chair noted that under “*Committee Reports*”, *Parks and Technology Advisory* was omitted from the Agenda. He requested that it be amended to include the same.

Motion #28 -- 2005

Upon motion duly made by Augusto Tiongson, seconded by Grace Lawrence and unanimously carried, the amended October 20, 2005 Agenda was adopted.

Motions by Committee

CAPITAL AND EXPENSE

FY 2007 Capital Priorities

Augusto Tiongson, First Vice-Chair, introduced Jimmy Smith, Chair of the Capital and Expense Budget Committee.

Mr. Smith reported that the FY 2007 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities Public Hearing was first held on September 20, 2005 and opened the meeting for discussion:

Tom Raffaele recommended that -- #18 (Capital) be changed to reduce the decibels on the #7 subway line.

Martin Maier -- #5 (Capital) advised that the Corona Library has been completed.

Motion # 29 – 2005 – FY 2007 Capital Budget Priorities

Upon motion duly made by Tom Raffaele, seconded by Tom Lowenhaupt and unanimously carried, C.B. #3 approved the amended 2007 Capital Budget.

Priority

Description

1. Construct New School Facilities in CD#3, especially Early Childhood Centers & H.S.
2. Reduce Odor and Improve Water Flow in Flushing Bay.
3. Expand East Elmhurst Library.
4. Expand the Capacity of the Jackson Heights Library.
5. Create Affordable Housing for Middle & Low-Income Families.
6. Reconstruct Sewers on Astoria Blvd. located between 84th through 96th Streets.
7. Reconstruct 86th St. between 25th and 30th Ave. and 86th St. between 34th and 35th Ave.; 88th St. betw. 25th and 30th Ave.; 30th and 31st Ave., from 69th to 79th St.; 103rd St. from 34th to Roosevelt Ave.; 104th St. from Roosevelt Ave to 39th Ave.; Junction Blvd. betw. 34th Ave. and Roosevelt Ave.; 98th St. betw. 23rd Ave. and 24th Ave.; 93rd Street betw. 37th Ave. and Roosevelt Ave.; 75th St. betw. Northern Blvd. and 34th Ave.; 75th St. betw. 34th Ave. and 35th Ave. ; Reconstruct Ditmars Boulevard from 23rd Avenue through 114th Street and Ditmars Boulevard.
8. Provide Annual Commitment of \$200,000 for Continuing Street Tree Planting in C.D. #3.
9. Construct Library in Northwest Sector of C.D. #3.
10. Construct a Comfort Station in Junction Playground, a/k/a Rocky Ridge Park, located at Junction Blvd. and 34th Avenue.
11. Request a Women's Holding Cell at the 115th Precinct.
12. Reconstruct 37th Avenue from Junction Boulevard to 114th Street.
13. Acquire Parkland.

14. Traffic Study of Grand Central Parkway exit located at 114th Street and Northern Blvd.
15. Traffic Study of the entrance at 114th Street and Astoria Blvd.
16. Reduce noise level of the #7 Subway Line
17. Building Information System (BIS) Expansion, Including Folder Retention System.
18. Restore painting strips and expand bike lanes within C.B. #3 district and provide bike racks at public schools and public places.

FY 2007 Expense Priorities

Motion #30 – 2005 – FY 2007 Expense Budget Priorities

Upon motion duly made by Tom Raffaele, seconded by Capers Johnson and unanimously carried,
C.B. #3 approved the amended 2007 Expense Budget.

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	Improve Community Boards Connectivity and Communication with “311”.
2.	Air Pollution Testing.
3.	Restore and Increase funding for youth and adult Beacon Programs.
4.	Increase Personnel to install and replace all Street and Traffic Signs.
5.	Increase Inspector Personnel for Department of Buildings.
6.	Increase Inspectors for HPD (Housing Preservation and Development).
7.	Increase Parks and Recreation Personnel in C.D. #3.
8.	Additional Uniformed and Civilian Personnel for 115 th Precinct.
9.	Commit annually \$300,000 to address tree stumps, pruning, and planting requests.
10.	Increase graffiti removal programs.
11.	Open Special-Ed programs in C.D. #3.
12.	Increase Daily Litter Basket Collection.
13.	Fund Gifted Programs in C.D. #3.
13.A	Increase Adult Day Care in Jackson Heights.
13.B	Increase Adult Day Care in North Corona.
14.	Improve Community Access to Government Services.
16.	Increase Personnel for Queens Bureau of Highway Operations to install and maintain curbs/potholes and to address complaints.
17.	Neighborhood Business Development Program.
18.	Increase Landlord/Tenant Counseling Services in C.B. #3.
19.	Increase funding for Queens Borough Engineering Office.
20.	Purchase new unmarked Vehicles for the 115 th Precinct.
21.	Buildings Information System (BIS) Expansion, including Folder Retention System.
22.	Hire Traffic Enforcement Agents.
23.	Increase Sanitation Department Personnel.
24.	Purchase Light Tower for the 115 th Precinct.

District Manager’s Report

Giovanna Reid advised that included in each Board Member’s package are flyers concerning

new hours at many post offices. She further stated that in C.B. #3 it is only the East Elmhurst office that has extended hours. Ms. Reid advised that during September and October the District Managers attended Budget Consultations.

She sadly reported on the passing of Hamlett Wallace's mother and flowers were sent on behalf of the Board.

Chairman's Report

Augusto Tiongson reported that at the Executive Committee meeting a resolution was passed stipulating that there be no change in the Board's By-Laws governing Term Limits.

Adoption of the September 20, 2005 Minutes

Tom Lowenhaupt advised that his statement on page 3 be revised to read: *"At the suggestion of Gene Stuart, delineate a 15-foot yellow line around the perimeter of fire hydrants."*

Augusto Tiongson requested that his statement be included and revised to read as follows: On page 6 -- *"During the Clinton administration "Oregon Trail" plaques were placed in some subway stations. He recommended that C.B. #3 write a letter to Senator Hillary Clinton requesting that a "National Trails Historic Plaque" be mounted in the newly refurbished 74th Street /Roosevelt Avenue station".*

Motion #31 - 2005

Upon motion duly made by Grace Lawrence, seconded by Tom Raffaele and unanimously carried, the amended September 20, 2005 Minutes were adopted.

Committee Reports

Parks – Grace Lawrence advised that the Committee did a tour of area parks. All appear to be in good condition. She further reported:

- Landing lights property, located at 25th Avenue between 78th and 79th Streets, is the only property that the Parks Department asked CB#3 to review. The committee will be discussing this matter at future meetings.
- Ed Westley has brought to the Committee's attention a grant for tree planting. We will discuss this matter at our upcoming meeting.

Technology Advisory – Tom Lowenhaupt reported that the Committee will meet on November 22nd.

Legislators' Report

Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry thanked the district office staff for getting the word out about fund-raising for the Hurricane Katrina Relief effort.

The Assemblyman updated the Board as follows:

- Identifying areas in C.B. #3 for housing demolition is not possible. There are very few soft sites left in this district. Northern Boulevard used to be an ideal place, but it no

longer is. We have to look at redeveloping and subsidies to assist in paying the high rents for newly constructed housing.

Assemblyman Jose Peralta reported that the 103rd Street subway station is undergoing a paint job.

The work will be completed in December, 2005. He further reported that work in the 90th Street Station will begin in January, 2006 and that the 111th Street station needs additional financing.

Vita Broom, District Leader, reported that mayoral hopeful, Freddy Ferrer, will be speaking at the First Baptist Church. She invited everyone to attend.

New Business

Pat Beckles reported that a groundbreaking will take place at ELMCOR on October 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Voss

C.B. #3 CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES AND REQUESTS FY 2007

<u>Priority Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Tracking</u>
1.	Construct New School Facilities in C.D.#3, especially Early Childhood Centers & High Schools.	<u>403199102C</u>
2.	Reduce Odor and Improve Water Flow in Flushing Bay.	<u>403198003C</u>
3.	Expand East Elmhurst Library.	<u>403199906C</u>
4.	Expand the Capacity of the Jackson Heights Library.	<u>403199701C</u>
5.	Create Affordable Housing for Middle & Low-Income Families.	<u>403200102C</u>
6.	Reconstruct Sewers on Astoria Blvd. located between 84 th through 96 th Streets.	<u>403200102C</u>

7. Reconstruct 86th St. between 25th and 30th Ave. and 86th St. between 34th and 35th Ave.; 403200003C
 88th St. betw. 25th and 30th Ave.; 30th and 31st Ave., from 69th to 79th St.; 103rd St. from 34th to Roosevelt Ave.; 104th St. from Roosevelt Ave to 39th Ave.; Junction Blvd. betw. 34th Ave. and Roosevelt Ave.; 98th St. betw. 23rd Ave. and 24th Ave.; 93rd Street betw. 37th Ave. and Ave.; 75th St. betw. Northern Blvd. and 34th Ave.; 75th St. betw. 34th Ave. and 35th Ave. ; Reconstruct Ditmars Boulevard from 23rd Avenue through 114th Street and Ditmars Boulevard.

8. Construct Library in Northwest Sector of C.D.

#3. 403198904C

9. Construct a Comfort Station in Junction Playground, a/k/a Rocky Ridge Park, located at Junction Blvd. and 34th Avenue. 403200601C

10. Request a Women's Holding Cell at the 115th

Precinct. 403200004C

11. Reconstruct 37th Avenue from Junction Boulevard to 114th

Street. 403200301C

12. Acquire

Parkland. 403200201C

13. Traffic Study of Grand Central Parkway exit located at 114th Street 403199903C and Northern Blvd.

14. Traffic Study of the entrance at 114th Street and Astoria

Bldv. 403199904C

15. Sound Proof the #7 Subway Line and reduce noise

decibels. 403200502C

C.B. #3 EXPENSE BUDGET PRIORITIES AND REQUESTS FY 2007

<u>Priority ing Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Track</u>
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1. Improve Community Boards Connectivity and Communication with "311". 403200103E
2. Air Pollution Testing. 403199901E
3. Restore and Increase Funding for Youth and Adult Beacon Programs. 403199902E
4. Increase Personnel to install and replace all Street and Traffic Signs. 403199801E
5. Increase Inspector Personnel for Department of Buildings. 403199001E
6. Increase Inspectors for HPD (Housing Preservation and Development). 403200104E
7. Increase Parks and Recreation Personnel in C.D. #3. 403200001E
8. Additional Uniformed and Civilian Personnel for 115th Precinct. 403199101E
9. Commit annually \$500,000 to address tree stumps, pruning, planting requests. 403199904E
10. Increase graffiti removal programs. 403200201E
11. Open Special-Ed programs in C.D. #3. 403199905E
12. Increase Daily Litter Basket Collection. 403199906E
13. Fund Gifted Programs in C.D. #3. 403199907E

- 13.A Increase Adult Day Care in Jackson Heights. 403200202E
- 13.B Increase Adult Day Care in North Corona. 403200203E
14. Improve Community Access to Government Services. 403200003E
16. Increase Personnel for Queens Bureau of Highway Operations to install 403198008E and maintain curbs/potholes and to address complaints.
14. Neighborhood Business Development Program. 403199407E
15. Increase Landlord/Tenant Counseling Services in C.B. #3. 403200002E
16. Increase funding for Queens Borough Engineering Office. 403199401E
17. Purchase new unmarked Vehicles for the 115th Precinct. 403199603E
18. Buildings Information System (BIS) Expansion, including Folder Retention System. 4031999104E
19. Hire Traffic Enforcement Agents. 403200101E
20. Increase Sanitation Department Personnel. 403200503E
21. Purchase Light Tower for the 115th Precinct. 403200504E