



## **BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, October 18, 2007**

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

### **PRESENT**

Patrick Beckles  
Mizanoor Biswas  
Emma Brandt  
Ann S. brown  
Howard Dent  
Vivian Dock  
Margaret Dozier  
Judy Grubin  
Darryl Hoss  
Joyce Hucless-Julian  
Lorraine Kresse  
Stephen Kulhanek  
Grace Lawrence  
Marta Lebreton  
Ana Lopez  
Martin Maier  
Lisa Mesulam  
Ralph Moreno  
Michael Anthony Nardiello, III  
Alfonso Quiroz  
Leoncio Romero  
David Rosero  
Mary Sarro  
Jimmy Smith  
Arthur Teiler  
Hamlett Wallace  
Edwin Westley  
William Young  
Jorge Zamora

*Giovanna Reid, District Manager  
Irene Voss, Recorder*

### **ABSENT**

Khaleeq U. Arshed, M.D.  
Earline Berry  
Cristina Borrero  
Charles Castro  
Shiv Dass  
Vasantraï Gandhi  
Norma Jimenez  
Stanley Kalathara  
Andrew S. Kim  
Ortner Vernon Murray  
Joseph Ricevuto  
Edmund Rosenbaum  
Dr. Arturo-Ignacio Sanchez  
Patricia Thomas  
Orlando Tobon

### **GUESTS**

Hon. Betsy Gotbaum, *N.Y.C. Public Advocate*  
Michael Cogswell, Director and Carolyn  
Carter-Kennedy, *Louis Armstrong House*  
Mr. Santos, *FEMA*  
John Young, *Queens City Planning*.  
Fred Lee, *Queens City Planning*  
Barbara Jackson, District Leader  
Veta Brome, District Leader  
Maureen Allen, Hon. I. Lafayette, Assemblyman  
Murlaina Tindall, Hon. J. Aubry, Assemblyman  
Dorothy Phelan, Hon. J. Peralta, Assemblyman

**PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2007 – 7:30 P.M.  
I.S. 227, The Louis Armstrong School**

Grace Lawrence, First Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Ms. Lawrence served as Acting-Chair for Vasantrai Gandhi, Chairman, who was not able to attend tonight's meeting. She welcomed and introduced N.Y.C. Public Advocate, the Honorable Betsy Gotbaum.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Ms. Gotbaum stated that the main purpose of the Public Advocate's Office is to help people who have issues relating to city government. Any person who needs assistance on matters such as education, health, housing, child welfare, seniors, transportation, women's issues and families, can reach out to her office. Ombudsmen are trained to solve your complaints with a hands-on approach. As an example, Ms. Gotbaum spoke about a man with two children living in a homeless shelter who sought assistance from her office because he was denied food stamps. In the process of helping this man, the Public Advocate's office discovered that many people eligible for food stamps were not getting them. One of the reasons was that in New York City people were required to fill out an outlandish 16-page application. As a result, her office was able to down-size the application to two pages. Further, because food stamp centers serve a majority of the working poor, she was able to keep the centers open after 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, with additional hours on Saturday. Ms. Gotbaum further reported that her office has been asked by the State Legislature to form a commission to compile a study on school government. She will be reaching out to people in the communities on their thinking about mayoral control and what has happened within the Department of Education, i.e. the school bus route change that took place earlier this year.

*In light of the recent tragedy that occurred to a member of Ms. Gotbaum's family, Grace Lawrence, on behalf of Community Board 3, extended heartfelt condolences. Ms. Gotbaum commented that a little bit of human kindness and compassion could have prevented her family member's untimely death.*

### **Carolyn Carter Kennedy, Staff Member, The Louis Armstrong House Museum**

The Louis Armstrong House Museum, a N.Y.C. landmark, is located on 107<sup>th</sup> Street in Corona and opened its doors in 2003 for public viewing. People from all over the world have visited the house. Lucille, Louis Armstrong's wife, made the decision to purchase the home and created a comfortable home-life for them where they spent the rest of their lives. After Louis' death, she tirelessly promoted his legacy. Ms. Carter-Kennedy will present the life and contribution of Lady Armstrong on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Langston Hughes Library.

### **Disaster Assistance – FEMA – Felix Santos, Representative**

Mr. Santos stated that the city is working with FEMA to spread the word and make sure that every eligible resident and business owner applies for the grants and low interest loans that they deserve. He advised that FEMA returned this evening to answer questions face-to-face that any resident may have.

### **Queens City Planning – John Young – A review of proposed Text Amendments – N 080078 ZRY – Yards / N 080081 ZRY – Street Tree Plantings**

Mr. Young advised that the Department of City Planning has proposed two exciting zoning text amendments dealing with yard regulations and street tree planting requirements. In April of this year, this administration introduced *PlaNYC* -- goals for increased street tree canopy, air quality improvement and storm water management. The city must do a better job to insure that the communities are sustainable. The City Planning Commission referred the zoning text proposal to the Community Boards last month for their review, comments and recommendations. Subsequently, the City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the application which ultimately will require review and approval by the City Council.

*Fred Lee, Community Planner for C.B. 3, briefed the Board on the two zoning text amendment changes/requirement proposals:*

#### **Street Tree Planting Text Amendment (R1 – R5 -- lower density residential districts)**

*The proposed text changes would not involve modifications to existing use and bulk regulations.*

- To establish a requirement for street tree planting in all zoning districts and a requirement for a planting strip of 5 feet between the sidewalk and curb. The Dept. of Forestry will select the types of trees to be planted. The site owner would be responsible for planting the required street trees after which maintenance would be the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Trees provide environmental, aesthetic, as well as safety benefits.
- One street tree would be required for every 25 feet of street frontage of the zoning lot, with a minimum requirement of one street tree. Semi-industrial and automotive uses (Use Group 16) would be subject to a lesser street tree planting requirement.

#### **Yards Text Amendment For Residential Developments**

- Front yards are not currently required to be planted. The proposal would require a minimum percentage of planting in front yards in R1-R5 Districts, based upon street frontage, ranging from 20% for narrow lots (less than 20' wide) to 50% for lots 60 feet wide or greater.
- Currently, except in LDGMAs, interior lots within 100 feet of a corner and on the short-end of a block do not have to provide rear yards. The proposal would require rear yards for all interior lots.
- The proposal would require a 30 foot open area behind every building segment to ensure a useable rear yard, whether or not a rear yard is required.
- On corner lots in R1 – R5 districts, require one side yard to be at least 20 feet wide.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****FY09 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities** *(Jimmy Smith, Chair)*

Jimmy Smith, Chairman, reported that the Committee met to discuss and make recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Priorities. Mr. Smith welcomed suggestions from the public.

Michael Cogswell, Director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum, Queens College, CUNY, spoke about the future Visitors Center for the Louis Armstrong House Museum. In 2003 Mr. Cogswell presented to the Board highlights for the master plan to create the Visitors Center. Added services will include an area to present concerts, lectures, community programs, a full-scale exhibit area, a gift shop and parking for staff. The project is administered by the CUNY Department of Design Construction & Management. Thus far, the projected total cost is \$12 to \$15 million -- ten million dollars has already been raised. To finish the project, CUNY has requested \$5 million for the Visitor Center in its fiscal year 2009 capital request. Mr. Cogswell requested the Community Board's full support in helping the project to move forward.

Tom Lowenhaupt requested that Capital Priority Item #2 – "Reduce Odor and Improve Water Flow in Flushing Bay" remain a very high priority. He stated that Pat Beckles, Chair of the Flushing Bay Committee, has worked hard on this project for many years. A meeting will be held next week at the Borough President's Office to address this issue once again.

Mr. Pat Beckles stated that the longer the project is put on hold the more enormous the project will become. He requested that the Board play a role in getting the Port Authority of N.Y./N.J., D.E.P. and the Army Corp of Engineers to accomplish what they were contracted to do.

**S.L.A. Wine / Beer & Liquor License Applications** – *(Bus. Eco. Develop. – Shiv Dass and Arthur Teiler, Co-Chairs)*

Galicia Bar/Restaurant, 83-02 Northern Boulevard -- Arthur Teiler advised that Committee met with the proprietor. Their license was renewed by the S.L.A. over the summer. The remaining four applicants did not show.

El Rodeo Chicano Inc., 97-11 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue -- The establishment is presently under construction. They met with Committee, however, the owner did not have sufficient paperwork for Committee to make a recommendation.

Bridge Bar, 95-16 Astoria Boulevard – There have been numerous complaints against this establishment. In addition, they were operating under an expired license. Committee will review the application in November.

Arthur Teiler advised that only two of the seven applications will be reviewed this evening.

An On-Premise Liquor License Application was filed with the State Liquor Authority for the following establishments:

- **El Chicano Rest. Bar Corp. – 112-51 Roosevelt Ave., Corona**

The applicant has applied for a new liquor license. The establishment is a two-floor operation; the hours of business are from 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. They are located 230 feet from a church and 500 feet from the nearest residence. The Committee recommended approval.

Judy Grubin – Are there any reports filed with the Police Department? How long has the business been operating? What is the seating capacity?

A. – *No Police reports have been filed. They have been operating their business approximately six years. Seating capacity on the first floor is 69 -- on the second floor 50.*

Judy Grubin – How many exits are located in the establishment?

A. – *There are two exits on the first floor. There are no fire exits on the second floor – there is one staircase leading down to the first floor.*

Judy Grubin -- What is the means of egress from the second floor?

A. The staircase.

Ralph Moreno -- Is there live entertainment and dancing?

A. – *There is no live entertainment and no dancing -- the establishment has a jukebox. It also presents sports events via satellite.*

David Rosero – stated that that he visited the establishment and observed a wide staircase leading from the second floor down to the first floor.

- **Los Mismo Rest. Corp. – 104-11 Roosevelt Ave., Corona**

The applicant currently has a beer/wine license are now applying for a full liquor license. The establishment is primarily a restaurant.

Judy Grubin – How many people can the establishment legally patronize?

A. -- 45 people.

Grace Lawrence – How long has the establishment been in operation -- What are the hours?

A. It has been in business for six years. The hours of operation are from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Emma Brandt – Have there been any police complaints.

A. -- No.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **Motion #36 – 2007-- Adoption of the Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Grace Lawrence, seconded by Darryl Hoss and unanimously carried, the October 18, 2007 Agenda was adopted.

### **MOTIONS BY COMMITTEES**

#### **CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES – FY 09**

The following discussion ensued:

Edwin Westley – Develop Landing Light Property and acquire additional usable Parkland.

Edwin Westley – Support the funding of two-million dollars for the Louis Armstrong House/Museum Visitors' Center.

Mary Sarro – Increase Sanitation Department Personnel and Purchase a School Sanitation Pick-Up Truck in ("QW 3").

Capital – (Remove and place under "Continued Support") – Dog Run at 69<sup>th</sup> Street, 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the B.Q.E.

Expense – Purchase a Parks Department (Remove "Log Loader" and replace it with "Cherry Picker") for the removal of large tree limbs and branches.

Expense – Community Centers in Jackson Heights and Corona.

Ann Brown -- Request a further traffic study on Northern Boulevard – there is more congestion now than ever before.

Murlaina Tindall -- Expense (Add) -- Additional "express" bus service on Northern Boulevard.

#### **Motion #37 – 2007 – Capital FY09**

Upon motion duly made by Edwin Westley, seconded by Mary Sarro and unanimously carried, the Capital Budget was passed.

#### **CAPITAL EXPENSE PRIORITIES**

##### **Priority**

##### **Description**

1. Construct New School Facilities in CD#3, especially Early Childhood Centers & High Schools.
2. Reduce Odor and Improve Water Flow in Flushing Bay.
3. Expand East Elmhurst Library.
4. Construct A New Building and Expand the Capacity of the Jackson Heights Regional Library.
5. Create Affordable Housing for Middle & Low-Income Families.
6. Reconstruct Sewers on Astoria Blvd. located between 84<sup>th</sup> through 96<sup>th</sup> Streets; **93<sup>rd</sup> St. betw. 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Roosevelt Ave.**; 114<sup>th</sup> St. between Ditmars Blvd. and 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave.; 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. from Gilmore St. to the Cul-de-Sac; 110<sup>th</sup> St. from Astoria Blvd. to Northern Blvd.; Northern Blvd. betw. 98<sup>th</sup> St.; 99<sup>th</sup> St. betw. Ditmars Blvd. and 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.
7. Provide Funding for a Comprehensive Study of C.B. #3's Sewer System.
8. Reconstruct 86<sup>th</sup> St. betw. 25<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 86<sup>th</sup> St. betw. 34<sup>th</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup> Avenues; Northern Blvd. from Junction Blvd. to 114<sup>th</sup> St.; 108<sup>th</sup> St. from 34<sup>th</sup> to Roosevelt Aves.; 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. from 94<sup>th</sup> to 106<sup>th</sup> Streets; 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. from 104<sup>th</sup> to 105<sup>th</sup> Streets; Junction Blvd. from 34<sup>th</sup> to Roosevelt Aves.; 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. from 96<sup>th</sup> to 106<sup>th</sup> Streets; 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. from Junction Blvd. to 114<sup>th</sup> Street; Junction Blvd. from 35<sup>th</sup> to Roosevelt Aves.; 82<sup>nd</sup> Street from Astoria Blvd. to the B.Q.E. and 81<sup>st</sup> St. from Astoria Blvd. to the B.Q.E.
9. Construct Library in Northwest Sector of C.D. #3.
10. Construct a Women's Holding Cell at the 115<sup>th</sup> Precinct.
11. Buildings Information System (BIS) Expansion, including Folder Retention.
12. Develop Landing Lights Property and acquire additional usable Parkland, including upgrade of Baseball Field.
13. Traffic Study of Grand Central Parkway exit located at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and Northern Blvd.

14. Traffic Study of the entrance at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and Astoria Blvd.
15. Construct the Visitors' Center for Louis Armstrong House Museum.
16. Rehab Fisher Pool (Parks Dept.)
17. Restore the Queens Green House
18. Create a Dog Park in Landing Lights Property.

**Continued Support**

Construct Flushing Bay Promenade Project. Improvements to meet compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

**Motion # 38 – 2007 – Expense FY09**

Upon motion duly made by Edwin Westley, seconded by Mary Sarro and unanimously carried, the Expense Budget was carried.

**EXPENSE BUDGET PRIORITIES**

<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1.	Install Air Monitors in the Neighborhoods of Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst located near LaGuardia Airport.
2.	<i>Restore and Increase funding for Youth and Adult Beacon Programs and Community Centers in Jackson Heights and Corona..</i>
3.	Increase Funding for the Queens Borough Engineers Office, Personnel to Install and Replace all Street & Traffic Signs & Pot Hole Repair.
4.	Increase Inspector Personnel for Department of Buildings.
5.	Increase Inspectors for HPD (Housing Preservation and Development).
6.	Increase Parks & Recreation / Maintenance Repair Personnel, including an Assistant Gardner.
7.	Hire Parks Associates for P.S. 127 and Northern Boulevard Playgrounds.
8.	Additional Uniformed and Civilian Personnel for 115 <sup>th</sup> Precinct.
9.	Commit annually \$500,000 to address tree stumps, pruning, and planting requests and reduce the pruning cycle to five (5) years.
10.	Increase graffiti removal programs.
11.	Open Special-Ed programs in C.D. #3.
12.	Increase Litter Basket Collection to twice (2x) per day in our commercial strips – (37 <sup>th</sup> Ave.; Junction Blvd.; Roosevelt Ave.; Northern Blvd.; 103 <sup>rd</sup> St. and 74 <sup>th</sup> St.)
13.	Fund Gifted Programs in C.D. #3.
14.A	Increase Adult Day Care in Jackson Heights and in North Corona.
14.B	Increase Day Care Slots and After-School Programs.
15.	Increase Personnel for Queens Bureau of Highway Operations to install and maintain curbs / potholes and to address complaints.
16.	Improve Community Access to Government Services.
17.	Re-establish Neighborhood Business Development Program.
18.	Increase Landlord/Tenant Counseling Services in C. B. #3.
19.	Increase Sanitation Department Personnel.
20.	Increase Funding for the Borough of Queens Dept. of Transportation Engineer's Office
21.	Purchase new Unmarked Vehicles for the 115 <sup>th</sup> Precinct.
22.	Hire Traffic Enforcement Agents.
23.	Increase Sanitation Department Personnel.
24.	Purchase Light Tower for the 115 <sup>th</sup> Precinct..
25.	Purchase a Wenger-Wagon for the Parks Dept. to make it available for community events.
26.	Purchase a <i>Log-Loader</i> for the Parks Department to provide access and pruning of tree limbs obstructing signage; traffic/street lights.
27.	Purchase a small Sanitation Truck with Plow for alley collections.
28.	Improve Community Boards Connectivity and Communication with "311".
30.	Increase Hospital Beds at Elmhurst Hospital.
31.	Increase Day-Care Slots.
32.	Increase After-School Programs.
33.	Keep Queens Libraries Open 7-Days a Week.
34.	Purchase a Grass-Cutting Tractor.
35.	Purchase a School Sanitation Pick-Up Truck. T

**Continued Support**

*Keep Queens Libraries Open 7 Days a Week*  
Fund Juvenile Fire-Setters Program  
Maintain Fire Safety House in Queens  
Maintain Fatal Fire Team in C.D. #3, Q

**Business Economic Development** -- Arthur Teiler, Co-Chair

El Chicano Restaurant Bar Corp. – 112-51 Roosevelt Avenue, Corona  
Arthur Teiler advised that Committee recommended approval.

Discussion ensued:

Judy Grubin stated that the establishment lacks the necessary fire safety exits.

**Motion #39 – 2007 -- El Chicano Restaurant Bar Corp.**

Upon motion duly made by Edwin Westley, seconded by Judy Grubin, with a vote of 23 in favor and 5 opposed, to deny the application for a new liquor license.

Los Mismo Restaurant Corp. – 104-11 Roosevelt Avenue, Corona  
Arthur Teiler advised that the Committee recommended approval.

**Motion #40 – 2007 – Los Mismo Rest. Corp.**

Upon motion duly made by Arthur Teiler, seconded by Darryl Hoss, with a vote of 24 in favor and 4 opposed, to deny the application for a full liquor license.

**Committee Reports**

**Traffic Transportation -- Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman**

Community Board 3 received a Notice of Opportunity from the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office to comment on a proposed one-year moratorium on new applicants/events. The rationale for the proposal was that the Police Department reported that too much of a burden is being placed on them to enforce these events.

- During 2007 C.B. #3 approved approximately 60 street activity applications within the district. There were approximately twelve requests for new street events -- seven were approved. Similar proposals have been presented before, however, this Board was not in support. The feeling was that the Mayor's office would have too much latitude in the issuance of street activity permits. By following guidelines, the Community Board should be given the opportunity to comment and make a decision on its own merit.

Discussion ensued:

*David Rosero stated that street events are organized by a community of different nationalities and background. Holding street events brings a community together and he is not in agreement with the Mayor's proposal.*

*Arthur Teiler stated that these types of events are somewhat disruptive, however, we should not have a blanket denial on the Mayor's proposal.*

**Motion #41 – 2007**

Upon motion duly made by Steve Kulhanek, seconded by Darryl Hoss and unanimously carried to disapprove the Mayor's proposal for a one-year moratorium and let the Community Board make the decision relating to street permit applications.

**District Manager's Report**

Giovanna Reid briefly updated the Board as follows:

- The proposed homeless shelter opening, located at 38-01 112<sup>th</sup> Street -- The Dept. of Homeless Services announced that on October 1, 2007 it would begin serving homeless families. However, five families remain in the premises and there are legal issues that need to be resolved before that happens. She will keep the Board updated on this issue.
- She requested that Board members visit the locations that are going to be reviewed for the Board meetings. Whether it is a Land Use matter or Economic Business Development issue, Members can make a better informed decision if they physically visit the site.

**Adoption of the September 20, 2007 Monthly Minutes**

It was noted that *Helen Santiago*, Director of Urban Health Clinic, is incorrect. The correct name is *Helen Arteaga*.

**Motion #42 – 2007**

Upon motion duly made by Darryl Hoss, seconded by Mizanoor Biswas and unanimously carried, to adopt the amended monthly minutes.

Grace Lawrence advised that elections for the member-at-large vacancy will be held at the November meeting. The two candidates that were nominated from the floor are Mizanoor Biswas and Mary Sarro.

**New Business**

Grace Lawrence extended an invitation to the Langston Hughes Halloween Jazz Brunch to be held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The money from its supporters helps the Library Action Committee, the sponsors of this yearly event.

Edwin Westley, Co-Chair of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Halloween Parade, invited everyone to march on October 31, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Ana Lopez invited all to attend a dinner/dance at Terrace on the Park on November 2, 2007. Our Chairman, Mr. Vasantrai Gandhi will be honored at this event.

There being no further business, Grace Lawrence, Acting Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Voss, Recorder