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John Fitzpatrick, was at the meeting seeking a building variance because the dormitory would be built in an M1-1 manufacturing district.

Vaughn College has existed since 1932 and has been at its current location, near La Guardia Airport, since 1940, when the airport was opened. It stands on land bordered by 86th Street, 23rd Avenue, 90th Street and Ditmars Boulevard. The La Guardia Marriott Courtyard hotel stands just to the east of the lot where the dormitory is supposed to go; just to the south, across 23rd Avenue, is the Korean Church of Queens. The dormitory would be an emblem of the school's plan to expand its current student population from 1,200 to 1,500. Half the current student body is from Queens. The dormitory project would include 34 parking spaces, a 15-foot front yard setback, a side yard of 104 feet and a rear yard of 200 feet.

The board appeared friendly to the idea of a dormitory, but one woman worried about security, something Fitzpatrick said is strong and will remain so at the school. Nardiello pressed for landscaping and greenery that would relieve the eyesore he sees at the current, largely vacant site where earthmovers stand ready to dig deeper than has already been dug. The motion put before the board stressed a program of planting. (One member even said the roof of the dormitory should be a green one.) The motion recommending approval of the

variance passed by unanimous vote.

District Attorney Richard Brown repeated the gospel of his 15 years in office: how homicide numbers fell from 361 in Queens in 1991 to 91 in 2005 and stolen cars from 52,000 to 5,400; how he now has 65,000 arrest cases annually and the fastest arrest-to-trial disposal in the city. In answer to a question about youth gangs, he said he is disturbed by their presence in schools, and his office has a youth gang team. A question about corrupt judgeships in the city prompted Brown, who served 16 years on the bench, to praise the Queens judiciary, though he said he defers to State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith Kaye's reform recommendations. There is no doubt about his plan for the future. He will become the longest-serving DA in Queens history should he win reelection next year, and he's looking forward to reaching the 25-year mark, as he told his audience. (He said he hoped he could share that moment with his friend Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan DA, who by then would have been in office 41 years and would be approaching 97 years of age.)

Grassroots Initiative is a Manhattan group that says the following. "Candidates for public office are recruited and backed by political parties. Political parties are run by elected committees and most people don't know how to run for these offices. As a result, thousands of political offices are left vacant; millions of people are left without representation, and political power is left in the hands of a select few."



Vaughn College, formerly known as the College of Aeronautics, has existed since 1932 and has been at its current location, near La Guardia Airport, since 1940, when the airport was opened.

The group claims there are more than 5,000 election districts in the city without any local party representatives and that 97 percent of local party representatives run uncontested and need only file paperwork to win. Gathering about 20 signatures can get a name on the ballot, the group says, and says further that those who find their revelations interesting should find vacant offices in their neighborhoods, learn how to get their names on the ballot, get walking

lists of likely voters, request a mentor and learn more about their local political party committees. GI representative Elizabeth Koo said that further information, or advice for those thinking of running for office, is available at info@gograssroots.org or 212-379-1274 X214. The Web site address is www.gograssroots.org.

The three board members who received 10-year certificates were Norma Jimenez, Stephen Kulhanek and David Rosero.



KIWANIS CLUB OF ASTORIA/LIC



President Roseanna Alafogiannis

AWARDS \$5,000 TO LOCAL STUDENTS

On Wednesday, May 24th, 2006, the Astoria/L.I.C. Kiwanis held its Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner at Ponticello Ristorante, Chairman of the event was Paul A. Vallone, along with his committee members, Roseanne Alafogiannis, President Fr. Latona, Linda Perno and Tony Siano.

We gave out eight scholarships, four academic and four art. Two of the academic awards were the "Tom Alafogiannis" scholarship awards, and two of the art awards were the "Pam Smith" scholarship awards. The students along with their guests and representatives from their schools were also invited to the festivities.



We sincerely wish to thank all of our sponsors of this event: Commerce Bank, Vallone & Vallone, Greek American Homeowners Association and George Fakiris plus many other private donations that enabled us to give out over \$5,000 in scholarship awards.

Representatives from Commerce Bank also in attendance were Anna Marie Vallone, Vice President; Mary Zias, Branch Manager and Michael Serao, Asst Branch Manager of the Ditmars Branch. Representing Councilmember Peter F. Vallone Jr. was Council Aid John F. Pellitteri.



Pictured from right to left: Commerce Bank representatives, Anna Marie Vallone, Vice-President; Mary Zias, Branch Manager and Michael Serao Asst Branch Manager, Ditmars Branch

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL LINDA PERNO AT 718.752.1601