

BY THOMAS COGAN

Community Board 3 has a district so laden with bar-restaurant combinations that it has to make State Liquor Authority license applications a major part of nearly every meeting. As the board got back to post-summer business at its September meeting, seven such applications were on the agenda, though only one applicant showed up. One was enough; reference to that applicant's restaurant and to another one nearby, which was also on the agenda but whose owner or representative did not appear, was so critical it became an even more controversial issue than the meeting's first item of business, flood damage. A Department of Transportation proposal to install several parking meters on 73rd Street in Jackson Heights also drew some strong commentary. Assemblymember Ivan Lafayette made an appearance to express scorn for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's grasp of the city's educational situation.

Two women from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and two from the Small Business Administration were at the meeting to convey information to anyone who suffered flood damage as a result of the August 8 rainfall. The FEMA representatives, Kim Anderson and Jane Kennedy, encouraged all those who thought they might qualify for FEMA grants to apply for them. The agency would then evaluate the applications. FEMA's local disaster assistance service center is at 137-77 Northern Blvd., and Spanish and Korean translators are avail-

Board 3 Hears From FEMA, Pans Liquor License Renewal

Assemblymember Lafayette's main topic was what he sees as Mayor Bloomberg's failure to address the school issue effectively.



able. Anderson said when an application is submitted, a FEMA inspector visits the applicant's home within a week to 10 days to evaluate conditions there. One flood victim complained that she incurred \$85,000 in damage repair expenses for her flooded basement and was told she did not qualify for a FEMA grant. Kennedy said that FEMA does not as a rule deal with flooded basements, a declaration that drew laughter. The disqualified applicant said she had read all the FEMA literature she was given and found no such disclaimer anywhere. Jennifer Manley, a representative from Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office to Board 3 and other boards in Queens, said that was the first time she had heard about it, too. Giovanna Reid, the board's district

manager, said that nearly all disaster claims she is aware of in the district have involved flooded basements and sewage deposits therein.

The SBA representatives, Bonnie Wright and Betty Fuentes, went over the procedure of applying for low-interest loans, either home disaster loans for homeowners and renters or economic injury disaster loans for working capital to small businesses.

Stephen Kulhanek, head of the Board 3 traffic and transportation committee, reported that the committee favored the Department of Transportation's proposal to install parking meters, perhaps six or seven of them, on 73rd Street, near 37th Avenue, where a bus stop had recently been removed and relocated. Kulhanek admitted that there

was much opposition to this proposal. He read a letter from a local resident who was "appalled" DOT should attempt to put in meters, thus favoring the parking concerns of visiting shoppers over those of local residents. An activist from the Western Jackson Heights Alliance called the proposal "arrogant" and environmentally unsound, expressing shock that the board wasn't attacking it. Tom Lowenhaupt, a former board member, said he'd been surprised a day or two earlier to find the bus stop gone and that he disagreed with the plan for meters. But the head of the local merchants' association wanted meters installed, and so did most of the board when the time came for a vote and the motion was carried, 22 to 11, with one abstention.

Arthur Teiler of the business and economic development committee had scheduled for review seven bars and restaurants that were applying for new or renewed licenses from the State Liquor Authority. A representative of only one, Sylvia Russillo of Chocolate Café, 95-20 Astoria Blvd., showed up. Russillo was assuming control of the café, which commands the corner of Astoria Boulevard and 96th Street and is said to have a generally unfavorable reputation among residents in the vicinity. She told the audience at the meeting that she realized this and was attempting to overcome it by running a strict operation and eventually renaming the place as Sylvia's On The Boulevard. Several board members were

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