

# Vincent Iannece Honored With Street Renaming



City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr. speaks to a member of Iannece's family before the start of the ceremonies dedicating the intersection of the corner of 32nd Street and Astoria Boulevard at the apex of Columbus Triangle to Vincent Iannece, community activist and father of Jerry Iannece (far R.), former Community Board 11 chairman. Among those also awaiting the start of the ceremonies are state Senator George Onorato, Congressman Carolyn Maloney (at Vallone Jr.'s r.).



(R. to l.): City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr., Angie Markham, Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Queens president and Vincent Iannece's daughter, and Jerry Iannece, former Community Board 11 chairman and Vincent Iannece's son (l.), hold the sign renaming the corner of 32nd Street and Astoria Boulevard at the apex of Columbus Triangle, directly in front of the statue of Columbus for Vincent Iannece, longtime community activist and member of Community Board 1. Looking on from rear are Congressman Carolyn Maloney (l.) and Queens County Clerk Gloria D'Amico.

City Councilmember Peter F. Vallone Jr. unveiled a street sign on Sunday, September 30, officially renaming the corner of 32nd Street and Astoria Boulevard at the apex of Columbus Triangle, directly in front of the statue of Columbus, Cav. Vincenzo Iannece Corner after Vincent Iannece, who devoted his life to serving his neighborhood. The site, for more than 75 years the terminus of the annual Columbus Parade, a fitting tribute for a man who contributed so much to Italian-American organizations and causes.

Iannece had presided at the parade since he founded the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens in 1972.

"To be honest, I am reluctant to rename streets, but in the case of Vinny Iannece, he deserves the honor of having a slice of the community dedicated to him, having dedicated himself so thoroughly to it," Vallone said. "I hope people will look at this sign for years to come and remember what it means to serve one's neighbors."

Among the elected officials and Italian-



The late Vincent Iannece.

American community leaders on hand to honor Iannece at the event were former City Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr., Congressman Carolyn Maloney and state Senator George Onorato, Queens County Clerk Gloria D'Amico and representatives from the New York Italian Consulate and local Italian groups. A large crowd gathered to watch the unveiling, the final product of a year-long effort led by former Community Board 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece, Vincent's son.

Vincent Iannece founded the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens, an umbrella group that allowed the many different clubs and groups to work with each other. With the help of the FIAOQ, he helped to organize the Queens Columbus Day Parade, which ends at the location that now bears his name. Iannece also founded the St. Michael Society and was an active member of the Astoria Civic Association. He was appointed a member of Community Board 1 in 1993 and served until his death in 2005.

The dedication took place on the Feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel, the patron saint of Senerchia in the Province of Avellino, Italy, where Iannece was born in 1925. Iannece served as an Italian Marine and police officer until he moved to the United States in 1951. He won many awards during his years of service in both countries. For his dedication and accomplishments, during his lifetime, the Republic of Italy bestowed the title of Cavaliere on Iannece, and he was given a City Council Proclamation during Italian Culture Month in 2004 by Vallone Jr.

"This man exemplifies dedication and service. I was proud to honor him years ago, and I'm proud to honor him now,"

## Board 1 Turns Down Club's Cabaret License

BY RICHARD GENTILVISO

Ensnconced between 25th and 27th Avenues at the side of the BQE an establishment at 26-44 Borough Pl., was not immediately familiar. But once the name Club Casino and its violent history were recalled, Community Board 1 denied a cabaret license for a proposed new nightclub lounge at the same location.

"There was a nightclub there before," acknowledged Peter Flores, an attorney representing the owner of the building, Thomas Flannanagan, at a public hearing held in Astoria on September 18.

"We had a lot of issues at Club Casino," said Inspector Brian McCarthy, commanding officer of the 114th Police Precinct. "We should think about this." In March, 2006, four men were shot when a fight that began inside the club spilled out into a nearby parking lot.

Flannanagan, who also owns a bar and restaurant bearing his name in Manhattan, said he bought the building at a foreclosure auction two years ago. He took over the property on June 1, 2007 after evicting the occupants.

"It was a nightmare for me to get the previous tenant out. I never received one dime in rent," Flannanagan said.

"Did you know anything about the history of the place?" asked Board Member Fran Luhman McDonald.

"I found out about it after I bought it," Flannanagan said. He also stated for the record, "There will be no adult entertainment" at the proposed new club.

After noting the maximum occupancy of 850 people for the building, Consumer Affairs Committee Chairperson Joe Risi asked what kind of entertainment or music would be offered.

Flores said outside promoters would be brought in on some nights, while on other nights entertainment or music would be provided by the house.

"Promoters were the problem the first time around," McCarthy said. "There were four shootings and two stabbings in 2006 at Club Casino. All of our problems in this community can be directed to promoters. We don't want [outside] promoters bringing violence into this community."

"We're aware that we're going to have to work closely with you, even for traffic, to keep things safe," Flores said. One board member specifically mentioned hip-hop music as associated with violence.

Flores, who said he was a child of hip-hop music, disagreed, "I don't think the music itself is the problem. Everyone who listens to hip-hop music or attends hip-hop music events is not a criminal."

"I wouldn't just single out hip-hop music to bring to a venue," he said. "That wouldn't be fair." Salsa music and dancing were previously featured at Club Casino.

Flores said security would be licensed and bonded and Flannanagan said there would be one security person for every 50 customers at the club, which Flores said would be ready to open in about a month or so.

But if the new club, to be called Damascus, does open it will have to be without a cabaret license, which means no dancing, if the Department of Consumer Affairs follows the board's recommendation.