



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

**OANA Meeting
March, 12th 2019**

Richard thanked everyone for coming. The Food was furnished by

Everyone introduced themselves.

Richard spoke regarding the request for rezoning the neighborhood. We are not advocating for any particular rezoning. This area has not been rezoned in over 60 years. We want to correct the rezoning issue and establish areas for residential and manufacturing needs. During 2010 the zoning was reduced. Zoning tools are important. We would like to see that community input be provided

Phyllis Parra inquired, “Who’s going to be in charge of stopping whether it will be residential?”

Richard replied the process is called ULURP, that goes through different phases and ends with the Mayor’s decision

Dina Tori inquired, “Would they put up high rises along the water front.”

Richard replied in certain areas such as the waterfront here where 10 towers are scheduled to go up. Contextual zoning was done in 2010 where the major streets upzoned, for higher density. The interior streets were downzoned or kept stable.

Hilal Kureshi inquired, “Is this initiative for the rezoning related to the Silverstein push of real estate into this area?”

Richard replied there was another developer in that site in that neighborhood. We have no context and wouldn’t know what they want to use or to rezone.

Richard introduced the PSA officers.

Officer Grantworth, Officer Keith Matheus, Officer Jimenez, and Officer Joe Esposito introduced themselves.

Richard introduced the LaGuardia Gateway partners.



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Shanel Thomas-Henry offered construction updates of the LaGuardia Airport. The airport is being constructed in three phases. The first phase is Terminal B. The second phase will be Terminal C. They are pursuing the possibility of established in Air Train. In December 2018, they opened concourse B part of terminal B. One of the main flyover bridges was opened in July 2018. This allowed relief to travel congestion that occurred while departing the airport. In February they completed a new onsite parking lot in terminal B. Terminal B headhouse will be opening next year. Concourse G will be opening later this year. The Central Hall will unify all of the terminals of the airport. She gave an overview of the status of construction. The third phase will include the LaGuardia air train. It is meant to serve as a more convenient way of travel. This will be funded by Port Authority with capital dollars. It would hug the northern most end of the Grand Central Parkway. A study in 2017 showed that passengers have a high interest in using a train service to the airport. It is predicted that approximately 10 million will use it by 2025 and 12 million by 2045.

Larry Gallegos spoke further on the project. As of December 2018, 543 contracts through the LaGuardia Gateway partners valued at \$777 million. With Delta they have 316 contracts valued \$372 million. They have had several job fairs, most recently in Elmcourt Community Services in Corona. There were 588 attendees where 425 positions were available with 18 employers

The Vaughn College scholarship program provides 6 students from Queens with a full academic scholarship to Vaugh College. Upon graduation they would receive job placement with the Port Authority. During their semesters they would be provided paid internships. The mobile stops are throughout the Astoria area.

The Queens Council on the Arts has an airport residency program. They had a black history month exhibit that is still up. They will have a women's history month exhibit.

There will be an information session tomorrow regarding retail jobs for the Terminal B Headhouse.

George Rivera inquired, "Will departures and arrivals be on the same floor?"

Shanel replied There will still be multi levels as has always been observed.

Kursehi inquired, "Will there be a focus on the logistics for commercial cargo and freight in supporting industry?"



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Shanel replied there is a cargo component. She did not have the details, she will contact Richard when she has it and get back to you.

David Batten inquired, "What is the status of the local community pushback regarding the placement of the train and its placement on the promenade?"

Shanel replied There are community concerns regarding the preferred right. There will be environmental impact study that will decide alternate routes. It's currently in the preliminary stages.

Diane Kontzolgou, inquired, that currently the only connection to that the 7 train from Manhattan to city field and them come back.

Shanel replied that you may take the 7 train or the LIRR.

Claudia Coger inquired, "Is there anyway that we can take a busload of children as exhibition to the airport"

Larry replied They are happy to do that. You can reach out to him or Shanell so that they may facilitate. They hey are happy to do that.

Larry Speigel inquired, "With the exhaustion of air travel, passengers may be drained with the process"

Shanel said the bus service will still be available. The AirTrain is intended to keep that family connected.

Justin Patten inquired, "What is LaGuardia Gateway Partners."

Grace Stevens replied we are the private developer chosen by Governor Cuomo and Port Authority to develop Terminal B. We are the developer and operator.

Phyllis Parra inquired, "What type of job opportunities are you offering? Are they Union or non-union?"

Shanel replied that there are a variety of opportunities of employments. The construction jobs are union.



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Claudio inquired, “Why is there no concourse C?”

Shanel replied from a way finding area that there would be confusion with a Terminal C and a Concourse C.

David Matten inquired, “What is the major outcome? For Capacity upgrade or runway extension?”

Shanel replied the existing central terminal was built with fewer visitors. Last year we had 30 million passengers at LaGuardia. They are created roadways and bridges.

Erica inquired, “What percentage of commercial space was being reserved for NY businesses?”

Grace replied there was no percentage but it is a NYC feel.

Shanel said they have not gauged a percentage but they are pushing participation.

There will be an information session happening at LaGuardia Plaza from 10AM-1PM will be additional retails and concession opportunities.

Richard introduced George Hezopoulos is the owner of the Arcadia. The Arcadia provided the food for this evenings meeting.

Dominque Perrot commented that she loved the lights of the tree

Richard introduced the New York State Police for a presentation

Trooper Marc Baden introduced himself he has over 20 years of experience.


Trooper Baden is currently the acting 1st sergeant.

There are 2 recruiters for the New York City area.

Trooper Kemar Francis is the NYC recruiter for the New York State Police.

The New York State police is currently 101 year. It was founded in 1917.

There are currently 36000 NYPD officers.

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There are 62 counties in New York State. We have had 100 plain clothed troopers.

The Role of a trooper: The State police is full-service police. The troopers were founded by Moyca Newell and Katherine Mayo. She spoke on the 19th amendment. In Bedford New York, there was a construction site there were goons that killed the foreman and took the money. They partied for 4 days and were never punished. Moyca Newel contacted Katherine saying that something must be done.

Camp Newayo was the first training camp for the NYS troopers. They wanted to create a police force that was as consistent as the army. They need to be trained to be consistent. 232 men would ride out of the camp. They would go into town. There are 11 troops in NYS state. The response time is very quick in times of emergency.

The troopers have been federalized to assist in time of national emergency. The uniform is grey to symbolize neutrality of black and white of the impartial trooper. Purple is reference to Empire state as homage to the Roman Praetorian Guard. The Collar ornaments denotes troop assignment.

The troopers traveled up to 25 miles a day. Communicated with telephone operators to receive orders. They provide full service policing in the region that they serve.

The State Police Academy used the SUNY school system in the summer in the dorms. Our motto is Excellence through knowledge. Officer Baden was in a class of 150 that had 100 graduates.

The academy now has a twenty-seven-week residential training program.

In 1974 the first female troopers graduated from the New York State Trooper programs. One was Maureen Tuffe, Officer Baden's former supervisor.

They will oversee medevac and search and rescue missions in upstate.

The troopers have an advanced scuba team. First diving unit was established in 1934.

In 1992 they had 100 Bureau Criminal Investigation members. In 2015, we have 200 uniform members. Their responsibilities are Counter terrorism. They coordinate with local/state federal partners to support their requests for assistance. A major part of the work done is NYS bridge & Tunnel evaders. We provide LGA/JFK/Penn/GCT support.

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Erica inquired, “How do you catch toll evaders?”

Trooper Kemar replied The plate reader plus the tolls take pictures of plate with a picture of the vehicle and the information of the driver.

Dina Tori inquired, “Since the soured relationship with Mayor DE Blasio and Governor Cuomo is there truth to it?”

Trooper Baden replied The cashless tolls was a significant factor. There were 18 months where airports were annihilated. There was an officer with a long gun to deter any instance of violence of terrorism. Toll readers spoke to the presence of the state troopers.

Claudia Coger inquired, “When the state trooper came into the bridge and tunnels in the city of NY. Is there any kinship?”

Trooper Baden responded The Capital and Long Island Park Police were assumed by NYS police. There is zero friction between the agencies.

Dominique Perrot commented great presentation and inquired, “Is there any exchange between Canadian and NYS toll evaders?”

Trooper Baden replied There is a share of information.

David Matten inquired, “Are you responsible with enforcing city vehicle codes?”

Officer Baden replied yes we do. We have Operation Rolling Vigilance. We have troopers are commercial vehicle certified.

Marsha Henry inquired, “What is the day to day of a NYS trooper?”

Trooper Francis replied You are placed into one of the 11 troops. You may be placed outside of their regional. It depends on the need. There may be a long period of time were they are serving away from their home. The age requirement is 21 -30 to apply.

Larry Seigel commented the biggest threat is airside services. He inquired, “Does it make sense that it is the right area?”



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Officer Baden replied Yes, it is important of the insider system that. TSA controls over the full system of the operators. There is a true partnership of the groups. The troopers are here to help out.

Richard thanked everyone for LaGuardia Partners. He also thanked Acadia for providing food for the meeting.