



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
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## **Old Astoria Neighborhood Association Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Richard thanked everyone for coming to the September meeting of the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association. The food provided for this evening's meeting was furnished by Brooklyn Harvest Market and Costco.

Richard introduced Deputy Inspector Osvaldo Nunez from the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Inspector Nunez informed everyone that there will be a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at Ricardo's on 21<sup>st</sup> Street at 7PM. There is a rolling 28-day period used by NYPD regarding crime. As of Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, there have been 15 robberies as opposed to 16 robberies last year, flat with felony assaults. Burglaries are up significantly, there have been 24 burglaries, up from 16 last year. Grand Larceny is down. due to the implementation of anti-fishing mailboxes which are 75% completed for use. Grand Larceny Auto is down 31%. Most GLAs are motorcycles. Residents are at risk of becoming victims of credit card, check and bank fraud. Automobile break-ins happen all over the neighborhood. He recommended to not leave valuables in their cars.

There was a parolee committing commercial robberies, he would throw rocks through the windows of local businesses. He was apprehended a couple of weeks ago. Three precincts coordinated within the territory of the 108<sup>th</sup> precinct to ensure his arrest.

Richard requested that Inspector Nunez explain the borders and the services the precinct provides.

Inspector Nunez stated, this precinct covers six square miles. Queens Plaza North is its southern border. It runs eastward to LaGuardia Airport and westward, from LaGuardia to the East River. The precinct is diverse in landscape and demographics. There are four sectors with two NCOs for each sector. The NCOs are the liaisons between the residents and the precincts. Additionally, there are two officers in every sector. They work in the same shift every day and become familiar with the neighborhood.

Spidony? inquired, "Was the perp responsible for Astoria coffee break-ins?"

Inspector Nunez stated, yes it was one of the locations he burglarized. He had a felony assault and the victim picked him out of a photo array.



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Stacy commented, It's a rolling 28-day period. She inquired, "When do you do a comparison across relative districts, so we can understand how statistics compare to other districts?"

Inspector Nunez stated, there are 77 precincts in New York City. Each precinct is unique. We do not compare precinct to precinct. Every borough has an overhead command. They have redundancy in place to ensure when crimes are breaking district borders.

Diane Turk inquired, "Who's in charge of those stupid moped bikes?"

Inspector Nunez stated, those bikes will be legalized shortly. The enforcement on e-bikes will be seizure of the e-bikes and we will get beat up. Revel bikes will be City bike version of e-bikes. There will be regulation for the e-bikes.

Anita inquired, "How do you drive these e-bikes? What do you need to operate them?"

Inspector Nunez stated, Under NYS law they are not motorcycles. These Revel e-bikes will be regulated. We are in a wait and see mode.

Erika Haisler inquired, "Are the Revel e-bikes supposed to use the bike lane or the regular lane? Where can I find more information on them?"

Inspector Nunez recommended inquiring with the congressman's office. These e-bikes will have to follow same rules as bicycles.

Basil commented, they're supposed to be legalized, which is interesting. He inquired, "Does that mean that people leave them wherever they want? Are they going to flagrantly violate laws and not having repercussions?"

Inspector Nunez stated, the majority of enforcement done is geared toward motorists in conventional cars. These e-bikes are still illegal. There will be an exemption made for Rebel e-bikes. We don't know what other e-bikes will be doing.

Basil commented, since there are exceptions. He inquired, "Will the exemption include they can leave them in alternate side days?"

Inspector Nunez stated, NYPD can seize them. Rebel e-bikes will have stations similar to e-bikes.



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Richard reminded everyone that the alternate side rule enforcement will begin on September 16th. Richard thanked Nick and Congressman Constantinides in their support for helping this become established.

Vanessa Jones Hall commented, I have been at meetings where some are adamant bicyclists. She has observed 12 bicyclists that have gone down the wrong way and sped through lights. She inquired, "When is a crackdown going to take place?"

Inspector Nunez stated, he will schedule a new operation to crackdown. Enforcement is focused against accident prone vehicles.

Patrick Bouysson commented about the alternate side parking. When is in effect they leave their car.

Inspector Nunez stated, if they have an abandoned vehicle. Contact the NCO to have them towed. If you notice an abandoned vehicle contact the NCO of the sector to have the vehicle towed.

Brenda Polk commented, we have a dirt bike in public housing making noise in the neighborhood.

Inspector Nunez stated, they should make an anonymous complaint.

Liz inquired, "about the rebel scouters will be docked? Will they be docked in the streets or sidewalks?"

Inspector Nunez stated, it is currently in the city planning phase you must go to the community board. Some city bikes were placed on the street while others were placed on the side walk.

David Matten commented alternate side enforcement is handled by sanitation. The section of the Triangle at Main and 30<sup>th</sup> avenue that they have not moved in months. He inquired, what leads us to believe that they will deal with the other locations?

Inspector Nunez stated, they have the ability to row tow the vehicles.

Erika Haisler commented there's a property being renovated and insist that they can't park in front of the property.

Inspector Nunez stated, he recommends going through the NCO, if foreman continues they can contact to have them fined by the Buildings Department.

George Rivera spoke regarding event. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, OANA will be co-sponsoring and hosting free CPR lessons. The class will be instructional for one hour.



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Richard introduced Mr. Robert Oliveri from the Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Oliveri is the community coordinator for Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island. They have purview of water and sewer operations as well as storm management. They managed the Grease program. The only time there is a mechanism to dispose of cooking oil is for businesses. The policy is to “Trash it, don’t flush it.” Fat burn is a buildup of garbage or foil through the sewer system. Floss, paper towels, baby wipes should not be flushed in toilets. They are beginning an annual program named Rain barrow giveaways. You may receive a free rain barrow from April to August. There’s a reserve list but it will be first come first serve

Richard commented there a problem with dirt in the water. He inquired, “what are the causes and what can be done?”

Mr. Oliveri stated, he was unsure why that occurs. Shut downs may cause this. Sediments settle. He recommends running water for 3 minutes. If it doesn’t settle call your local community board who will reach out to DEP.

Richard inquired, “how can we expedite clogged drains in the street especially in the residential streets?”

Mr. Oliveri stated, everyone should contact their community board and elected officials. Legislation for 3 years of all catch basins in the city. Legislation ended now there will be 2-year inspections. Sanitation is supposed to respond to leaves.

Dominique Perrot inquired, “Why the NYC noise laws do not apply to these trucks? They drive all time along. What can we do?”

Mr. Oliveri stated there was a problem with ice cream trucks. There was a sweep of several inspectors to ensure that they were caught.

Antonella DiSevario commented, with all the development, She inquired, “Has DEP done analysis of how the tacking on the sewer system?”

Mr. Oliveri stated, they are required to submit as a plan for how much waste/waste water. It monitors how much flow to handle. If it reaches 65% they do, they adjust it. There’s a monitoring system how much its affecting waste treatment plants.



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Art Finnigan commented, a lot of these big development have sewage safety plants. He's seen secret pipes at the curb, He inquired, "Are they permanent sump pumps?"

Mr. Oliveri stated, they were initially connected to the rain gutters of a home.

Mr. Finnigan commented, the rain gutters of the house. He has seen oily water in sewer.

Mr. Oliveri stated, if anyone sees illegal discharge it should be reported.

David Matten inquired, "Are there any local infrastructure projects for CSO contributions?"

Mr. Oliveri stated, the only project are the alarming projects. He will look into it.

Diane commented, three years ago a complex was built and concrete was dumped on the corner, when it rains it is flooded. She inquired, "Is there anything that DEP can do?"

Mr. Oliveri stated, he can have another look of the location

Cynthia Davis inquired, "Are you doing a campaign about flushable wipes?"

Mr. Oliveri stated, the campaign is trash it, don't flush it. They will have flyers on the buses and subway. It came from the cease the grease.



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Richard thanked Robert for his great presentation and the water bottles donated.

Richard introduced Ana Rodriguez from Mt Sinai Hospital of Queens

Three years ago, The Mt. Sinai health system became eight hospitals

Ms. Rodriguez thanked for the support from the neighborhood. Mt Sinai Health System has cemented its commitment to the community by completing a \$175 million project. They are attempting to transform healthcare. They have a new physicians military pavilion. The new building houses new services for the community. They transitioned from an 18 square foot space to a 20000 square foot emergency room. There is a room specific for surgeries. If you need a Cat-scan, MRI or X-ray there are three areas to help expedite your visit. There are pediatric outpatient services that are offered. Their pediatricians that are part of the faculty. They offer many services in the new pavilion. 4<sup>th</sup> floor is primary services, 5<sup>th</sup> floor is housed to specialty services. The convenience in robotic surgery is they offer quicker healing time. We offer all these services at Mt Sinai.

The hospital is certified by the Department of Health and Joint Commission for Stroke care.

There is a specialized called thrombectomy. It is a specialized service to provide for the citizens of Queens.

Cynthia Davis inquired, "Are these scanners 3d?"

Ms. Rodriguez stated, they have state of the art and if more specialized they have the breast center. They offer free breast health screening for young women under thirty.

Dominique commented that what an improvement she has seen. You are wonderful. Thank you.



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Ms. Rodriguez stated they are trying to be the best neighbors. The hospital has made an investment in the community.

Patrick Bouysson inquired, “Are you doing supplementary insurance with Medicare?”

Ms. Rodriguez stated Mt Sinai has entered a collaboration with Healthfirst for Medicare in Manhattan. They have affiliations with another insurance that will be coming to Queens.

Doris Avogorides? inquired, “Do you offer outpatient services for your MRI?”

Ms. Rodriguez stated, All the services are part of the ambulatory pavilion. There are physicians you may connect with at the pavilion. If you have to see a primary care doctor. They have a wealth of services that would be needed by a patient in one building. They have an electronic medical record where a physician in any of the hospital scan access the medical records.

Richard thanked Ms. Rodriguez for her presentation this evening.

Ms. Rodriguez informed that there will be free community education programs. On September 25<sup>th</sup> they will have a free cholesterol screening at the hospital. Additionally, they will have yoga classes offered.

Richard informed everyone that we will be having Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan at our next meeting

Richard thanked Adela Herrera. He additionally thanked Victor Prado with photography. He thanked Nick Roloson for attending. We are proud to have received alternate side parking.



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Richard thanked St George's church for donating this space.

Richard thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

The next meeting of the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup>.