

QUEENS NEWS

# Long Island Board of Realtors® Engages with Queens Colleagues to Navigate Change, Enhance Communities and Promote Equality

By: Doreen Spagnuolo

If ever there was a time for collaboration within the real estate industry – and engagement with our local communities – surely, this is it. Our industry faces unique challenges that will change the way we do business, and the Long Island Board of REAL

TORS® (LIBOR) is committed to ensuring real estate professionals stay current with new laws, regulations and requirements.

LIBOR’s mission is to promote excellence and professionalism by being an indispensable resource and advocate for consumers and more than 30,000 real estate professionals in the Long Island community and beyond. One of the most pressing issues our industry faces is managing impending changes from the National Association of

REALTORS® (NAR) settlement. We know our members have many questions and we’re here to share solutions before those changes go into effect Aug. 17, 2024.

Here in Queens, we recently hosted a training program on the NAR settlement titled “Understanding and Embracing Industry Changes and How It Affects You.” Together with One Key® MLS and led by its chair Frank DellAccio of Century 21, we shared best-practices for navigating the new landscape while increasing sales production and utilizing the MLS to support our businesses.

Based on attendance – the July 9 event at Roma View in Howard Beach was sold out – it’s clear real estate professionals here are intent on staying on

top of the issues. We’re proud to help guide our colleagues through these changes to maintain transparency and fairness in the home-buying process for both members and consumers.

It’s rewarding to make a meaningful impact on people’s lives, and LIBOR’s team is always on the lookout for ways to assist neighbors and enhance communities. We’re thrilled to actively engage with Queens, which is such a vital part of our real estate ecosystem. The borough’s vibrant businesses, diverse communities, rich culture and thriving real estate market offer a wealth of opportunities for growth.

One project our team is especially excited about is the successful 46th and 5th Street Seat parklet in Long Island City. Adjacent to the Rockaway Brewing Company, the parklet provides chairs, tables and benches for residents, visitors and patrons to meet, relax and enjoy the eclectic surroundings.

LIBOR created the parklet project in 2022 in collaboration with Street Plans, Rockaway Brewing and the New York City Department of Transportation, with funding from an NAR Placemaking Grant. The grants are available to REALTOR® associations to help plan, implement and maintain “Placemaking” activities in

their communities. Local builders and artists were commissioned to complete the project. As part of our REALTOR® Volunteer Build Days, LIBOR’s team will be at the parklet Tuesday, July 30 to refresh the space, plant flowers and repaint seats and tables.

At LIBOR, diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental to our core values and our mission. As an advocate of Fair Housing practices, we promote

diversity throughout the real estate community. We also support equal rights for all people regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

We’re thankful for opportunities to join like-minded colleagues in Queens to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride, and we proudly participated in the New Queens Pride Parade on June 2 in Jackson Heights. What a vibrant celebration of diversity and inclusion! This was our first time participating and our team made a spirited showing, reminding everyone “Pride Has a Home Here!”

Hosted by LIBOR’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, our participation underscored our commitment to fostering an inclusive community. “We are



honored to stand with the LGBTQ+ community, promoting a message of acceptance and equality,” said Kevin Leatherman, President of LIBOR. “At LIBOR, we believe everyone deserves a place to call home and we are committed to ensuring our industry reflects these values.”

We’re grateful to our Queens colleagues for welcoming us and we look forward to continuing collaborative efforts to empower real estate professionals, provide innovative solutions, ensure transparency and fairness, and move our industry forward. To learn more, please visit [www.libor.com](http://www.libor.com).

