

JFK ibid district now Gateway JFK

By Jeff Yapalater

Gateway JFK began as JFK I bid in 2014 as a plan to create a district to revitalize the Springfield Garden area surrounding the JFK Airport by making the cargo community aware of the benefits of nearby off airport real estate, business opportunity and economic advantages.



Since the inception the JFK IBid name has now changed to Gateway JFK. According to Scott Grimm-Lyon, Executive Director, “with a forward-looking attitude and style central to our identity as an integral part of the cargo operations at JFK International Airport. Our long-term plans revolve around Placemaking and as we become more and more successful Gateway JFK will become the place that the airport community, the business community, the political community, and the residents of Southeast Queens all know as our dynamic off-airport commercial corridor.”

The off-airport cargo community is home to one of the industry’s largest assemblies of customs brokers and freight forwarders that control the routing of most of the world’s international freight shipments

In the past year a lot has happened to form a real organization with the formation of a 501c status. In addition Grimm-Lyon explained that Gateway JFK developed a Quality of Life tool to help our members report issues like flooding, downed telephone poles, abandoned vehicles, and illegal dumping. The tool is a webform that helps Gateway JFK track the problems in our community and improve response times from government agencies. Gateway JFK helps members of our community by navigating government relationships and spending our staff time to solve problems that they may not have time to deal with. The form can be found at gatewayjfk.org

The Gateway JFK will be holding it's first annual meeting on Thursday June 14th 2018 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce Building, 157-11 Rockaway Blvd. Jamaica to be attended by the interim Board of directors and stakeholders including property owners, commercial and residential tenants, community boards, public officials, and other community stakeholders.

The meeting is open to the public but you have to be a business owner, resident, or property owner who lives in or owns a business inside the district boundaries to vote.

There will be a dinner and discussion about our programing and plans for the future. At the meeting we will be electing our Board of Directors, approving our by-laws, and reviewing our Fiscal Year 2019 plans and budget. The meeting is open to the public.

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