

Brooklyn Community Board 4
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 6pm

Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho
District Manager: Celestina Leon

Meeting Start: 6:07pm

Celeste called the meeting to order welcoming everyone before asking Dr. Carleen Miller-Bailey to begin as Mr. Abril wasn't present.

Public Hearing:

2) **Dr. Carleen Miller-Bailey, Principal, Thomas Warren Field Elementary P.S. 299k** - providing an ongoing school construction update.

We are having a two year construction project that began in September and will last until June 2023. The school will have a new roof, the exterior masonry, the brick will be pointed and the parapets, the pieces that hang over the edge of the roof. Those will be renovated. There's no stair access to the scaffold to keep everyone safe. And there's only one access to the field from the school. So at this time, we only have the scaffolding up and we are waiting for a permit to actually start the job. So that's what's happening. In terms of construction at PS 299.

Celeste: Okay, are there any questions from the board or from the public regarding this update?

Hadiyah Harrison: Yes, I do. I have a question. Go ahead. It's not really about the construction persay. But I guess it ties into that. I live on Woodbine. And since I've been here, the way the school removes the trash in the way that habit is like lined up on the sidewalk, it causes a lot of litter. It's a lot of dumping. And it's an eyesore. It's a mess. And I'm wondering, with this construction, do y'all have any plans to resolve this issue? Because I've been here almost a decade now and I've never ever seen that problem mitigated by any of the administration at the school. They just dump the trash which causes others to come and see that as a dumping site. It looks horrible. That's a horrible thing for children to have to see when they're walking to school in the morning. Just piles and piles of garbage all over the place. It's disgusting and it's an eyesore.

Virgie Jones: This is Virgie Jones, Youth and Education Committee. (audio issue) But anyway, this was a problem that had been addressed before with the sanitation department. This was years ago and what we will do is follow up with them to see exactly what's going on unless Dr Bailey has another. Principal Miller-Bailey: No, not at this time because all schools have a

designated area to place the garbage. It's unfortunate that there are people who come and dump other things on top of the school garbage. However, yes, then we would have to coordinate with sanitation. But again, is that designated every event they provide for us?

Hadiyah Harrison: Yeah, I understand that but the school sets the standard. So if you guys weren't already you know, just grotesquely dumping the trash. I don't think the community would follow. So you know, it's the way you dump the trash that causes other people to see that this block is a dump site. But I hear what you're saying. Is there any other context I could have heard you saying that it's a sanitation issue, if I want to continue and I'm going to keep documenting and taking pictures and because they always say they result and they don't. So who would I be able to contact through sanitation as well as through the school?

Celeste: So we can certainly follow up. This is a board issue and I know we have other elected officials that can also flag this for sanitation. So I'm happy to provide you with the superintendent's office or with the community affairs contact if you need that. We will be working closely with you know Dr. Bailey Miller on this just to make sure everybody's on the same page but that is why the board has a district service cabinet to address interagency issues. So we will follow up on this and we'll coordinate a meeting with both sanitation and the school. As Ms. Jones stated this was addressed before but it looks like we need to revisit those conversations and see what else we can do to make sure this is better for the community. So thank you for bringing it to our attention.

Mr. Camacho: Yes, correct and also we have a committee, youth and education committee. I will send you information because some of these problems that are occurring, we are not in the meeting, we will not like to address so we would address them if we but we want to make sure we have the people that are responsible for doing it therefore they can answer questions because as of now we're having a full board meeting and any complaints or issues that they may have we have committees, please call the office, and we'll make sure we've put you in the committee so we can address this situation. Thank you. Virgie: Also we're having the committee meeting Monday at six o'clock. Celeste: Thank you. Alright, so if there are no other questions for Dr. Bailey Miller, or anyone else. Go ahead.

Virgie Jones: I did attend the meeting. The CEC meeting on January 6 with the School Construction Authority, and they did address 299 and the work that they are doing and the plans for the work and they also spoke about the elevator that they are having, but then and I think the elevator is going to be updated. So thank you again, Dr. Bailey for the update for the construction and the wonderful work that you all are doing. Principal Miller-Bailey: Thank you so much, Ms. Jones. Thank you everyone for being part of your meeting today.

Celeste: Absolutely. And I would just like to note that when I reached out to the school last month, we had a community concern come to the office within, it seemed like minutes, we got a response. We had information and we had, you know, the offer to attend this meeting. So we really appreciate you responding to the community's concerns so quickly. And of course being with us this evening. We know that this is a commitment. It's after hours, school finished a while ago. So

we absolutely value your time and you being here with us this evening and we'll certainly be following up soon.

Principal Miller-Bailey: Thank you so much. Have a good evening, everyone.

Celeste: All right. So I believe I was keeping track of the chat. I know we have folks joining us. There's a lot going on. But I think I saw our borough president here. So it is customary. I leave this up to the board Mr. Camacho. If you would like for him to speak to us, just give me one moment.

Borough President Antonio Reynoso

Thank you so much District Manager Celeste, and Chair Camacho. Thank you for having me. For Community Board 4, happy to see all your faces for the folks that are coming on camera because I miss you all and it's just good to see you all from Borough Hall. Who would have thought somebody from north Brooklyn would have to be here and represent the entire borough of Brooklyn coming from a neighborhood that I represented, like Bushwick. I just want to say that I'm very proud and grateful and so fortunate to be here. The first three weeks have been absolutely amazing. On the ground to be with you all, we have some things that we're looking to those boundaries. Your two council members in Sandy Nurse and Jennifer Gutierrez to see if we can make sure we're bringing resources to to you all I have to tell you, we're still going through this COVID Phase I know it's it's taking us a bit but we can't sleep on the amount of work that we need to do to protect ourselves and keep ourselves in a position where we're safe. And we're hoping I'm hoping to get out of this hole like everyone else is but we got to do it the right way. So I have some stuff that I'm going to be bringing to Community Board 4 soon. I can't say for sure right now what it is because I don't want to over commit and under deliver because Camacho is going to hold me on to say I tell them 100 masks I can't bring 99. So I'm working on something to come watch or make sure that we do right by you guys. Look, we all know that the borough president's office and the community boards are supposed to have a very strong relationship. We want to get a lot of things done and I have very high expectations of Community Board 4. I know better than anyone how effective and capable this community board is. So because of great talent comes great responsibility. So I hope you guys are ready because we're going to be doing a lot of work. I want to talk about opportunities for professional development as well. I want to make sure that we can look for classes and opportunities for learning more about land use, education and transportation and I'm hoping that you guys will be willing to be a part of that. I always told you and I tell everyone I was growing every single day of becoming a better council member as the days went on. I never stopped learning how to be a council member even on my last day. I always wanted to be better. And I hope that you don't see this as a slight in saying that you're not educated or you're not informed is actually an opportunity to just be stronger to learn a little more. So that when you do have to talk about issues and make decisions, that you're even better prepared, that agencies can come out here and pick the bigfoot you because you don't understand a topic or subject that you know just as much as they do, because we're giving you these opportunities. So I hope that this community board would be open to those really excited to be able to present that to you all. I know that. I'm going to ask a lot of you but I'm not going to do it without providing you the resources that you need to make that happen. I want to make sure Camacho and Celeste

have what they need to make sure that they're functioning appropriately. If there are resources that I can from my office that I can bring to the community where I'll make sure that I do that.

Just to end it, I guess more so than anything else is I want to do a comprehensive planning. Community Board 4 going through a significant year five and six years process going through a rezoning recommendation. Now by no means is the rezoning perfect, but it was an attempt at a community to try to control its own fate and determine what they wanted outcomes to speed. Right dogma was that's what we did. And now you know we look back at that study. It might already be out of date, because it took us six years and the mayor sat on it for another three. So I think we're gonna need to dust that off and have another conversation that is going to be led by the community board. Unlike before as a council member I really want it to have a diverse set of folks on being a part of it. I think as a borough president I want all my community boards to kind of lead in those types of works. So I'm building a comprehensive plan for all working on that is resembling what the community word for Community Plan was; it wasn't only about results. We talked about parts. We talked about streets and transportation. We talked about schools, talked about sanitation, and all those things matter. So we're going to ask every community what to do. I think you guys are on a small leg up there and are really looking forward to making you guys the centerpiece of the organizing around that work and not to leave it is just you guys with your family. You know, I talk too much in the days that it should be any different, still yelling at me and telling me to dig resources to Bushwick cuz you know, you can take Antonio out of Bushwick , but not the Bushwick out of Antonio and I like to say like, there's nothing we can do there. So I'm still the same kid that came in. I want to say, 14 years ago, as the Chief of Staff for Diana Reyna. I'm still the same person that's trying to help you. You know, I want to stay humble. I want to keep the love in my heart in the work that I do for Brooklyn. And I hope I can make you all proud and just want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak here. And it is not lost upon me that because of the support that I received from many people on this screen, is why I'm here why not? You guys helped lay the foundation for my run. And I can't tell you how grateful and appreciative I am to you all and I love you want and commercial you want me to answer a couple of questions. I'm more than happy to do that on my busy agenda. So maybe you want me to do that another time. No problem with you kicking me out now.

Mr. Camacho: Before we comment, before we start I just want to thank you. I have been in this community board for 34 years, little more than 34, 35 years. Marty Markowitz was the other borough president. And then Howard Golden and now Adams now we got an update on that man. You know, it's like, holy cow man who would and then it has to be from Williamsburg Bushwick. I gotta say for sure too. You know, I just can't sit, just go. I will make sure we will move you over here soon. I don't know how to do that. But I'm very proud of you and I'm happy and I know your parents might be oh man, it must be a joy that a young Latino person like you from Williamsburg. I noticed. And I'm just so proud of you and I, I hope we're here for you, man. Well, don't worry about time. We know times are gonna get hard. We've been there. So we know when we're going to help you. We're going to work with you and we want to make you shine because you can make you shine so we're gonna work together. And don't worry, you got 50 board members that got your back. Don't worry about it. We won't be together. You may get on a screen. But at the end of the day, we're going to hold our hands and we're going to go on then we're going to turn up and we're going to do the right thing by us. But I want to thank you and I'm so proud of you that I

have somebody to have to talk Spanish to before I can talk maybe they still want to say so now you know what I'm going to say if I say in Spanish, God bless you

BP: Just want to say it's not lost upon me that I'm the first time Latino or president of Brooklyn, amen. It does mean something for a lot of people in all of the city when I hope that in my time that I was there in the community before that everybody felt that they were a part of the team and that I gave, you know allow for like where I came from to define the work that I wanted to do. So again, I'm very proud very happy that I'm the first Latino but I hope that everybody thought that I represented all of Bushwick and every single person on you know, my Afro-Caribbean roots and recognizing that and even the folks I got here a couple of years ago is all love is the Brooklyn way. I just wanted to make sure that everybody thought that I was representing them. So thank you Camacho for that. It is an honor. And I'm really grateful I saw you know, our district leader Sammy Olivares gave me a shout out to thank you Sammy, for that. I really appreciate it and everybody says thank you. I can't I can't read them all, but I'm just so happy. I'm happy to be here. Oh, it's easy to be here. Go they go.

Barbara is still screaming at me for turkeys for Thanksgiving. Everything is still there. So I'm more than happy to do that. Thank you so much Barbara and I came from so a lot of people here know my story but you know an extremely poor family on welfare. Food Stamps, Section Eight, went to daycare centers that are for low income families. went to public schools. You know, I did it the hard way. But you know, some folks ask, you know, God for strength for you. It doesn't just anoint you, strength. He puts you in a situation that makes you stronger and I felt like that's what happened to me. I got put in a position where I constructed for myself and became stronger.

Jo-Ena: excuse me, excuse me for interrupting. We have a long agenda. I think a wonderful Borough President ought to answer a couple of questions. And I think Celeste if you want to entertain those who need to keep moving. Sorry, Mr. Borough President

BP: Let's keep it moving. I agree.

Celeste: So that was our parliamentarian speaking. So I see Josh and I see Malcolm has a hand raised. If you have any questions, please drop something in the chat or raise your hand board members.

Joshua Brown: Congratulations, Borough President. Where do you foresee the Bushwick rezoning plan going just in the next three years?

BP: Um, look, I think that rezoning kind of speaks to the principles that I hope that the city wants to move towards, right like where there's opportunities to grow in areas that have a strong transportation network, we should have that conversation. But there are people that have been here for a long time and Bushwick itself as a character is significant and culturally meaningful, we should respect that too. But I want to be honest, it's come down to this community board puts forth what folks don't want is a battle. You want to go to the places that are the low hanging fruit, a place of least resistance and if you feel that the rezoning is going to protect the long term, you know, the character of this community that we push it, and we don't think so. It won't happen. Nobody wants to get into a fight. And again, I want to be very careful folks of what the rezoning did on the rezoning side that we weren't going to get the 8000 units of housing with no affordability

hitting, if we do absolutely nothing. Right. I want to be very clear. All the mockery housing costs continue to go up and we've been. The rezoning was asking that we allow for that 8000 units to exist, but that we also attach it to 8000 units of affordable housing. So we control where those 1000 units are going to be built and mockery, and we contribute, and we get 1000 units of affordable housing. I was more or less the goal that we were trying to set forth. We control destiny, and now we weren't being NIMBYs right we're saying not my backyard and we're being obstructionist. So I hope that this mayor and the new DCP chair for both the city of New York and for Brooklyn, I am pretty sure they're going to get a new director, and it's not Winston who disrespected Bushwick in the work that he did there. I think that it's something that could happen but I do think we need to clean up the edges a bit, Josh, because it's been a while and some things have changed. So we need to look at it again. Make sure we have a couple more eyes on it. And then hopefully, you know, in a year or so we could represent it to the city and see how open they are to doing it but I actually think under Eric, we might have a chance to see.

Celeste: All right. So we have Malcolm and Felix and then I believe we'll have to move on. So this is your last chance to raise your hand if you have something.

Malcolm McDaniel: Yeah. I'm gonna be real quick. Reynoso, congratulation on the borough president's office. I was there and just went over with Eric. But I still think you're an amazing guy. But also you have to let them know that that wants to work president has now left that all the seats are now vacant again, unless you're going to reappoint these reappoint the same people again which you have to basically go on and let them know that there are you know, reappointment. Yes, there are free appointments so that you still keep that robust of people in your camp and also to make sure that if there are people that want to become committee board members, um that they can apply, you know, that's why I'm still here for you want to say

BP: Thank you for a lot of stuff but for the appointments by Friday that website should be up and running. And as Malcolm knows, we lost about 50 people. There were 60. We have literally 10 people here just learning how to turn on the lights at this point. The mayor has been helpful to us in the transition, but we have a lot of work to do. So unfortunately some things are going to be taking a little longer than usual. But our application and our processes start on Friday. And welcome. We are going to figure out a way through the charter to be able to extend through like an executive order of some sort. So everybody that's in the community boards is probably going to stay on the community board until we start doing more work, but yeah, the picture that we're pushing for is a little different. There's more questions that we're asking of you. We want to know more about you, your demographics, when they grow in the home. You know what church you go to, it's going to be a little more diverse because we want to get to know you better. So we're filling the community board up with a very diverse group of folks but we're on it, Malcolm, and you're right, no one fear that they're going to be kicked out of the board. We are paying attention to it. And when we move we're going to move quickly and we're going to do it right. And we won't, you won't have to be protesting and whether or not you know Mr. Clayton got kicked out of the board or something like that because we're not going to let that happen. So just know we're going to be paying attention if something does feel a little shaky and out of mind. Give me a call Celeste is on top of it. She knows how to reach our people. We're going to take care of Cp for you guys are going to be okay.

Celeste: Thank you. Alright, Felix. Samy, and then Jo-Ena and then we'll move on. Oh, you're muted Felix. Here we go.

Felix Ceballos: Good evening, everyone. I'm Felix Ceballos. Antonio, and congratulations. I am proud of you. Saying we have to be together in working together.

BP: Thank you so much, Felix and I agree 100%. I see you guys as family. So I will be leaning on you guys to set the example for the rest of these community boards on the work that we're going to be doing. So thank you for that funding and say you are welcome. Samy: Also, quick question. We're very proud of you. You were the chair of sanitation. What do you think now that there's a new mayor and a new city council? Why should we be advocating to do with the garbage and sanitation and all the budget that was caught by the previous administration? So why should we be fighting for any administration?

Samy: Some of this I mean, never misses an opportunity to advocate for Bushwick. Let me tell you, I can so much sign me for that. hour you a call. By the way I know it's something for you soon, but also on the other sanitation that she was a difficult issue. I was the chair and it was just very hard and difficult to handle. I think a lot of it is about education and marketing and just really changing culture. And I couldn't do that. I didn't have the resources to get that done. The cleaning that happens in our district happens almost exclusively by private and public sanitation. But the people themselves needed to take a lot more responsibility and I could never get to a place where there was some ownership there. And Bushwick is arguably one of the most, the areas that paid attention to sanitation issues more than any other place. We put up murals. We tried to campaign and it just wasn't enough. But from what I understand, I'm pretty sure the City Council is going to have another sanitation chair. And I will be in my role as borough president working alongside that person to make sure we bring resources to Bushwick. I told this to Camacho before you got another friend in Borough Hall, which means that the resources should exponentially increase in budget. So I will not want to be talking about it. I'm going to be making sure that I put my money where my mouth is and that we bring resources to bear on many issues. But sanitation is something I'm going to focus on Samy and make sure that if we need more cleaning service that we make. Well, and I'm meeting with the commissioner, Grayson, next week you see my staff is taken care of. So I'm actually meeting with the sanitation Commissioner next week and we'll follow up but by then the chair of sanitation would have been chosen and I'm hoping that the chair is somebody great, and I have a feeling in my heart that it's got to be somebody that can really take care of

Celeste: All right, thank you everyone. And then just two quick questions from the chat. So I know Virgie had asked about the Woodhull Black History celebration which you spearheaded during your time in the council. Will that continue? was the question.

BP: So we're working on it because of COVID. We're trying to see if it's something that can happen. It falls fast enough when we start seeing an opportunity to be able to do it. Woodhull is a high risk environment. So even at the lowest levels of COVID is not a place that we want to be bringing anybody that could be vulnerable. But there might be an opportunity to do it in Borough Hall on the black history celebration here but also, we're going to do a big thing here for Black

History Month. We're looking to make this like a mini museum. Bring in you know a more time this again museum quality work in Borough Hall celebration in Borough Hall so should we not be able to do it in world bikes COVID goes down significantly enough that we could open up our hall will do the work here. And I want to be honest, it might not happen. It might have to be virtual, and we might have to make it up some other day. But also I just want to be clear that I know it's black history month in February. It doesn't. It doesn't mean we can celebrate black culture and history in another one. And you know should we be able to do that now will be like just be open minded about that opportunity. Should COVID Go down. And maybe it happens in March April to me and I still invite you all to come on and we'll have some time celebrating, you know, black hostess culture, history and so forth.

Celeste: And the final question that I have in the chat was regarding the board member renewal applications. The question I believe was asking if they've already resubmitted it before the website went down for renovation, do they have to resubmit when it comes back up or has it been received?

BP: We might have to resubmit. We're gonna send out a notice very clearly to all the district managers. So let's be ready. And they might have to resubmit the application. Because we're asking for different things and the whole application might not work. But we're going to make sure this transition is as smooth as possible. We understand that we are the people that delayed it, or the people that are making a difference are having changes made. And because of that we're going to be very nimble and flexible as to how these things come in. And how people have reappointed you're gonna have to bear with us, but we're gonna get it right. When it's done. It's not going to take a long time. But again, if you're a day late, you're two days late, we're gonna figure out a way to make sure that so I just want you guys to feel comfortable. You will actually submit new information and I apologize, but it's going to be good long term. Thank you. Peace and blessings and don't forget to spread love working with you.

Celeste: Alright everyone. Excellent. So we'll move on now with our public hearing I believe. Next we have the Bushwick Starr. So I know Noel's here. Vanessa is here. I will double check. I know there was one more person joining us all right, Peter. Yes. .

3)The Bushwick Starr – providing an update on their ongoing programming and new location (419 Eldert Street) in Bushwick.

Noel Allain: Thank you so much, Celeste. Hello, everyone. Thanks for having us here today. I'm gonna read from a bunch of remarks because there'd be a lot of points to what to hit and I want to move forward in a economic way so that Vanessa and Peter have have their time to speak as well. So I'll jump in. I'm no vain. I'm the co-founder and artistic director of the Bushwick Starr theater. For anyone who's not familiar with us. I'll give you a brief summary of who we are and what we do. We're a nonprofit performance space. That's been operating in Bushwick since 2006. We produce new works by performing artists in many different disciplines, theater, dance, music, performance art, an artist to make interdisciplinary work. We also run and support a number of arts programs. And partnerships with local organizations and public schools, including our after school eco playwriting program, big green theater, creating performance with a one day shake on the block with oil group and senior storytelling. roundtable senior center that's run with Caitlin

Ryan O'Connell and Richard Rachel Cotter nail. So in June of 2020, during the pandemic, we got word from our landlords to a seven star street that our spaces and that building would be becoming residential as part of their loft block conversion, which obviously ended our ability to operate our theater there. We moved out that August and started a search for a new home in Bushwick while also searching in Ridgewood and East Williamsburg because of our relationship with the area is important that wherever we found a home it would be close by. We were looking at all three areas. But I am happy to say we found a place for an 18 Eldred Street and it is in Bushwick although just held on by our fingernails. It's right across the street from Ridgewood. But we do still have a Bushwick address. So when we were searching, we thought we were looking to lease. We figured that's what we were going to be able to afford but we were very, very lucky to find this 5000 square foot one storey building that was for sale. And with the help of our biggest donor and supporter and nonprofit lending organizations seeking capital, we are actually able to purchase this building and therefore really secure the future of our organization as arts based in question mark. So we are now currently in the design process leading up to filing for construction, while we also conduct a capital campaign to pay for the renovation. And we have received city funding which has been incredibly helpful. But as I'm sure you are aware, it's also its own process. So in terms of our timeline, we anticipate opening the new space in early spring of 2023. So this new building, which you want to talk about today is going to help us achieve a number of goals that we weren't able to attain until a seven star street we will have more room in the building so we'll be able to serve our artists and our audiences better than before but the most exciting aspect of the new space is that we will have a substantial lobby space that we didn't have that job seven star street. There we were on the second floor of a mixed use building and it was very hard for people to access the space unless they were coming to see a show or they had a pre-arranged meeting with us. But now we'll be on the street level with a large store front lobby that will not only help us welcome our audiences before our shows but will also be open to the public during the day. So a welcome open space for gathering that provides tables and chairs, bathrooms, water coffee, free Wi Fi and then also we intend to use it for more in addition to just being open space used to host additional events there hold additional classes, host speaking engagements. Display artwork. There are a lot of ideas spinning around about how we can use this additional space and how it will help expand our ability to welcome people into the building. So to talk a little bit more about some of our programs and some of our ideas about how we're going to use this space. I'm gonna turn it over to Vanessa.

Vanessa Pereda: Hi everyone, thank you so much for allowing us to speak tonight. I'm Vanessa Pereda. I'm the education and community director at the Bushwick Starr and I'm so excited and proud to oversee several of our programs that I have previously mentioned. Everything from the big green theater which engages our third and fourth grade. More elementary school students shake on the block which is our Shakespeare adoption. That's Middle School. And then we have a long standing collaboration when we do a creating performance class which works with a summer youth engagement program during the summer or employment program during the summer. And then the winter. We open it up to general one day wash week members where we create performance in general. It's a class that's really molded and tailored to fit the needs and curiosities of our students in our youth. And as Noah said, we're really excited because in our new

space, we're really close to a lot of our neighboring schools. And as we've been sitting down to think about our presence, not only as a theatrical institution, but as a space that wants to authentically reach and have impact in a positive way with our community. I can't help but envision having after school programs flooding into our space. As Neil said, we have every intention of opening up the space to provide Wi Fi access to materials like printing so that students and our youth can have somewhere that can be safe, reliable, hopefully that families will know about it. And again, community driven workshops that not only are educationally based in art, but are also just open and fun. So things were thinking about having movie nights, community movie nights, open mics for our youth, maybe block parties. We are currently going to be starting in February in which we'll be announcing the next community board as well but we're having a free community workshop with one of our artists who has engaged this past summer with a when there are students and that was coming back. Her name is Michelle or meetcha J Rodriguez. And she's going to be presenting her thoughts and strategies on the processes of songwriting and creative life and collaborations on new musicals. So by having this space, we really hope that we can surely open it up to be really rooted in our community. Obviously I have a massive emphasis in our youth in our education, but we later will give you all the information we want to hear from you want to hear our needs of our youth, our families, what what we can provide in our space, we as adults that we have a responsibility to give back to Bushwick. We have the privilege to own a building, so therefore we have a responsibility to support our community. So we are so excited to be able to engage with all of you to hear your ideas on how we can use our space, how we can use our programming to keep fortifying our youth and keep bordered by our strong strong knit community. So we're very excited and we are authentically searching for your feedback and input. So I'll speak a little bit more at the end of some contact information. But just wanted to keep you all updated about our offerings and the way that we're brainstorming and approaching our work here in Bushwick. I'm going to hand it back over to Noel. Thank you so much.

Noel: Thanks Vanessa. We are very excited about this location on Eldert Street. It's right by the Halsey train. It's on the manufacturing block that's a dead end street. We've already formed really great relationships with our neighbors there on the block. I am very excited for this new home will allow us to become even more of a community art center and this is just saying. I also want to before I introduce Peter to kind of talk about the physical structure a little bit more. I want to say that during this period of time where we do not have a functioning theater to work out of, we are continuing to run all our programs to their partners in our school in the schools that we work with, as well as producing our shows, but with producing partners. So this season we have two shows scheduled that are coming up, one is called a Song of Songs by Agnes Turetsky that will be presented in March in partnership with Quinta, their main headquarters at 211 South Fourth Street and represents kind of a new level of collaboration between our two organizations. That's really exciting. And then in June a show called QUINCE by a company called one whale's tail, will be in Bushwick at a location it's still to be determined. We're working on that. Figuring out what kind of space we're going to be able to find for that, but that will be later in the summer. And of course we'll be talking about those shows as they approach in the coming months. But to tell everyone a little bit more about the space itself and building I'm now going to hand it over to Peter Justin, the architect to make a brief design presentation. Hi, everyone, I just want to thank the community board for inviting us to speak. I will try to be brief and walk you guys through a couple of the main

points as well as hopefully share my screen so I can show you some images here. Give me just a second. Hopefully, everyone can see my screen okay, so I'm Peter zussman. I run Euro V architecture where we work around architecture and design practice in Brooklyn. We focus a lot on performance and the arts as well as some multifamily and other types of projects. So to walk you through quickly, one of the interesting parts about working in New York City is we always have to deal with old buildings. So this is an early rendering of the building which was built in the 1930s originally as a milk truck depot to deliver milk around the neighborhood. So it has an interesting community history. And I just want to kind of walk to walk you guys through some of the main features of it. We are, as you can see, there's sort of four to five pieces in the building, one of which is the back of house space, the offices the shot the woodshop, the theater itself, the studio, which was also similar to kind of rehearsal space and all of this is stuff that the push star had in the previous now the two things that we're really adding are the marquee and a lobby space and the kind of marquee ideas really like instituting really showing us that we have the street presence and one of our big hopes is that the street will be a huge part of this project. Another thing that is really fantastic about this process is that the Bush upstart has never had a lobby as they mentioned. And in that sense, we have both in this process of design, learn what are ways you can use this lobby as an institution, but also as a community. So as a big part of the design process. We've already had a number of meetings with community members in Bushwick, including with our quente with a really fantastic meeting at still in Magnolia just down the street from the Bushwick Starr as well as with a subgroup of the community board here to really think through what are ways that this lobby space can be used for the community as much as it is used for the Bushwick. Star, if there's anything that I think the institutions in New York City have really seen, especially after the protest of 2020 in the Black Lives Matter movement and the open your lobbies campaign. There are these empty institutional spaces that should be used by the community that were just blocked and closed. And I think that is a one thing that we've really trying to not have the the lobbying use for this is not a space for waiting. This is a space for action is a space for activity. This is a space that we want to hand over to the community of Bushwick as much as we ourselves want it to be a part of the Bushwick Starr and its identity. So to quickly walk you through a little bit of these images, this is a floor plan just to kind of orient you Eldred streets over here on the right hand side, you'll walk into our main lobby space. Just below there's the studio rehearsal space, backup houses over on your left and the black box. Theater in the center of the building.

The theater space itself shows you a little section just showing it as an intimate space. We're really keeping that intentionally. I think that's a big part of the Bushwick Starr's identity to really foster and bring in smaller and more experimental things and allow them to grow and incubate in this type of a small space. One of the things that I want to show you guys now are some of the plans that we have for the lobby in the studio in the street that came out of some of these discussions with the community. And one thing we also I would say, As Vanessa mentioned, this is also an invitation for the community to contact us and let us know how they might want to use this space because we're very excited about being able to open this up. So to walk you through this might be for instance, a typical daytime plan where you know, it's an extra day we can actually have some tables on the outside. Just tables and seating that's open, kind of first come first serve, sit down, after school, have a glass of water, maybe a coffee. So do your homework. This is the kind of idea that you want the space to use during that time and sort of image of what that might

look like on a nice fall day. On a unique time, you might have more central seating as a sort of more standard lobby as people sort of mingle and discuss before an event. An idea of what that might look like. Another thing we're super excited about is this lobby itself can be used as an event space. So again, this is not a space for waiting. This is where we can have people from the community come in, give talks about whatever they want to talk about. This is a platform that we are going to be one of the things just a quick aside, we worked on a number of projects and one of them we did a master plan for a public library branch. And one thing we learned very quickly there is that the lobby space was used more than the performance space itself. So that is one thing that we've really leaned into this project and think about how we can make sure that we both give this space as a performance area and a place for discussions and meetings as much as possible. Another really nice part about this is the studio space, which is just next to the lobby where we're putting in a large garage door so we can actually open that up and make a larger community event space. In the front of the space Hall is one piece. So here the idea of maybe a local film screening or other type of artist talk or you know political theater wanting to give a discussion here. This is the space that we're trying to hope to have this lobby in the studio really become for the community. Another big thing that came out in some of our discussions with the idea, but actually having this an open marketplace on an afternoon in the weekends, where everything's open up. We have boots outside this could be for potentially food purveyors. It could also be something where we organize a kind of community where we ask a lot of local stores and artisans and craftsmen to come in and show their wares and sell them and really have again, this space to be used constantly for whatever we can think of and whatever you guys can think of. So that's basically the extent of it. The other thing that is also mentioned is we're on a dead end street and they already use that too. Since we don't have traffic, we don't have buses that we have to worry about. We don't have public transportation that we need to dodge and organize around. We can get permits posted all the time to do festivals or outdoor events that really allow us to sort of spill out even further into the community. So I will now give this back to No thank you so much, Peter. Really, that was the end of our presentation for today. We really wanted to turn it back over to the board and see what you know about people's questions, comments, anything else.

Barbara Jackson: Um, I just want to know what you saw just to come around and Rachel and her crew and then we did a virtually for two for a couple of months. Are they gonna come back because they came back in June and I don't know what happened. But it was brand new. We did a lot of work and then this

Noel: Oh, sorry that they will be coming back. We just had a meeting recently because we got confirmation for the su casa grant that supports that program that we are receiving so that's great. And I think that the question of whether we'll be able to hold class in person or virtually obviously will be something we're working out as, as the situation with the virus continues to, you know, either improve or not, but that's definitely kind of worked out between the teachers and roundtable. But we will be working with Roundtable this spring into the two classes we did virtual Yeah.

Barbara: Okay, all right.

Virgie Jones: Okay, good afternoon. I'm Virgie Jones, the youth and education chairperson and thank you for that wonderful presentation. We're excited that you're here in Bushwick and we're

excited for the building that you're in. I think it's going to do a whole lot for our schools, or a neighborhood. I just wanted to know by chance are you working with any of these schools in district 32?

Noel: The schools we've been working with a bit because we know the school programs are supported through costs and grants through the council members. I don't think Reynoso is here anymore, but I thank him for all the years of support his office has given us and now Jennifer Gutierrez there. So in district 34 and in 37. Yes. Yeah, PS 75. We've been there for, this will be our second here. And this is yeah. So only 75 is the only one that you're working with right now. Now I'll let Vanessa talk about it because she's currently working with PSG 39 Ridgewood is 77 and Ridgewood ps1 are six PS 75. PS 18 is a newer edition which is kind of on a borderline. I think they're more like district 30 anyway. And we've worked currently or in the past with PS 236. There's a laundry list we've tried to really keep establishing at least one school for several years and then rotate but again, it's depending on our council people and where our assignments go. There are grants.

Virgie: Are you working with any of the middle schools in district 32? Noel: Yeah, not in 32. We've been trying to find a sweet spot with Responsive Programming to what middle schools are currently needing right now. So shake on the block is our only middle school program and that's just IS 77. We're hoping to expand if we get more funding and we do recognize that middle school currently does need a lot of attention and help. So it's definitely on the radar. That's a great question.

Virgie: We will be reaching out to thank you.

Mr. Camacho: Right and no, we want to thank you because you have been a member in our family. And we're glad that you're here. We hope that we can push. You heard our borough president say and I get more of our schools in district 32. We work a lot with the superintendents. Maybe we can link together our superintendents with Virgie Jones, our chair of youth and education, and maybe we can make something happen for our youth and we could use the spot that you have for us and for our community. And, you know, I know there's always a bill for something everybody, everything you know the lights can be paid. I tell my kids all the time I go up and down with the truth to say that it's not free. So I understand, we really need to make sure that our people that are giving back to push for can you buy something in books you can I'm so happy for you. We're going to give you all prayers and blessings when everything is going to work out once we stay here. Then worry about what is going to make sure you shine and we want to thank you for working with us. Thank you. So wonderful.

Unknown: I have a question. When do we and anticipate everything opening and running

Noel: We want to knock on all the wood around me right now but we, you know, would really love to be open. Just kind of started our first rehearsal processing bay but started welcoming people into the building in late February of 23 that our educational programming is currently going on. It's it's we've remained virtual right now. Big Green theater is heading to start up and the beginning of February FPS 106 and 75. So as far as our educational programming, it's still running we've just gone to virtual so we can't wait to get back in person but we're still going

Malcolm McDaniel: Yeah, I just have one more question real big. Due to the space, you said that it's never dead. That they're dead. And so basically you expect them to have big events. I noticed that there's only one small bathroom there. Are they going to be 24 hours? I mean, they can be full time janitors or you because I could see that becoming like a big thing. And then we COVID on COVID happen and stuff like that people like restaurants. We came back from COVID and a lot of restaurants you go to are still dirty, which means that people will still be getting sick because they're thinking about the money and not about the presidents that go to keep it plain. So I'm just saying that I hope that you're planning to maybe, you know, improvise to make sure that there's enough sanitation going on as far as when the events get larger.

Noel: Yeah, well, there'll be a few bathrooms up front, I think if you have four, yeah, we have four gender inclusive restrooms, and one of them's also ADA accessible. And then in terms of, you know, to your point, we're moving into a bigger space we're owning a building for the first time and responsible for it. So you know, it's not lost on us the additional responsibility that comes along with that, so we are as part of our capital campaign. Part of that is more staff to help us take care of the building to help us make sure it's maintained. Facilities Management, all of that so I mean, I guess Yeah, the short answer is, yes, we are planning to do that and I'm sure we'll learn a lot once we really start to do it, you know, in real time.

That's one is that's me.

And we're gonna get back to the architect because I'm in design meaning you can add things, design, it can help with that. Malcolm: The COVID protocols, we do that in housing. So have you thought about adding that to the design to make sure that the building has those precautions?

Noel: I mean, a couple things related to that. We definitely will have a very modern mechanical system. One thing about a theater is that you have to build them against a system that is much more overbuilt than what would be typical in a housing or an office space. So we can actually turn over air much faster. We have a whole system that unlike a lot of spaces actually draws in pressure all the time to be able to bring in that fresh air and be able to have the air circulate. So many things like that are already part of the project for sure. And also according to you know, even the way building code is we have to have ventilation every single bathroom stall. One of the things we're doing in this space is rather than having bathroom partitions, you know that you see in a more traditional format. If you go into a gendered restroom, we actually have separate rooms, and each one has their own kind of HVAC system, so we'll be able to draw air out of this quickly. So that's part of it, as well as gender related privacy. Because this is the way that we're doing this now so everyone can use any restaurant. So those are some of the questions that we're making. That helps. I think the real focus on a lot of the COVID restricts or COVID safety related to this is a robust HVAC system.

Celeste: Okay. All right. So thank you. Yeah, thank you to the Bushwick Starr and thank you everyone for your questions. This is really exciting, and we look forward to hearing us as things move along.

Mr. Camacho: That's right. No, don't worry about it. We'll make it happen.

Malcolm: I'm sure y'all know the reason I'm saying this because once people know that it's open space. These bathrooms are open. People are gonna come and use them regardless. Somebody's got the train. They can use the bathroom, they can come up, they used to bounce,

they're going to be in the back. That's what I'm saying that they need to be maintained. That's all because it's an open space. So for the public, it's beautiful, it's like it's gonna be a fantastic space, but at the same time, there's gonna be that pull on that bathroom. Sure.

Celeste: Thank you. Alright, so thank you folks for joining us and we're going to move along. Before we wrap up our public hearing. I do have a special announcement. Our Council Member, Council Member Gutierrez, has joined us this evening. Are you still there?

Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 34th District:

Hi, everyone. Good evening, thank you. I miss all of you so much. Um, I'm sorry, I couldn't attend last month's meeting. Some of you may or may not know I delivered my baby at the end of November. So I'm a first time mom. So I'm taking all unsolicited congratulations. Thank you.

And we have worked together before and are committed to continuing to work together. I'm really excited to hit the ground running. I'm still building out my staff. But our district office is still in Williamsburg as some of you know, I also represent Williamsburg Ridgewood in Queens. And so that location is at 244 Union Avenue. I can put that information in the chat. And lastly, I would love to talk to anybody if anyone has questions about Bushwick Starr like Noel mentioned Antonio did support them in the district. I'm more than happy and enthusiastic to continue supporting the partnership or Bushwick schools or school district 32 schools. And I'm here I'm sorry, this is a little brief, I think on the City Hall front. Tomorrow we'll get a little bit more clarity on some of our committee assignments. But you will know I'm committed to this trash situation. And by the way, whoever the chair is, I will work with them and we will move without it on so many of our pertinent issues. And thank you so much for this opportunity to speak. And I'll be here. I'll just probably put myself on mute. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho: We want to thank you, we love you. We miss you and a beautiful baby and I went to see before or anybody else. All right, so again, then I got to see the baby and now because I bought a nice little teddy bear the first Christmas bear suit. But I want to show I want to thank you we're gonna work with you and make sure that you shine just as much as we do, and we want to thank you. God bless. Thank you.

CM Gutierrez: We were very undecided. And when she was born, he was like she looked like a Hazel and that was that was it? I'm sorry. It's interesting to see our parents, both my husband's parents tried to pronounce it. I think but yeah, she's pretty. She's almost two months old. I can't wait for y'all to meet her. I'm going to be bringing her out. But yeah, I feel that she's in the most awesome hands as soon as we brought her like folks from the neighborhood. We're so excited to see her because I felt like I was pregnant for 100 years. I think people thought I was pregnant for 100 years so they were excited to see our baby. So I don't know. Contact me. Yes, thank you.

Celeste: Thank you, Council Member. We're so happy that you could join us this evening. And I believe as Mr. Camacho mentioned, we also have our other Council Member. We have everyone tonight and my apologies for missing you. I'm over here texting on like three different phones and

checking the chat and making sure everyone's a panelist. I didn't even realize Council Member Nurse is also with us this evening. And we were texting.

Council Member Sandy Nurse, 37th District:

No sweat. Hi Jen. To see you. It was good to see the borough president. He's got a really nice office now. I got the tour so good for him and how often for us that we don't get an ally and a friend's been a great partner in Borough Hall to support this community. We just wanted to update you on our office. So just so you know, we don't have a physical office at the moment. There was a fire in the previous members office the last week of December and so there's a lot of work being done. So we're trying to expedite the process, but we do have our email and our line we have we're fully staffed. So we are responding to the voicemails but we don't actually have the physical office phones so we respond to the voicemails and the emails. Just a couple quick things because I know it's been a lot of speeches and touch touching base from members but we are looking to continue to expand mobile COVID testing sites. So if you know of a location or organization looking for support on that, let us know. You know as long as they have a place to park a van. That's for free. They're they're open to it. We are meeting with every school in the district this month as much as possible. So we've been reaching out and we've done a bunch of needs like for schools today. We're also doing outreach on discretionary funding. The applications are open. They closed on the 22nd of February. Reach out to us, they'll have some trainings coming on. I know Jen, myself and I are working with other Brooklyn council members to get a handful of trainings up and running so that folks who've never done an application or need support can get that figured out. And then we're also supporting homeowner assistance, relief and emergency rental assistance. Programming. So if you need help filling out that application, please reach out to us. And then two other quick things. We're going to have a virtual town hall on February 8, we'll send that out tomorrow, where you can be our full team. We will share our legislative priorities and it'll be an opportunity for you all to raise concerns. We have requested that someone from sanitation come to give an update as an additional opportunity to hear from them. Based on the work that was pulled together the sanitation town hall that happened. I can't remember if it was this year, the end of last year time is a time warp. But there was excellent work done by the city before as well as other community advocates. So we want to continue to have the opportunity for sanitation to be engaged with and then some things to really put on your radar. And this is something that the CB four really looking forward to working with you on there was a pre application put in by a developer who developed Broadway Junction. The private property that surrounds Broadway Junction is now all kind of working together with a developer and so we're looking at a march 22 date for town hall. We invite all anybody who has a stake in this. So all of the three community boards 16 five and four in the area to come. Let's get reminded about what the plan the developers are proposing. We will have someone there to talk about the study they did and then it is a completely open forum for community members to express concerns and we should figure out how to get organized early on this. So we're not at the end of the last minute trying to advocate for our community. And then just a few other things. Yeah, we'll send all of this stuff as soon as we get it online tomorrow. We'll be co hosting some rat prevention trainings. I don't know if anyone has done the Rat Academy. I have done it. It is worth it. It is three hours of talking about trashing rats, and how we all can support keeping our rats out of our homes and our trash areas. Yes, as Jen said, we'll be looking forward to our committee announcements

tomorrow. And hopefully, whoever's on that committee will work really hard together to support this entire district, not just Bushwick, and really deal with the trash sanitation and pest problems that have really been hitting us hard. So will we put the information about how to contact us in the chat, please reach out. We'd love to hear from you all and thank you for everything you've been doing this last year during COVID and everything you're doing right now to support our broader community.

Desmonde Monroe: Yeah, so I know that when we were talking about the plan that we were there Broadway Junction was the hot topic and one of the things that made me want it was sort of an educational program or a satellite link to one of the colleges or trade schools. I know that you're having the time off and developer, but is there. Can you give us a brief preview of what they're proposing? Are they just talking about housing? Are they talking about bringing in other services that the community needs? Kind of give us a little bit about that?

CM Nurse: Yeah, they have a slide deck that they had presented a couple of years ago, when certain advocates on the other side of the district and Cypress Hills East New York had kind of pulled out of the community conversations around it in the project, essentially, stop when I did meet with the developer to just walk about with a member of the East New York bid, and two other community partners on that side to just do a walkthrough to get a sense of all of the property that's going to be redeveloped and what they were proposing and they did mention several times that community education facility or some kind of university was something that they were interested in. They repeated multiple times they were looking at the Metro Tech model transportation hub education space as something they were looking at. And as I said, you know, the community advocates from the East New York and Cypress Hill side had pulled out of it, they felt like their concerns weren't being heard. So this is an opportunity to get reacquainted with that project and get clear on what our community priorities are. Because we cannot have this develop. Without it being on our terms. There's a lot of housing around that area. This you know, this is going to drastically impact all of the 37 Jen's district south of us. This is going to be a very big deal. It was a study done by the current mayor who was then borough president, Eric Adams. We have former council members support this and invest in a study on it. So there is quite a bit of support from the new administration around this. So we just need to get organized and reacquainted with this project. So we can start to develop our demands around how we want this to look.

Mr. Camacho: Thank you, we congratulate you. We're here for you. We're here to work with you and make sure that we should get their fair share and whatever we can do here for you. So I just want to thank you and say we're happy for you and I know we got you, you're gonna make us proud.

CM Nurse: We're definitely looking forward to working with all of you.

Celeste: Thank you. This is a very exciting time for Bushwick. So we do have one more public hearing item. Thank you to both of our council members for joining us. Oh, and I see you thank you, Carlos for dropping that in the chat. So without further ado, I know Mr. Abril from Bushwick Car Service is with us. Thank you for joining us. Y si necesita traduccion en Espanol nosotros podemos también.

So for those that don't speak Spanish, I was just letting him know if he prefers to speak in Spanish. We do have individuals that can translate if he prefers and before we get started with this particular item, I will just say that this went through the committee. The committee has made a recommendation. We'll hear a little bit more about that in reports. I will also add that we forward all of these requests to the 83rd precinct prior to them coming to committee. There was no objection. So there were no issues. But this is really for Mr. Abril to introduce himself to the community. If there are any questions about Bushwick Car Service or any concerns that folks would like to speak on. Now is the time.

1) **Pedro Abril, President, Bushwick Car Service** - requesting a letter of 'No Objection' from CB4 for a Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) license renewal.

Mr. Abril introduced himself and shared information about Bushwick Car Service in Spanish.

Celeste: Yeah, well, please excuse me if I miss any parts of this. But the summary of what was just said in Spanish was, you know, he introduced himself, the company, they've been in the community for many years. They had to come to the board for a letter for the Taxi Limousine Commission for requesting a renewal for their license. This is something that they have to do every so often. And so he's just asking for support from the community in order for them to continue to stay in business because it's very difficult to be in business now. With all the changes so if I left out anything, please forgive me. And if there are other board members that can add please feel free. I see Mr. Ceballos.

Felix Ceballos: Yes. What I want to say is, I've known the company car service for a long time ago, I never hear about some negative situation in you know, I'm too close to the car service. I wanted to say that because I knew them for a long time. Celeste: Anyone else questions comments?

Felix: I just told him that he very much that they really needed in this community because as you know the cab service is essential and they go out there and they also put this house on on the spot so we want to make sure that we we take care of them and we show that they do the right thing. Thank you.

Business location: 184 Knickerbocker

Jose: Good evening, everybody. I think the car service for most, almost four years, and they were one of the first ones that was created in the community. And I cannot say how grateful I am for the service that you provide to this community. And I'm so happy to know that you're still alive, especially in this day and age with an over so I'm so happy and grateful for the support. Thank you for all the help that you provide to this community. Thank you.

Jose was asked to provide the Spanish translation.

Selina Lebron: Good evening, everyone. Thank you so much. This has been a great meeting and I just wanted to say maybe Sr. Abril shared his phone number for those who were saying that they didn't even know that he didn't know about his car service. But maybe you can share the

phone number so that you know we can continue to keep him in business and share that information in the chat, please.

Celeste: So we're going to close up this portion of the meeting now. Okay. So I just said that if he, you know, needs to go he can absolutely go. If you'd like to wait, we're going to be voting. The board will vote later on in the meeting. That now officially concludes our public hearing and all of our guest speakers I believe so we'll get right into our regular monthly meeting. Thank you everyone for participating. This was really, really great.

1) First Roll Call

Celeste: We will move on now starting with our first agenda item, which is acceptance of the agenda is there or excuse me, I'm going to do our first roll call. We have to make sure we have a quorum forgive me. I know I skipped it. Give me one second.

Board Members in attendance: Jo-Ena Bennett, Joshua Brown, Martha Brown, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Gardea Caphart, Felix Ceballos, Andrew Choi, Daniella Davi, Elvena Davis, Anne Guiney, Jose Guzman, Jared Hicks, Tanesha Honeygan, Barbara Jackson, Kristen Jock, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Andy Marte, Imini Mitchell, Desmonde Monroe, Samy Nemir Olivares, Kyle O'Rourke, Raul Rubio, Barbara Smith Dustin Sonneborn, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams, Frank Zimmerman

Excused: Melissa Carrera, James Fitzgerald, Gladys Puglla, Annette Spellen

Absent: Marcus Alston, Rev. Grace Aytes, Louisa Chan, Carlos Feliciano, Egaudy Gomez, Zulma Novoa, Acire Polight, Vernedeaner Shell, Leo Tineo, Odolph Wright

Thank you. Okay, perfect. Let me yeah. Thank you. 33 board members present. That constitutes quorum.

2) Acceptance of the Agenda as Presented

Celeste: We'll move on now to our second agenda item which is acceptance of the agenda as presented. Is there a motion from the board?

Barbara Jackson made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Elvena Davis. All were in favor, so moved.

3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Andrew Choi made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Camacho. All were in favor, so moved.

4) Chairperson's Report

Thank you all for coming. I would just like everyone to take a moment of silence for those people that have passed away. In the fire and everything that's going on in this world today. And maybe I mean, if you don't pray, put your head down or whatever it is that you do, because it's been a

rough year. And I just see we had it. It's terrible. We have to make sure that we close the doors in fires. I spoke to him when we had our office meetings that we met with the agency to fight disease and we have to make sure that if people are not getting heat in our community, please call 311 They call the board's office to make sure the space heaters are far away. If you're going to use it X amount of square footage away because the curtain catches on fire. So Elvena, maybe if you can give us a little prayer. All of us are more than satisfied. Thank you.

Elvena Davis: Yes, let's have a moment of silence as we contemplate those who lost during the fire and during the year so far. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho: Thank you for December 20 Monday, I was at CB four e PTCS. December 21. Tuesday 11am to push a community partner meeting on the same day, December 21. Tuesday 6pm the housing land use committee meeting on December 28. Thursday 2pm. The faith community partners zoom as the GIL Morrows January 5 2020 to Wednesday, October the eighth through precinct. I will try to increase it. We have 15 new recruits. I just want to give you a little brief on these recruits. Some of them were correctional officers. One of them worked for ACS, one of them worked in the hospital. One of them worked in the hospital for emotionally disturbed or mentally ill people. So we have a broad range of people in the community that we know that the captain can use if they have situations with an EDP motion disturbed person or if they're having problems with our youth. We have someone that worked for ACS so these are the people that are officers now in eight three, it is kind of crazy that when I went to to the minute I had to do it myself to them, and a lot of the other members of the board introduced themselves that it was shocking that we had people you know that that are working with how you will amend to M with people in a in a system that can if they need they don't have to pull the guns out they can also talk to you know, especially what's going on now. So I was glad to see that the high people services that we really need, especially offices now this family, on January 6 Thursday 4pm. I was in the RS coalition which is the ratio of impact study that was passed. So now they're trying to do all the logistics in regards to the ratio index starting now when they develop. We don't know if they're going to add so I went down to the meeting on January 6 Thursday at five sanitation working group on January 6 at 6pm. The CEC zone, which is the Community Education Council, January 6 Thursday at 6pm. October will not inspect the man scout with NCO on January 2 Friday at 10 met with the red we had a couple of complaints. Thanks to Iris Cruz manager she's been taking care of some of the complaints there and also spoke to Dylan who is one of the owners and hopefully we're getting stuff done. We got some more complaints today. So they're gonna take care of it. Hopefully we have a good thing with them. They are working on the rest we're going to have on my ticket in February we're not too sure. We're gonna invite the main maybe you guys can answer if anybody has any additional complaints and regards Brad is the whole garden which is the new people that had is no longer nights it's automatically put in January 11 at 5pm arts and culture group, January 11 essay day, two days before 6pm committee chairpersons meeting we met with all the chairpersons we indicated you know what's going on in regards to recommendations we can show that they quorums so we had a good meeting with them on January lemon on Tuesday at the same time, I had testified for the assists and desist hearing. The cease and desist hearing was what they wanted to make it law where they keep

sending those papers to your house and if your house sells and they keep putting all those papers in the mail. They want to make sure a lot of real estate and a lot of people are fighting for that.

They have a clergy meeting, which I go around and see the full board meeting and that's the end of my report. Wait, I have some other stuff and Celeste sent a note somewhere. Okay. Application renewals for the board members. Okay, that's right. You go see I got three. Don't forget to put in your application, the board members that's supposed to put in. I think it is the beginning of February. Sometimes they're worried so you gotta put it in started now. Also, we had an audit of the board. We did pretty good. We got cited for no public hearing. When we did have a public hearing. We always have public hearings. We were one of the first boards to do the zoom. It was from 2019 to 2020. We got cited for no cable casting, which we did have a no live stream which we didn't know we had to pay 10 grand or 15 grand and they would have given us the money we would have done the live stream YouTube page. If and then I put him CMS gave it to me parentheses compared to how much staff money other people get. You know, maybe we will. We really would have done more but we did what we had. If anybody wants a copy of it. So you can call the Board Office unless we give you a copy. We also sent a letter of rebuttal and we sent copies of what they cited us for that. We obviously know city agencies don't want to work. They just want to just take the paper. One doesn't want to go the extra mile and look at the pages that we set but we did send them that and we said the morning information that it's on there. So we I don't know waiting to hear back no know what's going on in regards to that. But so let's have a listen. And that I think that is it. Right?

Celeste: Yes. And just to elaborate this was for all of the city. All community boards. It wasn't just Brooklyn. It wasn't just our board. But all of the community boards were audited regarding their public meetings throughout the pandemic because there were concerns that some boards were potentially not holding meetings or they weren't consistently holding meetings. And as per the city charter, all boards are required with very specific criteria to host both public hearings and regular monthly meetings. So there were a series of questions that we had to go through. But we can absolutely make that information available. There were some things that we do have to improve on. So we will be working on that and all of our responses will be recorded in the form of a report that the comptroller's office will be putting out. Also I just wanted to note the office is open.

Mr. Camacho: We had we because I know that a lot of calls from a lot of people that the office is open. What happened was one one had gotten sick. So everybody had to go back to Zoom. They got on Zoom and then now people got tested. So now we're back in the office. Everyone's back in the office. So if we get anything like that we already know he gave us the guidelines and what we have to do. So if anybody has any problems and concerns please give me a call. Any board member or anyone will make sure that everybody I know has five people call me in regards to the telephone that went into voicemail. They were trying to log on to the voice in the computer. So everything came on and I called back and everything was done. The call centers must have a problem with the phone and everything was taken care of. So if there's any problem please give me a call. Let me know ahead of time, how far I have to go with it to the office or to the office but we want to make sure that we serve everyone thank you.

Jo-Ena: I got a phone call at the exact time to call. Please. Excuse me. I just wanted clarification about Mr. Camacho's last announcement about the board renewal applications and if I'm not

mistaken, Mr. Camacho, our borough president, said that those applications that we submitted by the deadline—they're invalid now. And so he's going to be uploading new applications. So to my understanding, the February 18 deadline is out. Am I correct?

Celeste: So there may be a new deadline, they're gonna send us an email. This was really just to make sure that the folks that know they have to renew are keeping track of the notices that go out we know gets really busy. We just want to make sure that anything that comes to you that you're submitting the renewal application on time, we don't want any issues with when applications are submitted or anything like that, but we'll absolutely have reminders coming from the board's office. This was just a public reminder to keep an eye out.

Mr. Camacho: Yeah, just to make sure they sent that out. Don't wait until the last minute and then turn around and then identify more. Let's make sure we all put it in ahead of time and that was the clarification I was talking to yes with a share. Because the application had Eric Adams designing she said, Oh, it's still valid, but not the application. So now told me to get valid. Yes, my understanding. So I just want to make sure everybody understands that. No, we're not in. So thank you very much.

Mr. Camacho: Thank you. Yes, thank you. All right. That is my report. Celeste: Any questions for Mr. Camacho going once, going twice. Hearing none, we will move on now to the introduction of our elected official representatives. This is name and contact information only. I'm going to say the name of the representative if you can just provide us your contact info please at this time. I'll start with I see we still have our council members with us if you just want to share your info one more time. Thank you for staying on. I'll start with Council Member Nurse if you're still there, Sandy.

Council Member Sandy Nurse

Yes, I'm here. So again, just to mention we don't have physical phones but we do have a phone line and we have full stop. So the response, it's 718-642-8664 and you can reach us at district 30 seven@council.nyc.gov And I'll repeat that in the chat.

Celeste: Thank you, Councilmember Gutierrez if you're still there, Jen. All right. We will circle back.

Malcolm McDaniel, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Good evening, everyone. My contact is in the chat already. But if you don't have it, my cell phone is 347-669-6683. The Office line is 212-676-3033 and my email is MMcDaniel@cityhall.nyc.gov. If you have an issue that you feel is not getting resolved that you want us to look into, please reach out to me and I'll definitely get back to you.

Carlos Calzadilla, State Senator Julia Salazar

Hi, everyone. I'm Carlos. I'm the Director of Human Relations for the Senator. Our office donor algebra in the chat it's a 718-573-1726 Also, I'm your plate person for all things Bushwick and all things NYCHA so, please Utila reached out to me on my personal number and email which I will drop in the chat. And one quick thing I wanted to say is that if you are part of a nonprofit, a CBO until the end of the month, we're accepting budget request letters, so please feel free to reach out

and make sure that everyone has the chance to get some funding from the state. And, yes, just feel free to reach out to me with anything you need. You got me.

Desmonde Monroe: So, you mentioned all things NYCHA. NYCHA has a lot of problems. What does that mean?

Celeste: So I just want to put a note here. It is 7:53pm. And that could be a town hall. So I'm going to respectfully ask the board if we can just put a pin in that and we will circle back with the senator's office and we will figure something out. And I will also say this RAD has been invited to present at our February meeting during the public hearing. So if that will suffice. We can always have this conversation then. Good. Okay.

Desmonde: We'll get them next month. So be ready. Celeste: So I saw you close yeah, yeah, we could feel it. We could feel it. So Okay. Thank you. Desmonde: Thank you.

Evette Lopez, Assemblymember Maritza Davila

Hi, good evening, everyone. I hope that everyone is off to a great start to the new year. I know it's been a while. I was off for about a month. I was sick, and I took some time off. So I'm glad to be back and see you guys. But my name is Evette Lopez. I'm the Communications Director for Assemblywoman Maritza Davila. We are located at 249 Wilson Avenue here in Brooklyn. And our contact number is 718-443-1205. And I will also enter that in the chat. Thank you.

Pamela Fernandez, Assemblymember Erik Dilan

Hi, good evening, everyone. I'm here representing Assemblymember Erik Dilan as the constituent liaison there. We are located at 366. Cornelia Street, and our phone number is 718-386-4576. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you. And I saw Evelyn earlier. Evelyn, are you still there? Mr. Camacho: Well, I think she had another meeting. Celeste: Okay. All right. If I missed you, it is not intentional. Please just drop us a message in the chat and there will be an opportunity to speak again later. So we'll move on. Next we have our community based organizations and agencies. I'm going to name the organization if someone is still there, please just name and contact info only.

Ariella Riapos, North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence

Folks my phone number is 314-635-0413 and I'll put my email in the chat. We have services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Brittni Zotos, Bushwick Food Coop

Hi, my name is Brittni and we mostly email. We're at board@bushwickfoodcoop.org. We also have voicemail at 347-450-1087.

Selina Lebron, New York Psychotherapy Counseling Center

Yes, hi everyone. It's Selina Lebron. My direct contact info is 718-704-3622 and our address is 102 Pilling Street on the corner of Evergreen. We are continuing to provide mental health services and counseling services to children and families. Thank you.

Mr. Boniface Wewe, Brooklyn Public Library Washington Irving

Yes, I Okay. Good evening, everybody. We are located at 360 Irving Avenue and our phone number is 716288378.

Noel Allain, The Bushwick Starr

Hi, again, everyone. Noel Allain from the Bushwick Starr Theater. You can email me at noel@thebushwickstarr.org and my cell if you want to reach out is 917-620-8546.

Mr. Camacho: Noel, you got to smile man, you can't be so sad when you in the meeting can make you sound like I owe you money but smile, you know, I'm gonna do what we're gonna how was it? What was it? We don't know our theme for this year is– Celeste: make life easy Mr. Camacho: to make life easy.

Perfect. Alright, so if I believe that's all of our CBOs if I've missed you again, it's unintentional, but we'll move on with our agencies now.

Julia Foster, NYC Department of Education

Adult education. 97183845028

Frank Fontana, DOB

Good evening, everyone. Take some time from the prominent buildings. community. So my email is frfontana@buildings.nyc.gov. Number sibling 84203591 Damaris is going to be your liaison. I'm just filling in for tonight. She couldn't be here and her email is the official dfalero@buildings.nyc.gov. I also shared two links there as well pertaining to property owners so do have questions feel free to email us. Thank you.

83 Precinct Commanding Officer - Captain Abraham Sanabria

Hello, how are you? Happy New Year everyone. Just wanted a few numbers to give you. We were down for the year 2%. Last year, we called that a win. We had a lot of index crimes throughout the year. But you know, Bushwick is a very busy place. We had over 1600 index crimes. But we were down and we continue to go down so far this year. We're actually down 31%. So far. We hope to continue that trend. And you know, like Mr. Camacho said we had 15 new recruits that are going to be here to help out. Right now. They're in a three month training where they're kind of they're rotating from from platoon to platoon so that they could get the feel of every aspect whether it's Midnight's they toured before twelves but we welcome them they they come from different backgrounds, different cultures, and we welcome them and they're definitely gonna be an asset to the pusher community. Looking at property crimes once again car break ins, package stuff. Just make sure that your vehicles are blocked and there's nothing visible to anyone as they walk by. Also for packages we also have the problem you know, FedEx ups, like I say anything bad about them, but they just usually just throw it on your on your steps and then walk away, not caring about, you know hiding them or anything. They made their delivery however, we have people that roam the streets of Bushwick and steal packages. So if you can just find someone to receive the package of local business, whatever the case is, so that we don't have to

so that you don't have to have the stress of recording it and and you know, it's it's, you know, it's very stressful. I know that I had my own packages stolen from my front door. So just want to make sure that everyone understands that, I think with regards to grand larceny autos for some reason we continue to have people you know, you're not thinking you just buy the car I'm gonna run into the store real quick. But they're leaving their cars on and keys in the ignition and when they come out two minutes later the car is gone. We had three incidents in one day last week. We're trying to get it out there with education that you know, be mindful, turn the car off, run in, come back out and we wouldn't have that situation. Once again emergencies call us 911 But if there's not an emergency knows, you always have a 311 to call or you can call the precinct at five seven for 1605 and of course anything that you know you want to talk about more you can reach out to Celeste or Mr. Camacho and they email me and I respond back to them and I have my the right people doing the job whether it be NCOs or community affairs or in the sectors. We usually go out there and take care of it. But thank you for all that you do. We're here for you. And I appreciate you.

Thank you, Captain. Anybody got any questions, issues, or concerns. Please don't hesitate. And if you don't want to yell anything out, just please call the community board's office number: 718628400. Give us a complaint and we'll go directly. We know we don't know who's on these things. And we don't want to make sure everybody stays safe. We don't want another Maria Hernandez tragedy. So please, whatever. If it's personal, you know, cases or something. Let us be the bad guys. Thank you. Thank you, Captain.

Celeste: Thank you and I just like to quickly note, we were recently contacted by someone that was concerned this isn't the first time we've heard these concerns about the E bikes and the bicycles and the mopeds and everything riding on the sidewalks potentially running you over. We know it's a very serious situation. We pass along that info to the captain we're going to be not only speaking to him, but the Department of Transportation to see what we can do together to get some information education out there to the community. But also make sure that enforcement is watching and keeping folks safe. So thank you to the person who alerted us to what's going on on Broadway. You know, we know that Broadway split between two precincts we notified both the eight one and the three. And we'll be working closely with the 83. So thank you, Captain, for your response and for everything you do. Captain Sanabria: Thank you.

Celeste: All right. So if there are no other questions, comments that will conclude this part of the meeting and we'll move on now to the district manager's report.

5) District Manager's Report

Celeste: That is my report. And I will keep it very brief this evening, wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you all were able to take some time to reflect this past Monday on Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy. We know that there are a lot of things happening in the world these days. But absolutely community is so important. And we will continue to be here. The community board, the community boards office, so please let us know if you have any concerns about things that are going on. It's a very exciting time we have new representation, all levels of government. So we look forward to working with everyone. And I'm not going to go into detail about my meetings.

You're welcome. So I'll keep it. I'll leave it there. One quick announcement so RiseBoro reached out to us. Thank you Maria, letting us know they have a community advisory board. So if anyone is interested in joining their community advisory board, we can absolutely pass along the information. Please let me know. Send us a you know, call us, drop something in the chat. We'll follow up tomorrow. All right. Any questions for the office? We're all there. I want to say thank you to Kim and Sharon. Everyone, please keep Sharon in mind. She has been feeling a little bit unwell, but hopefully she'll be back on Monday. Other than that, I think that covers everything. Okay, no comments. We'll go right into our committee reports starting with I know we have Ms. Jackson. Barbara if you want to go first.

6) Committee Reports

Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation - Barbara Jackson

Celeste: Would you like for me to just provide a few like a brief overview on your behalf? Ms. Jackson: Yeah, okay. Sure, of course. So the other two items in addition to the Bushwick Car Service request, there was one presentation from the Evergreen Cemetery. They were recently designated, I believe, a level two arboretum which is very exciting. We often talk about our lack of open space in Bushwick. But folks, maybe it's non-traditional, but we don't really think about our open spaces, but we have so many different types of trees in the cemetery, that they're they're recognized they believe on a national level, so they wanted to share a little bit of information with the community board about that designation, as well as encourage everyone to participate in their programming that they have throughout the year. I know in the past, they've held stargazing events, they do walking tours, so they really try to, you know, reach out and keep us posted about what's going on. They have a newsletter if anyone is interested in joining, and you can read the report for more information. And then the final item wasn't a formal agenda item. Although it's very exciting news. We are working with a former council member and Deputy borough president Diana Reyna, on a study of sanitation issues in Bushwick. So they'll likely be a little bit of history. And just to give some context to this, the Community Board Office has been supporting a working group for sanitation issues since July of 2020. The group includes partners such as Clean Bushwick initiative, RiseBoro, our elected official representative sanitation, the Maria Hernandez dog run pack, you know, Tony's pizza. So a lot of different stakeholders have participated over the years and we continue to encourage folks to get more involved if they would like to work and strategize around sanitation issues. So hopefully we'll be summarizing all of those great things in that report. And we'll be preparing recommendations, you know, both for our elected officials and for the community, right, because it really, you know, we can always ask sanitation to do this. We can ask our elected officials about policy, but all of that work really starts in the community and how we're exploring the things that we're doing. From cleanups to different types of practices and really highlighting how Bushwick you know, tries to combat the ongoing waste and sanitation issues that are here. So it's really exciting. There are some strategies that will be coming up and there'll be a survey coming out soon, but that will be in partnership with Diana as a consultant, and we will keep everyone posted as to how you can get more involved. And if you would like more information as always, you can reach out to the board's office, myself, Kim Sharon, Mr. Camacho. Miss Jackson. We're happy to give you some more information. And I believe that

concludes that committee's report. Did I miss anything, Kim? Okay, perfect. Any questions? Going once, going twice. All right. And I believe you to do a great job before. Thank you Selina.

Celeste: Thank you. All right, and I believe housing and land use is next.

Housing and Land Use - Anne Guiney

Absolutely. Thank you, Celeste. Thanks, everybody. So good to see everyone. Our meeting was on December 21. We moved it early a week just for the holidays. And it was really a presentation about their wrangled senior residences, which recently broke ground. Many of the longtime members of the community board will remember the vote over the Rheingau rezoning which was a contentious vote and I think a lot of people have a lot of Yeah, so really burnt by what ended up happening that the rankled senior residences are one of the good things that came out of that probably the best thing that came out of it. It's a senior building developed by Lose Sures Southside United and Churches United for Fair Housing. It has 94 units. There will be 54 Studios and 39 one bedrooms. 28 of those units will be reserved for the formerly homeless and then the main, the other 66 will be for seniors. It's got some really nice energy efficiency features in it. So the presentation was made by Alex Spatz from Southside United and then Sarah Bayer from Magnusson Architecture, who was one of the architects. Really, I mean, we're delighted that this is actually happening because it took so long. It was what, how many years ago was it's less than I remember. I mean, so many years ago, like we actually, I think a lot of people thought this was never actually gonna happen. It is happening that broke ground, it's gonna happen. I believe it's a sort of two year build out and renting process.

Project for so many reasons. It asks them to commit to very robust local outreach when the project is done when it's ready to rent, to make sure that we have seniors from Bushwick who are filling every single one of that 50% set aside like that. We want our folks in there. We want to keep our people in the community that they love and have spent their life in. So that was really it. It was just a presentation. There were a few other things it was really just we talked about. Celeste has been looking into the open space at the angle of development across the street from this. It was supposed to be open space open to the community but it has not been so there's been a lot of back and forth with partners to the planning this pushing against the calibers Celeste. Maybe you have an update on that or not yet, maybe next month?

Celeste: So just a point of clarification. We were actually asked by our I don't know if she's still our liaison because I think that there have been some changes at city planning. But Alexandra Paty Diaz has been our liaison for the past year or so, perhaps longer and she asked me if we'd heard anything about the space if the space was open because they were internally looking to follow up on some of the agreements that were made during that process. I let her know To my knowledge unless they had just opened it you know, when we were having the conversation that nothing had changed. So I mean, it's not open. It hasn't been open. But I know that city planning was looking into it. I haven't heard since then. Although I will. I will try to follow up just to get clarity on who our liaison is. If there's been a change, and then see if there are any updates as it relates to that.

Anne: Thank you so much. Because I do think I mean, it's very timely in terms of the Rheingold senior residences. There were promises made to the community, some of those were broken. We

need to make sure that every other promise that was made to this community, they have to honor it, and we need to hold them accountable. And I think you know, it's on us to do that sadly, like they should be standing up and doing it but it's on us to do it. Finally, the last thing we talked about was 1325. Broadway. Ms. Hicks, who is a member of the community is sort of informally the liaison Excuse me. This is a project that is on the old garden by Ms. Avellar Hansely, many of you knew and loved her. It is as of right. It looks like all of the legal pushback against this project has come to the end of the road. So this is something that we are going to reach out to our elected to Sandy to Jen to our at the city level is probably the most appropriate to just get our heads together to talk about this and figure it out. So we want to support that community. And there was no big development in that we're just a project that we're going to be following for a long time. And so we'll probably be hearing about it and that is it. So our next meeting is next Tuesday the 25th. We welcome every single person here to join us please do and yeah, that's it. Thank you and any questions about housing and land use.

Mr. Camacho: Alright, just wanted. I just wanted a demand channel that yes, at the ribbon cutting ceremony. I did tell them that yes, Los Sures is in Williamsburg, but the building is in Bushwick. So please, let's make sure our seniors get their fair share. We don't mind sharing the love but we want some of those apartments that we really have to do really and we asked him at that meeting and he committed to it. Very strong outreach. Get our folks in there. It matters. It really does. Yeah, especially when you're at that age that you want to be comfortable, have something new and relaxed and nothing all that you know you got to put money into something that senior to just relax and do what they have to do for the rest of their life. So that is a wonderful thing. Perfect, and just manage. Thank you both. And one quick housing related update. We did get a notice in the mail regarding 10 Monte of street so which is right in that area, the housing lottery application or for a waiting list, specifically our open. This building is 60% ami. So I quickly skimmed the eligibility criteria and so I don't have the income, bit like brackets off off the top of my head but 60% Yeah, so I know that the rents though were like 900 like 900 and change for a studio you know, probably similar for one bedroom, you know going and then they have different amounts available. So please take a look online NYC housing connect it's run through HPDs website the waiting list is looking like it's reopening. They may have units becoming available. So let's talk so my question is very good. So my question is, so if you did apply, and you some focus on how would you know if you got it or you didn't get it or how wild is the procedures in Rica, because you can fill papers out everywhere you want, you know, we need to make sure that that the people that do apply get because I know someone that applied through Latos and he applied to it for over two years. And he still got called. He said that forget it he still had plenty to get this apartment. So I don't know how what where's the court off where you know, so I'm sure it varies, but we would have to follow up on a case by case basis you know, I can't speak to that, you know, particular situation but you know, I know as it relates to the applications themselves, once you submit, if you are selected, they will notify you. So if you're not selected, you're not going to receive any follow up. But that being said, I you know, I would have to ask to figure out from the time they're contacting you and through the rest of the process to see what's going on. We would have to ask just the person that I said put it free. Yes, he was because he showed me that he got selected. He gave in all the paperwork. But it's been two years since he got it so how is that?

Anne: Yeah, we would have to ask so but in much Oh, it sounds like we should follow up on that specific case. But it also might be worth reaching out to HPD and asking them to give us a little mini workshop on the application process. What people need to know how to make a better application. Because everyone says there's a court case and it's not gonna last forever. But right now there's a 50% set aside for people who qualify and who live in the district. And I think in a lot of the projects when it's 130 Ami, that's like practically market rate housing, it's over mercury. It's useless. But something at the 60% level, like a lot more people are going to fall into that or the senior housing like that really matters. So we should try to educate ourselves and share information about the best way to increase your chances in the housing lottery.

Perfect someone Yeah, we took a note.

Samy: I was gonna say that they have a website. I think it's called Housing Connect NYC that's pretty proficient in helping you stay up to date with all of the lotteries that you've applied to. And I know what happened to the person that you gave an example of. It is very common that you will go through the process you'll get selected, you'll turn in the paperwork and you'll hear and hear nothing. But if you go to the housing Connect website, they have different tabs that show you like where you are in the process. And sometimes you don't get like you're supposed to get emails or whatever type of alerts you have set up. That tells you like where you're moving along, but sometimes you're just like on a waitlist. I think, in my personal opinion, it is like some type of scam that goes on where they just purposely try to keep a particular income level who may qualify for the housing but they don't necessarily want that demographic maybe. And I'd say they just keep them in limbo and keep them on that waitlist even though they clearly were selected and they qualify. But I will also go on to say what were in pointed out you have to contact HPD or whatever housing because I know is another one it's HPD and there's another one that like is over overseas like the housing lotteries, but you got to like make a complaint to them to get the ball moving. But a lot of people don't even know that they're just literally stuck in limbo. But if you have an account with housing Connect, you can see your process and the only way that you're going to get moving in the process is you got to constantly call HPD it's a it's a rat race, but you got to constantly call HPD catch the call issue to make those complaints and that's typically how it works.

Thank you, Malcolm said, Googling that you want to have that gov and looked up approved. housing counseling agencies, agencies like NHS Neighborhood Services, impact, there's a lot of them. They have little workshops where they sit you down on how to actually fill out the application appropriately. But just like what everybody was saying. There seems to be a loophole. I know that sometimes, I believe to counsel people as opposed to being supposed to be able to audit them and to see how many people in committees actually got in departments and stuff like that. I believe ACB or ACR has the list. So maybe reach out to counsel people to see if they can do a more effective job. Again, like reaching out to the housing. Counseling Services. Is a good, good, thank you. Well, we'll make sure that we'll speak for two hours and make sure we get the lesson we can find out the people that do and make sure that the people from Bushwick do, because there's too much finagling going on. So we want to make sure that we can get on. Thank you.

Celeste: We will move along. I just want to quickly thank and note that there's the link for HPDs Housing Connect in the chat. Thank you, Gardea, one of our board members. With that being

said we will now wrap up committee reports and we will move on to please correct me if I'm wrong. I believe it's recommendations. Mr. Camacho: Correct.

7) Recommendations

Celeste: We should only have one this evening. For the Taxi Limousine Commission renewal for Bushwick car service, the committee's recommendation. Ms. Jackson, would you like me to summarize? Barbara: Yes.

Celeste: So just to specify the committee recommended providing Bushwick Car Service with a letter of no objection. Is there a motion from the committee or the board?

Ms. Davis made **a motion for a blanket vote**. It was seconded by Jo-Ena Bennett. All were in favor, so moved.

Mr. Camacho made **a motion in support of the committee recommendation**. Felix Ceballos seconded it. All were in favor, so moved.

8) Old Business

Celeste: Moving on old business, any old business. Going once, going twice. (None)

9) New Business

Celeste: New business. going once, going twice. (None)

10) Announcements

Celeste: All right, everybody get ready. I'm going to go through the same list that we had before. If you have an announcement, please just be prepared. And board members, folks that are panelists or presenters if you could raise your hands that'll make this a lot easier if you have an announcement. So any announcements please raise your hand. Okay, perfect. I have Virgie, go ahead.

Virgie Jones, CB4 Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Congratulations to Dr. Rodriguez. He has 376 to our essay William winners from the Abberley the receiver receiver certificate and award but everywhere, Rich from from Africa virtual event and more details will be forthcoming thanks to all who supported it. We're happy that we have a winner.

Selina Lebron, New York Psychotherapy Counseling Center

Good evening everyone. Thank you once again for hosting such a wonderful meeting and allow me to speak. Again. My name is Selina from NYPCC and I want to invite you all to our cafe. We have more data about the New Year with you know with everything that's going on with China, and when everybody's being zoomed out. We actually moved our cafes, our monthly cafes and our bi-monthly so our first Cafe of the year will be February 16 at 5pm. I put the Zoom link in the chat but I'll also share the flyer with Celeste and we are going to be talking about suicide awareness because sadly, youth suicide. The rate has increased by 51%. And we need to talk

about awareness and prevention. And so I invite you all to attend February 16 at 5pm. Thank you so much.

Brittni Zotos, Bushwick Food Coop

Hi, good evening. My name is Brittni. I am on the board of the Bushwick Food Cooperative. I'm glad to be here. Just wanted to share some information about a program that we are running right now which is called the grocery share. Just quickly for a little background Bushwick food Co Op we ran a member owned and operated grocery store at two quarter Ave which was just off flushing we closed unfortunately in 2019 after a fire and in 2020 during a pandemic we decided to pivot our model to be a weekly grocery pickup. We call this the grocery share. So the garage is open to everyone. You don't have to be a member of the cooperative to participate and every week we source the fresh produce and local farms. And we're using a tiered pricing model that lets participants pay at different rates. Whatever makes most sense to people financially. And so our goal here is to create a kind of mutually supportive structure in which people with more financial resources can help subsidize the cost of groceries and this allows us to offer really fresh delicious, high quality produce at accessible prices. So our Tier one is priced at or below the wholesale cost. So this is \$18 a week and it's five to seven vegetables and one to three fruits in every bag. We are holding this in Mayday Space at St Nicholas and Himrod and this is also with the support of the Bushwick Abbey. We had our first season in the fall and it went really well. So we're really excited to continue offering this program. Our next season is starting in about a week and a half on Monday, January 31. So I just wanted to say hi and share this information and we have details and registration form on our website. I'll drop all of our info into the chat. Yeah, thanks for having me. And thanks for your help Celeste and letting us present some information.

Julia Foster, NYC Department of Education

Greetings from District 79 with adult education. Um, three semi big announcements. I'll keep it brief. We are still doing in person classes. I know everyone you know, you go out to the supermarket, you go out to your church or synagogue. So just encourage everyone who's looking to continue that education adults in our community. A lot of jobs out there but you need your GED. We're doing night classes at All City Secondary School. We're also partnering with the Brooklyn Navy Yard. We're providing OSHA 30 classes on Saturday mornings and the full license course during the week and also Saturday mornings. We're looking to expand, expand that I'll keep you posted. Looking forward to you know, the Burley junction as well, putting a plug in there. We're also doing English as a second language and all of our classes documented undocumented are encouraged to attend and continue their education. We're still in the pandemic but education continues. I left my contact info in the chat. If you have any questions about adult education, let me know and we're also opening a hub site on Melrose Street. I'll send that to you, Miss Leon, and this is where anybody in New York City can come and register to get their questions answered about adult education and make time to take action next. Thank you.

Jonathan Pomboza, Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez's office

Good evening, everyone. This Jonathan from public engagement for the DA Eric Gonzalez. Just quick My phone number is 247986614 cents and I just want to report back to that last week. We had a gun buyback. We collected about 32 guns to give or take. And while we wish it was more,

you know that could be 30 lives. So I just want to reiterate that that's not the only initiative at the office the DA is spearheading. We're also doing a lot of partnerships with different community organizations, violence interrupters, things of different parts. I'm going to try to bring more information to you in the next meeting, to report back on some of these initiatives and the successes we've had in other and other other events, and other initiatives that can take us off our streets. Thank you.

Samy Nemir, District Leader/53rd Assembly District

Want to quickly bring attention to a little small business. It's like a coffee shop. Next to earnings per part is owned by a Latina, she's a single mother with three children and they have been having a lot of issues because of the pandemic. So they have a GoFundMe page to support them. So it's a local business that is employing people. It is child friendly, said friendly, everyone friendly. And it's just one blog I'll say a parodying spare part is just so small that people might have noticed it but it's a one I'm gonna post in this shot, the address and the website and it's next to Trinity Church in the corner and yeah, it will be great if people can stop by. They make bagel sandwiches. cafes and all of that. So it was heartbreaking to see, you know, the desperation of you know, this cafe because, you know, the lack of funding, but hopefully we can support. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho: Where's that? Samy: We'll send it in the chat soon. And they're cheap. I think two sandwiches for coffee for \$15.

Evette Lopez, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila's office

Hello everyone. So just a few updates on behalf of the assembly member as you know she's back and forth in Albany legislative session did start early January. And she has a few legislative priorities that include the good calls eviction bill, which is to better protect our tenants. We also have the comprehensive discharge bill which is a bill that she is the primary sponsor she introduced last year. And that's excuse me, I just ate so and so that's to provide a structure of reentry program for formerly incarcerated individuals and also to fight against predatory funding. So Summit, those are some of the things that she's working on as well as the budget which is due in March, as you guys know, to provide funding for our schools, our businesses and so forth. I did want to let you guys know that we have a few 100 COVID-19 take home kits that we're looking to give away tomorrow and as well as Friday from 10 to four at our district office, and I also included that in the chat. So if you have any information again, I can be reached at 718-443-1205 Thank you.

Carlos Calzadilla, State Senator Julia Salazar's office

Yes, hello everyone. Um, so really quickly, the senator really sends her best regards and there's a couple of updates as well from our office. In terms of legislative priority. The senator is fighting really hard to pass a Good Cause Eviction, and protect our community from unjust evictions. One thing I mentioned earlier about the budget request, please reach out to me also there's a homeowner's insurance program that just open applications are now being accepted. It'll provide up to \$539 million in aid for eligible homeowners. I'll drop all the information in the chat. Also the eviction moratorium has ended but our office is here to support and help. If you have any questions. If you need any help, please call our office and include all that information. The ERAP

portal has reopened. So please reach out. We encourage as many people to keep applying as well. And make sure that if you need any help with SNAP, but with zero unemployment, or experiencing any sort of thing harassment, and also please reach out to our office and drop that information in the chat. Thank you everyone. Have a great day. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho: I would like to thank you kind of because I just want to acknowledge that through Carlos. I had work to get our senior that home that she was due through the nature of the RAD and I want to thank you. Our senior at seventy years old has a home and we want to thank you for all you do. You know sometimes you guys work so hard and I know you get paid to do that job but sometimes you guys go on and beyond. So I just want to thank you and we will make it happen. Don't worry about people going home. So I just want to thank you for what you do for us. Carlos: Thank you, Camacho. It takes a village and definitely following the lead of a Senator who sets an incredible example for our team and we follow her lead and I'm really happy to be working with all of you. You'll make it happen. We're here to support, help and get together. And thank you so much for your incredible voice and advocacy. I don't know what we could do without you. Alright, a lot of people don't like when I get but I know you listen.

Mr. Boniface Wewe, Brooklyn Public Library Washington Irving

Good evening once more. The New York City and hospitals test and test core in conjunction with the library is offering free vaccinations for kids five through 11 at select libraries, maybe I'm going to advocate for the Washington every branch of Bush we like Enya but anyway for now the two branches that are offering the vaccinations, Coney Island, and the new laws Avenue or nudists branch of a party. Each tribe gets \$100 currency of the New York City incentive. And then they get a copy of Maurice Sendak's classic Where the Wild Things Are. So they get a copy of that. So for now, so are libraries, but check our website for changes to Europa editions and then given the relationship we have with the board, giving all your support. We wish to thank you and then we on behalf of the library. I wish to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to our elected new mayor, the honorable Adams, our own brother. I wish to say Congratulations on the birth of the princess Gutierrez.

Jo-Ena Bennett, CB4 Parliamentarian

I just have a question and maybe you can make an announcement Celeste. Any word about these meetings from the governor's office at all? About the community board meeting?

Celeste: So, so thank you, Joanna. So we are on this evening because the assembly was able to pass legislation and the governor was able to sign said legislation to my knowledge. So that is the only reason we are meeting remotely this evening and that will be possible as an option. As long as there's a state of emergency due to the COVID 19 pandemic. So we don't know when the state of emergency will end. But while we are still in it, we'll be able to continue meeting remotely. And just to elaborate on that because I know that there are a lot of concerns about going back to in-person. We will absolutely be following all health guidance. We will be notifying the board and the community as soon as possible whenever that's a reality, but thankfully, we didn't have to send any emails to, you know, get anyone concerned. The State went back to session. Everything was taken care of and we are here this evening because of the leadership of our state

government, the governor and our state elected officials. So thank you to all of them. We know all of our representatives. We were on the phone with them throughout December, the beginning of this month. So thank you to everyone who made sure that our voices were heard.

11) Second Roll Call

Board members in attendance: Frank Zimmerman, Carlotta Williams, Jerry Valentin, Dustin Sonneborn, Barbara Smith, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Kyle O'Rourke, Samy Nemir Olivares, Desmonde Monroe, Luisa Jose, Cheryl Jones, Kristen Jock, Barbara Jackson, Tanesha Honeygan, Jared Hicks, Hadiyah Harrison, Jose Guzman, Anne Guiney, Freddy Fowler, Elvena Davis, Daniella Davi, Andrew Choi, Felix Ceballos, Gardea Caphart, Robert Camacho, Rawle Brown, Joshua Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett

Excused: Annette Spellen, Gladys Puglla, James Fitzgerald, Melissa Carrera,

Absent: Odolph Wright, Leo Tineo, Vernedeaner Shell, Acire Polight, Zulma Novoa, Egaudy Gomez, Carlos Feliciano, Louisa Chan, Rev. Grace Aytes, Marcus Alston

12) Adjournment

Barbara Jackson made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Robert Camacho. All were in favor, so moved.

Thank you everyone, have a good night.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:47pm