

Brooklyn Community Board 4  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6pm

Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celestina Leon

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Before the meeting started Mr. Camacho asked Rev. Elvena Davis to open with a prayer.

Meeting Start: 6:07pm

Celeste: Welcome to Community Board 4's monthly public hearing and regular meeting. We're going to go ahead and get started. It is now 6:07pm. Thank you to Mr. Camacho and Reverend Davis. We have a full agenda this evening so we want to keep everything on point, on time. So we're going right into our first public hearing item and that will be the Department of Health and Department of Design and Construction presenting on the rehabilitation project at 335 Central Avenue. And I know Afia is on. I know some other folks are on if you'd want to take it away from here. The floor is yours.

**Public Hearing:**

**1) NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene and the NYC Department of Design and Construction** – providing an informational update on the Bushwick Health Center (335 Central Avenue) Building Envelope Rehabilitation project.

Alright I'll start. This is Kiki from the Department of Design and Construction. I'll take the lead if that's all right. I'm Kristina Blazeovski, Director of the Charpentier Program, also known as Kiki. I am the deputy program director for the one NYC and health unit DDCs public buildings division. We've been working on this project for several years. It's that long pause with the pandemic long procurement process and we are so happy to announce that we actually issued the NTP yesterday to the contractor so that clock is ticking. Very happy to introduce the team. I don't see everybody in the participants list but I will introduce our team at DDC. Jyh-Meei, you might see her name is Jyi-Meei Jiang on the participants list but she is the design project manager. She will be supporting the design services, any design issues that come up during construction. Mostafa Felfel and Mohammed Haque are the construction project managers. They will be working. They will have representation on the site daily once there is construction activity. We will all be working together as a team very closely with the Department of Health as well. We know the Department of Health team. We're familiar with Irina, who is the facility manager. We've worked a lot with the Facilities and Planning Team. But if someone wants to introduce the

DOH team on the call. Go ahead and then I'll go back to the design and construction consultants and contractor. Are you on? Do you want to say hello?

Afia: Hello, good evening. Thank you Kristina. My name is Afia Frimpong. I am from the Department of Health Office of External Affairs and I cover all constituents' concerns that are health department related from North Brooklyn. I'm just here. I'm going to be taking notes and if anyone else is from DOH, please let me know so that I can inform Celeste. Thank you Christina for joining tonight's meeting because I know that you will see me for really want to understand what's going to be happening with the Action Center in the next two years to come.

Kiki: Yeah, sure. So without delay, we will introduce the design consultant Thorton Thomas setting is the design firm, the one and Lynn's who is on the call. She's been our coordinating architect doing some of the you know the landmark quality restored restoration, structural drainage civil work is all under her responsibility and she will speak about the scope of work and have a presentation for us momentarily and are very excited and eager. Contractor Seabreeze general construction, Marcin if you can see him on the video. He is there with I think, Nick and who else is in the back? I can't see it on these tiny views. Who's in the back there. Marcin? Do you want to say hello?

Nick: Yes, good afternoon everyone is Nick and Jonathan.

Kiki: So yeah, so they'll talk a little bit about the they'll touch on the schedule in a very zoomed out level as we were still working out some of the details but if we want to do you want to start the presentation and I don't know if Celeste maybe I don't know if we want to has all the sharing.

Good evening, everyone. And thank you for having me here today. And very excited to give you an update and because it's been a long journey, right and we're starting construction and now I'll give you a little bit of the flavor of what's to come and what we have designed for you. Okay, so um, Bushwick District Health Center to three storey building located at 335 Central Avenue. In Brooklyn, between Linden Grove Street. The immediate neighborhood includes hope gardens, the NYCHA housing and Heckscher playground that the rear of the building can see there. The building was built in 1958 and designed by Brooklyn architect Henry Murphy. In a mid century modern style it is considered a fine example of New York City public architecture of the 50s and the main entrance facing Central Avenue is highlighted with the original bronze curtain wall. Bronze frame Windows granite stone accents and cantilever canopy. And the building horizontality is accentuated by these exposed concrete bands above the windows and the limestone cells and copings. So footprint wise it's a T shape configuration there that creates two courtyards that are used as parking for the clinic staff. And it went through a lot of renovation back in the 90s which introduced some changes that you see nowadays there, which is actually on the side stairwell and also the main entrance, back then was redesigned to incorporate an access ramp. There were also a lot of window replacements, security grilles added to the building and security lighting, but since the 1990s Honestly there was not a lot that renovation that occurred and nowadays the building suffers from leaks air infiltration. A lot of masonry deterioration: the parapets are cracking and the treated concrete bands are spoiling. There, you know, were flood events at the basement of the building, when there's heavy rainfall and the roof is past its service life. So our project includes really a complete rehabilitation of the building

envelope to address all these causes for the water infiltration, drainage and overall deterioration of the facades and provide up rates to enhance the exterior of the building and also restore its thermal performance and connection with the neighborhood. Okay, so among the scope for the among, like one big item in our scope is the redesign of the main entrance to meet code and ADA requirements. It was also one of the requirements that we make it more welcoming and inclusive to the community. So here what you see here is a photo of the existing main entrance and the bronze curtain wall. Okay, here is a plan of the existing conditions and among issues you can't see in the plan but when you experienced the building, you have a lot of uneven steps, the handrail wobbly red handrails, some locations we missing and also the ramp does not meet current codes and the circulation at the landing needs improvement. So what we propose here for the main entrance is really shifting the stairs to the west. Okay and this way, creating circulation that it's a little bit more open at the top and also opening up more space for the ramp so that it can actually be ADA compliant with the proper railing locations and railing and landing spacing there. This scheme also incorporates at the bottom, two new seating areas at the sidewalk level and one at the bottom of the stairs in front of the building. Okay, so this is how it looks like what we're proposing.

The walls at the new stairs and the ramp are limestones to lighten up and complement the existing color scheme of the building. The bench and the stair treads are granite rebranded additional improvements that you see there it's a the doors existing doors will be replaced with the user friendly, automatic balanced door we also will have the security gate on the same location. Also we'll have a replacement in kind there of the soffit and the signage will be replaced. Very similar, but it's going to have a new display of the entity's new name which is Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. So here you can see what we have planned: a close up of the proposed seating area at the street level or at the stairs. Also here, the railing proposed is bronze and will be designed with the aim to emphasize the horizontal horizontality of the building. Okay, just wanna side note here, the building will remain occupied during construction and safety is always priority so during the renovation the main entrance during the renovation of the main entrance, the contractor will build first a temporary entrance that will be towards the southwest of the building. I pointed out in another photo that this will also have a ramp to have the steps. So, this is to make sure that the building will continue to be used throughout construction once that temporary entrance is fully done then they will be able to block the existing main entrance and move forward with that restoration. Work. repair work. Okay, moving forward here to two different elevations. So here you can see the West and the courtyard and I don't know if you can see my cursor there but this is the section that we're going to be building the temporary main entrance here towards the southwest section of the building. Okay. So other repairs proposed for the building in general, not just for these facades is really reappointing masonry replacement so that will improve water tightness 100% parapet replacement along the building perimeter there and replacement of the glass blocks at the stairwells with a new curtain wall so here is a view of the rear of the building. And so the project includes removal and replacement of the concrete Heather's above the windows. The replacement will be you know almost in kind the field because it's still concrete but it's going to be a water waterproof concrete. The existing limestone and the sales will be repaired and cleaned. will look brand new. The window scope includes the removal of the security bars that you now see and replacement of all the windows with high performance, Tilt and Turn Windows

to provide extra natural light and also assist there with the maintenance. The existing 1950s bronze curtain wall will be restored maintaining the building's character and the glass blocks will be replaced with the new curtain wall. It's important to say that these existing glass blocks, many of them are cracked and they no longer comply with code. So for the replacement that's why we are doing a curtain wall in this location. The project also includes a full roof replacement with new insulation, there are existing chillers at the back at the rear of the building. So these will be replaced with more efficient units and they will be set on a higher damage. Damage beans and there'll be surrounded by acoustic louvers to mitigate noise. And just so that you have in mind these units are much quieter than the existing and where you see there in blue is where the acoustic louvers are going to be placed. Okay. Else right. So here's the plan of the proposed site. And before we even review this, I want to point it out here because it's part of the work or it gets hidden. So the building has a lot of drainage issues that need to be addressed as part of this effort. So it is part of the scope to improve the stormwater runoff and install new site drainage which requires excavation to replace these pipes and the pipes are at the perimeter of both sides of the building and the parking lot. Okay, so we'll need to as part of this work, right will disturb some of the planting here. All of the asphalt and unfortunately we'll have to remove two trees that are already affecting the drainage of the building. Okay. The exterior work and I'll talk about landscaping a little bit. The exterior work along with the replacement of the existing piping on the inside of the building inside the building where a lot of piping replacement to, along with the replacement of the RPC will help solve and mitigate these backflow problems that are currently experienced inside the building. So once we are done with all of excavation, you know we'll include their asphalt pavement, new fence around these courtyards reconstruction of the brick piers here in the front of the perimeter of the building, along with restoration of the current original fence and brand new sidewalk that will kind of connect the the main entrance section there with the outside. Okay. The new landscaping that we're proposing clewd new plants that can acclimate to the soil condition and add more seasonal color and texture with very low maintenance there. We also have new exterior signage and we try directory and banners throughout the building. You can all see how that works on these renderings. So here's a sample of I mean, a review of what we're proposing. And I know there's a lot of work there to be done. And in the next two years, some you know noisy work because it's the nature of what needs to be accomplished. You know, the contractor will be working there with DDC with all these DDC community outreach to be with you along the way to inform the public of any of these disruptions and disturbances and but overall the community and the has a lot to benefit from restoring this building. And I you know and to be proud of, of its architecture, so thank you Thank you. Yeah, thanks. I don't know if you want the contractor to speak or do you want to just go straight to questions? Maybe I don't want to take up too much time.

Celeste: Yeah, if there is, there's anyone else that would like to speak. Now's the time.

Kiki: I just wanted to be sure. Yeah, Marcin, do you want to touch on the schedule real quick?

Marcin: Yes, sure. So I think the information that everybody needed so we anticipate finishing this project in summer of 2024. I'm gonna go very briefly to the one I told us all this other schedule so this year you guys gonna see five scaffolding and beside what virtual over and we're gonna start working on the facade, which is gonna take us to the winter through the winter

to the spring of 2023. The next step is gonna be window replacement, which is gonna take us from spring to summer. The next step is going to be the roof replacement, which should take us to the end of 2023 and the work on the main entrance, excavation, drainage, saving work and everything. That's gonna start in mid 2024. And as I mentioned before, we anticipate finishing in the summer of 2024.

Celeste: Thank you. Okay. All right. Is that it for speakers? Just want to be sure.

Jomo Blackman: Thanks, DDC's Community outreach notification just to let you guys want to piggyback off what doctor was saying that any impact to the surrounding community you will be notified. I have contacts at FDNY NYPD so there's anything that goes off the surrounding community that impacts traffic pedestrian movement, you will know about it. You will know about it at all times.

### **Q and A/Discussion:**

Celeste: Perfect. All right. If there are no more speakers on this item will open for questions board members members of the public any questions

Jo-Ena Bennett: This is Jo-Ena. First, we have a request that any board member who would like to speak please identify yourself by name first, for the purposes of our records, and also for the purpose of anyone participating so that they will know who's speaking. Thank you very much.

Celeste: Thank you Madam Parliamentarian.

Mr. Camacho: Chairperson see before Can I go for it? Um, I see that on the scope of the map that you guys have chairs in front of the eye. Are you familiar with the area very well? I know you mean this guy must be tired of having all those people when you guys leave you see those tables there? Those chairs are going to be party night. Right there in the bottom of the stairs right by the stairs, not there. And over there. And on the side right there. That's gonna be a party night. So when the guy comes Monday morning to clean, he's gonna have bottles, jugs and everything in there. So just like you see illegal dumping on the other side of the building. That you guys got them. I hope you let the maintenance guy know that. He's going to be what 95% of his work will be as real Monday, every day during the week. So you ain't taking consideration when all that stuff's gonna be there in regard so we know you want people to relax and rest but be ready because of course it's true. We have the barber shop. We got all them crazy people on the other side, and we'll be going over there to party because we see it there. All the time. And then know your custodian is constantly cleaning automatically. I know we did a cleanup the other day. I think it was last year. I think our district manager was there with us. We all got it. And you saw the shrubs that we went in and we cleaned all that stuff. Are there so 95% of your work could be outside. I don't know why. And no, you want to make it an open border friendly thing but be careful what you wish for.

Kiki: Do you want to answer that partially or I can maybe respond?

Mr. Camacho: Did you guys take a consideration in your day to day basis, especially on the side of growth where they do the illegal dumping canceling the refrigerators stoves.

i We i don't think any of us I don't think any of us on the design team are familiar with the illegal dumping. That don't think that's been brought up about sitting above sitting on a black box with

a bushes and shrubs or that they throw their beer cans or lift up the garbage. They're constantly not there either.

Celeste: So I think that it's great, it's a great thing that we're speaking about now. And I would hope that the Department of Health would also eliminate some of these issues as they're there every day. But we will certainly be getting calls. There are a lot of concerns in this area about illegal dumping, about loitering. We don't want to create more issues with this beautiful design redesign. So perhaps, you know if there's any way to keep those things in mind to not overburden the Department of Health and create more problems for the people in this particular area. If that could be taken into consideration sure would be helpful in the long run.

Kiki: I'm sure once we're on site more frequently I mean we really scrutinize the building during design which was completed a couple of years ago now. There's not really possibly as long as three years ago really. So maybe I don't know how much has changed since then. We have reviewed it thoroughly with the Department of Health but it is something that is a deeper concern or was not brought to our attention. And we can certainly talk about it. We certainly don't want to have a negative impact so we can review it with the Department of Health Team.

Mr. Camacho: Unless someone has an agenda not only that with the benches be graffiti resistant may be seen as clean slate but those who want to deface the building does have is going to be the lower portion of the building has an underground feeding coating as well. would have to be painted as well. I mean it's clearly coded folding right. Kiki: So sorry, the benches specifically, right so that can be I have to check but everything from you know the lower floor is supposed to be coated with anti graffiti. I do not know the walls for sure. The benches I would have to check on the specs. They're ticking.

Celeste: Okay. Right. Sure. There are a few things from the chat that I just want to reference. So there's a question from one of our board members, Mr. Rawle Brown. This was directed to Mr. Ballista. How many workers are you hiring and how many are from Bushwick assuming that this has not been addressed? So I'm not sure if we're at the right point in this process for that but that is one of the questions in the chat.

Marcin: I think I answered this question already on the chat. So, because he said the PLA project means project labor agreement. All the workers are coming from the union halls. And basically we as a general contractor, we send in our request to the Union halls, giving you an example, I'm calling you vaguely and saying I need five bricklayers and the union basically decides who they send it to me. I don't I don't pick the workers. That's all the union holds.

Celeste: Thank you. All right, Mr. Ceballos raised his hand. Yes.

Felix Ceballos: Yes. I want to ask about the parking because right now in the area it is very, very hard to find parking. I think you mentioned parking around the construction. I want to know more details about that and I want to say congratulations on a very interesting design.

Kiki: Thank you. The parking that we have is inside the building. They have already parking for the clinic, right so that will be restored once we have done and the work will be done in phases. My understanding is the contractor would have to keep one open while they stage on the other side. You know and any in agreement there with the staff. But one of these core to staging as

part of the phasing there, but other than that to do. Marcin, do you wanna? Is there any other impact on parking or anything during construction?

Marcin: The only impact on the parking is gonna be on Central Avenue, the spaces for the front of the building. It's gonna be our staging area, but those spaces, those parking spots, I sold a sign over there. They were very dedicated to the Department of Health. So we're gonna take over their few parking spots. During the course of the entire project. So basically from the Grove, I forgot the name of the second suite but from the corner. I think Linden, right. And this is yes, between the Grove and Linden. This entire section of Central is gonna be taken by us that at least like one section of the one lane is gonna be taken on us like eight feet of the street. For the staging area. We're gonna get our friends over the concrete by the gates. There's gonna be a storage area for the material and for the dumpsters. Thank you very much.

Mr. Camacho: You okay, and your employees will be coming in in cars and they'll take off the other people's parking that lives in this community or they're going to call you guys going to Charmin and it's tired of us because all the time we come here we see your employees put their calls or every consultant said I see on top of their cars, and they don't move it from side to side, but we live here have to move how it's going to happen with your employees and where they're going apart.

Marcin: We're not allowed our employees to put any cars on the cars and we don't give them any parks or parking spots. Because it's simply illegal. We're gonna they're gonna be taking the parking spots for the people that live on the block. They're probably yes a few of them. I cannot say yes. Or no because as I say, I don't I don't know who's gonna come over there from the union yet but over the years, it's gonna be the impact of the marking but it's not gonna be also that many workers, mostly of our workers, they coming they're coming with a train or they're coming together. Three or four guys at the same time. But yes, it's gonna be something in particular to see a few more cars in the neighborhoods that they'd know from them.

Celeste: And a few more questions from the chat. So will the entire building be closed down? Where will the services go? I think I heard during the presentation, there's going to be another entrance. So it sounds like services will still be ongoing.

Kiki: Can we confirm? Yeah, I can speak to that a little bit. Yes, we worked really close with the Department of Health during design. And you know, we're kind of passing it to Marcin and the contracting and the construction team, with our project managers to make sure that we can keep all the services open and available. Of course, there will be disruptions, some shuffling inside the building, but nothing will be completely vacated out of the building. So we are phasing the project. So we are not wiping out an entire floor of occupants. It will go kind of like room by room or maybe two rooms may be isolated and taken offline, but it will not involve a full closure of the building or any service inside. Got it. Thank you. Go ahead.

Is there more?

Well, you mentioned the temporary entrance there. So in plans that temporary entrance will be in this location here. So the contractor will open up the existing fence because if this area will have to be reconstructed anyway and build a temporary and transmit the ramp for everybody to

access the building a different area until you know so that this can be fenced off and be reconstructed. So within this is really working with the Department of Health to be able to maintain the building fully you know, accessible during this construction.

Celeste: Great, thank you and then a follow up question. It sounds like it's for outreach, Mr. Blackman, Mr. Larancuent put in the chat. There are folks who play dominoes on that corner. How will you notify them of a possible issue so I imagine community notification that's probably a very broad capture there. Is anyone able to speak to how folks that generally are interacting with this space potentially enjoying the space will be notified?

Is that the corner of Linden or is it the other where the park kind of driveway grew? Grew Street? Can someone elaborate on that? Or? I mean, I guess it really doesn't matter where it is. But the whole idea is that how do we work on the disruption and how do we notify everybody? Well, I would reach out to the community boards, that being you and you would reach out to those individuals and I would also put some fliers in the facility and let him know that there would be some construction area and they would have to move.

Celeste: Got it. Thank you. And then another one. This may be a funny question. I sat in the center for hours for services. Such as maternal care with immunization etc. Will there be air conditioning? I imagined this is an interior question. So I know it's probably not a part of this project. But if someone is able to confirm that there's air conditioning within the facility. We are doing significant chillers on the roof so they must be servicing some air handling units within the space. I don't know maybe lawanna If you can, if you know the exact areas that it's servicing, but I think it's for the whole building. Yeah,

Kiki: My understanding is that there is AC for the whole building. We also worked hard with the Department of Health and DDC there to try to phase it so that they don't lose AC during the summer months in the months that count. So the replacement of those chillers will be done in a way that once they you know remove it and then they put the other out in summer when they actually need it. But my understand is that they do have AC

Okay, and we're gonna

Jo-Ena Bennett: I'm glad about this presentation. One of the things that happens in our community whenever there's construction and demolition, we have an increase of rodent problems. I understand that you're going to be working with the fire department and the police department. And you're right next to NYCHA city housing, the thing they can do to help with the rodents that will probably be increased when you start jackhammering and tearing up streets and they're going to be running wild. Is there anything that you can do about that?

Kiki: The work is pretty limited. We are Hello Yeah, most of the work is above ground. There is some work drainage around the building and the site work. I'm going I don't know the details but I think DDCs general conditions have something for rodent control. I will have to verify the details of it. But certainly if it becomes excessive or obnoxious to anyone in the community we can, we will try to address it as best we can. Is there a current problem within that vicinity and that location of the building anyone is aware of?



Not that we've heard that but to know understood Yeah, I mean, yeah. I mean, right construction is disruptive. But we're not doing major like Foundation works and you know going very deep but you know they find their way through landscaping and you know anywhere.

Afia: So hello, hi. Go ahead and be here. Also, I wanted to add you know, being that it is a health department building, construction starts with community members to see any type of rodent concern. Of course, that is something that definitely you should let me know. So that, you know, we can speak to our pest control team to see how we can mitigate that situation. But definitely, of course, that is something that you should report.

Kiki: Thanks. I was actually going to offer that but I was like, that's not my jurisdiction. Yeah, yeah. Department of Health covers. Yeah, the Department of Health covers a lot.

Celeste: So that means there shouldn't be any rats right? Just kidding. So. Yeah, we'll keep you posted. I don't see any more questions from the chat last call. Final call for questions going once. Oh, we have one for our economic development committee chairperson, Desmonde, how are they complying with the MWBE requirements and outreach?

Kiki: We do have a MWBE goal for the contract. Somebody help me out here. I think it's 27% 30% of the 27 Okay.

Thanks. Yeah.

I don't know if you had a follow up Desmonde.

Desmonde: Yeah, but you have a goal but how are you complying with it? Are you doing every city neighborhood area? Are you making the GC responsible for it or is GBC can oversee that, like, I want to hear an actual MWBE plan.

Kiki: Okay. We have a goal. That's part of their contract so they are obligated to meet that goal. And if they don't, they would have to seek a waiver out of it, which is rare and does not happen often or at all. So DDC does have resources to support the contractor with identifying contractors or subcontractors that are available that aren't certified MWBE if it becomes an issue if there is a shortfall meeting that goal, but we don't Marcin you could speak I don't think we're going to have a contract versus

Marcin: either be the one responsible for that. So at this point, all our subcontractors, which is going to be almost more than 50% of the work is going to be MWBE so we are always using minority and woman business companies and this project is gonna be almost 50% of work to comply with. No, we got the 27% but we always above this project specific we're gonna be almost like 50% of the work that we do on the Sabbath School, and web. And we already got those. We already got the contracts, with our web being signed. Ongoing. Preparation of the contract and being signed this weekend the following year, we it's not just contractors. It's with DDC. There's a utilization MWB plan if and again, we work together if we catch any shortfalls, but I Yeah, thanks, Marcin. Okay, we'll go out of your way for sure.

Celeste: Perfect. Okay, so I don't see any other questions. Any other raised hands. I just want to thank both DDC and the Department of Health for those that don't know, this particular site. The

health center has been on CB4's district needs statement for many years. And prior to my time as district manager, we're very happy to see this project moving forward. We know it's been a long time coming. It's coming right after a pandemic. So I think it's particularly exciting for our recovery. So with that being said, thank you, everyone, and we will be moving on with our agenda. You're welcome. To stay we understand if you have to go.

Thank you so much for allowing us to take the floor. Thank you.

Celeste: Okay, so we'll move on now with our second agenda item for public hearing this evening. And we have an open meetings law update.

**2) Open Meetings Law (OML) Update** - Board leadership will provide an overview of the recent amendments to the OML and options for the board to consider adopting via a resolution.

Celeste: So all of this information was sent to the board recently. We know there's a lot that's being shared right now. But we wanted to take this time to make sure that everyone is aware of the most recent guidance that's coming from the city's law department, as well as from various borough halls across the city, even Brooklyn Borough Hall has spoken about the end of and I want to emphasize this at some point, our ability to meet remotely will end. We were previously told it was going to be June 8. However, recently the governor's office has announced that the last day is June 14. What that means is that after June 14, all of the public meetings that every single entity has to go back to being in person could potentially be a hybrid. What that means for Community Board 4 is that all board members, speaking of board members only as long as we're able to afford the hybrid option. Public attendees can still participate remotely, but all board members would have to go back to in-person after June 14. So what does that mean in terms of the recent amendments to the open meetings law? There was very dense legalese that I shared with everyone but my understanding is that if the board chooses to pass a resolution, right, that has to be very clear on what we're entailing within the resolution itself. So there are now provisions for individuals that fall under a category of having extraordinary circumstances. They describe this as those with mobility issues that you know, I imagine immune compromised folks really for those that are unable to make it to meetings in person, for one reason or the other. They also reference caregivers for aging parents. Those are all considered extraordinary circumstances. And those board members would be allowed to participate remotely. However, there would still have to be a quorum in person for the board to conduct its business. So they're saying we want to make sure that folks that are absolutely not able to be there in person still have the ability to participate. However, we're not completely changing the entire law. And then there's also the one stipulation where whenever there is a state of emergency if the board so chooses, as is permitted by the state, the governor's office had made this clear prior to this particular meeting, whenever there's the state of emergency, the Board may choose to hold their meeting remotely and whenever it's in the public's interest, so but that would have to be something that is going into this resolution, and it would have to be passed in order for the board to meet remotely in the future whenever there is a state of emergency whether it's the weather, whether it's a health related emergency things along those lines. So I know I just spoke a lot. I want to open this up in case folks have questions, in case they have another

interpretation, in case Mr. Camacho you would like to say anything, but that is my understanding. And we want to discuss it with everyone.

Mr. Camacho: Yeah, that's exactly what I read. I read the same thing you did, what you sent out. So obviously, we just want to hear from everyone else and see. To make sure that we all know that it's not us. We're doing the best we can to make sure that we do what the city charter says and what they say they want us to do. But other than that, you know, it is what it is.

Anne: Is there a provision in that so just how today just like the email you sent out, said that we're on red alert now in the city. Is this going to go back and forth based on COVID numbers, red alerts or whatever they are? Or is it a blanket determination? Because I mean, I you know, I got COVID a couple of weeks ago for the first time. I've never been as careful as I could possibly be. I mean, it's just contagious right now. So is that rule going to allow for changes in rates of hospitalization? of danger etcetera?

Celeste: As was described in the guidance provided to us, they did not take into consideration what might happen with COVID. What I would, my best guess is that if it does continue to escalate, they would keep the state of emergency in place. Therefore we have the provision for the state of emergency the board wouldn't be able to meet remotely. That's what I imagined would happen. Well say

Jose Guzman: Good evening, everybody. Just following up and question you said any guidance about like, if we go in person, requirements about masking, how are we going to ensure that the rest of the community members and just to remind people this is a volunteer space that we are sacrificing not only time but now we might put in risk for health as well? So I'm just trying to understand what people and our elected officials are proposing to do to keep us safe while we conduct this.

Celeste: So there's no specific guidance regarding the meetings. They are largely based in guidance on masking on the you know, larger CDC level guidance. However, we are at the discretion of a senior center and the senior center has very different guidance. So we were in a different building. What I'm about to say may not be true, but because we are in a senior center, they require masks. And of course, if folks aren't feeling well, you know, we're going to ask them to, you know, not come to the meeting, but we will have masks on site. You know, when we go back to in person meetings, we'll be asking everyone to wear them. You know, we hope that folks will comply. We don't foresee any reason why they wouldn't. You know, but that's kind of where we are. And of course, we're limiting the number of people at tables and then at least during the warmer weather, we know that the senior center has doors on the side that we may be able to open to increase circulation. So there's some thought going into it just to make sure folks are comfortable. You know, we know that again, this is just for those that have to be there in person so the public can still participate, you know, remotely, but we want to ensure that everyone knows that they can come in person and be safe in person.

Mr. Camacho: And we'll have hand sanitizers for people. The Council Member had a town hall and they had masks and hand sanitizers and they did their due diligence and the meeting was out and it was very well accepted there.

Joshua Brown: Josh, we're going back to in-person and Camacho touched on the hand sanitizer in a mass food portion given a duck imposing elevated risks and given that that's a staple of our community boards.

Celeste: Unfortunately, not at the current time. Hopefully when things get better, we'll be able to resume but we want to eliminate anything that can come into contact so that would include our dinners that we used to provide to the community. So at least for the time being we're gonna, you know, refrain, but hopefully we'll be able to resume when things get better.

Felix Ceballos: Yes. I want to say because everything is coming back as a lot of people now are going back to COVID and we don't know later we don't know in June. Well, you know, what we're gonna work on to be on and I don't know what writing is that decision is putting people in danger again because everything is coming back.

Celeste: So this we know is a very personal decision to attend in person but that's why we're having this conversation now. We want to be prepared. We don't want to wait so we get to that point and then no one can, you know, participate remotely. And we've always said you know, the guidance that we receive is just what they are advising us right now. There is legislation to my knowledge, I don't have a specific bill but I know there have been discussions on the state level of expanding the open meetings law. We encourage everyone to reach out to their state representatives to ask them to advocate for that. Think about how convenient it would be if you could do either or in general. So we're not quite there yet. So we have to work with what we have now. And I do want to point out that you know, and I can't predict the future or how you know, the state will respond. But if things continue to get worse, there's no reason to believe that they wouldn't extend the state of emergency when they've done so before.

Mr. Camacho: So there was anticipation that hopefully in June, but you know, we're hearing a lot of speculations in regards. If it goes down, they'll go up and if it goes up, it'll go down so we got to keep up attendance. Oh, what's going on? We'll take it day to day. Face up and we got to do what we have to do. If it goes down then we have to do what they tell us to do. But we're just bringing to let everyone know that it's not me. It's not Celeste, it's not the board. We got to go through the city charter and we have to be in compliance. I know we don't want to get cited in regards to not being in compliance because those fines don't look good. Celeste knows for a fact. Those violations aren't good at all. So we really need to make sure that that we do what we came to do  
is Ben

Jo-Ena Bennett: This is Jo-Ena Bennett speaking and I just want to remind everybody to please state their name when they speak. One of the things that concerns me is the imposition of debt. You must tap in person, enough in person people at a meeting to make a quorum. And so it almost seems like an unfair or like a hardship to impose that on us in the middle of COVID If you have willing board members that are even willing to give up your time remotely and to say that

you can't even vote on something because you're not physically present. Seems like why would they even do that? What is the whole purpose and holds up the community boards work that we're trying to do? And some of those you know are often time sensitive. So I just think that that was something that I don't know if we can write to our elected officials, but they seemed like they could even live that they have people come out during COVID It's one thing to risk their lives. But another thing to say is that the board can't even conduct their business because you don't have a quorum because people want to participate remotely. It is unfair to like a punishment. And I think this is extremely unfair to hold up the business of the board.

Mr. Camacho: This is Mr. Camacho, it is in the city charter. If you read on a city charter it specifically says that all board members must be present. It's there. So let's get right in the city charter to change it. To use it as a remote is in your city charter. It's on that paper and you can highlight it if you want. I can give all of you a copy. It specifically said that your body must be present in order to make the vote on something so that you have a quorum to conduct the meeting. And the only way is not now is because of the executive order that the governor put. So unless they change the city charter, you know like they change term limits like they did to us. We turned out after X amount of years. So unless they change the city charter we fight the elected officials because that was on the vote when we voted and nobody turned the page over that and the people that they voted to do term limits for board members that were volunteers. That's the thing we have to make sure. So we have to always be available and make sure that we check our checks and balances.

Louisa Chan: This is Louisa Chan. I have a quick question regarding any proposals like because you mentioned that it's the city charter. So is that only can only happen through a ballot initiative or can city council members Council sponsor anything? Like have we been in touch with the city council members to see what their thoughts are? They can help in this regard in terms of protecting, I mean, you know, the function of the board but also protecting people's lives. You know, this is you know, we're gonna have to live with COVID but I just don't think that you know, I agree with what a lot of people have said this is a volunteer position and, you know, people shouldn't have to make a choice between doing what's good for the cleaning versus home. You know, what's good for their own health.

Celeste: Just a point of clarification, we're discussing the Open Meetings Law, not the city charter. So the city charter is a completely separate conversation. But right now, what is dictating or what sets the tone for these meetings is the open meetings law. So I don't know, legally it supersedes the charter, but I know it's a state mandate. So it's a state law. So um, that is what basically dictates how any public body within the jurisdiction of the state, you know, the municipalities would conduct their meetings, I'll say.

Jose Guzman: Jose Guzman, community board member. Yeah, I just want to say just to put things in perspective, I think we were in this situation. I want to say maybe a year ago, when exactly this conversation was brought up to us, right. And soon after that, I think we started having infection rates and the spikes and all of that. So they extended this emergency law. So I really hope you know that they're not gonna put us in harm's way. But I'm just as I'm listening to you all, I can recall that we have discovered that deja vu all over again, right. So hopefully, you know, this emergency spike

And I really believe in hope that our community Paul will continue to be taken care of by protecting each other making sure that we continue to be safe. Yes, thanks.

Celeste: Absolutely. And yes, the only difference between the conversations then in the ones we're having now is that we are being asked or being advised to advise that we have the option the board has the option of passing a resolution, right, that would basically take the recent amendments to the open meetings law and allow for certain individuals that fall under the extraordinary circumstances category to participate remotely. So they, they didn't say everyone can do it, but basically those that would otherwise be completely prevented from being in person because of a mobility impairment or because their immune compromised, they now have access to participate and so I think July of 2024, if I'm not mistaken, I would have to cross reference the month but I know it's 2024. So, and then, I know we also have our council member here, Councilmember nurse, I see that you dropped something in the chat. Would you like to speak?

Council Member Nurse: I just wanted to say we're also subjected to those laws. And our meetings are hybrid, and we don't require a number of people in person for a quorum, so I'm confused why that would be required to you all, and I'm sure that we can work to do the right advocacy to make sure that's not required. I don't think that will be a big lift.

Celeste: Okay, perfect. All right, final call comments on this item. Oh, I see. We have an Oh, okay. The hand went down. So I see no hands. I see nothing in the chat. Nothing in the q&a. Final call for any comments, questions on this item? Going once, going twice. Okay. So we will revisit this during recommendations later if the board would like to make a recommendation. I strongly encourage it if we want to allow for those folks to be protected, even if they do extend the state of emergency, but we'll go through that then. Okay, so that concludes our public hearing today. Thank you folks, and we'll get ready to go right into our regular meeting agenda.

### **Regular Meeting:**

#### **1) First Roll Call**

**Board members in attendance:** Rev. Grace Aytes, Jo-Ena Bennett, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Louisa Chan, Anne Guiney, Jose Guzman, Tanesha Honeygan, Cheryl Jones, Luisa Jose, Imini Mitchell, Desmonde Monroe, Kyle O'Rourke, Acire Polight, Eliseo Ruiz, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellin, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams, Frank Zimmerman

**Excused:** Melissa Carrera, Freddy Fowler, Christopher Graham, Barbara Jackson, Mary McClellan, Zulma Novoa, Raul Rubio, Vernedeane Shell

**Absent:** Andrew Choi, Carlos Feliciano, James Fitzgerald, Egaudy Gomez, Andy Marte, Samy Nemir Olivares, Gladys Puglla, Leo Tineo, Odolph Wright

24 board members present constitute a quorum.

## **2) Acceptance of the Agenda**

Elvena Davis made a motion to accept the agenda. Jose Guzman seconded it. All were in favor, so moved.

## **3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

Celeste: I have to apologize. I was not able to finish editing them in time. A lot of reports to review this month. I kindly asked if the board would mind tabling them and I'll get them to you as soon as possible.

Robert Camacho made a motion to table the previous meeting minutes. Jo-Ena Bennett seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

## **4) Election for 2022 to 2023 Executive Board Officers**

Celeste: So everyone should have received some guidance. Just give me a quick minute to pull up the information over eight. And I do want to take a moment to thank all of our nomination committee members. I want to give a shout out to the nomination committee which includes this year Mary McClellan, Barbara Jackson. Annette Spellin, Gladys Puglla, Melissa Carrera, Dustin Sonneborn, and Desmonde Monroe. Each year this is an ad hoc committee, so an additional committee that meets specifically to review the nominations for each position and just give me one second. So I have the results here. But I do want to defer. I know last year Ms. McClellan was able to say a few words. I don't see her this evening. But if Mr. Camacho you just want to say a few words about the nomination committee and about executive officer positions and why they're important, the role that they play on the board.

Mr. Camacho: And we all have to make sure that the landfall plane, we all want to make sure that if you hold a position there that you comply with the position to make sure you come to these meetings and make sure that you know we're here to serve and make sure everyone gets done. I know we have you guys have a copy of the bylaws. If you don't, we can give you one in regards to each title. One is position that then we're in a job that you owe some of the positions that are on there. You don't do those jobs but only because of the staff and the office does but if you want to share information or you want some information they can then give you so you can have yourself in regards to some of the titles that are on there for Office other than that. We hope everybody that are there serve and the people that are not on there are not going to be nominated or running. We hope that they continue to serve with us and continue to make a bushel better. We're trying in our office, hard to make sure that we get all of these agencies to be in compliance to serve our community. And that's what we really want to do in regards to HPD in regards to sanitation in regards to PD and me and Celeste and the staff are really trying to bring them all in which I know we have majority of them when they come to the to the service cabinet and the meetings that we have, and they come in they handle but we really need to up the ante and make sure that they should get their fair share, share in regards to taxes and make sure that their services get served. So that's what I'm here for. That's what we're here for. As you know, the chair is two years. So I am up for election next year. So it's up to you guys. And

what we want to do so we all want to make sure that we serve everyone in general. So got to eat sleep, Bushwick. We have to and we know what happens in one block happens to the other cancer spread. So we really got to get together and come on now and also support our elected officials and whatever they want and need and also ourselves because we know we go through the chain of command sometimes and now with all these new elected officials coming in, and we have the borough presidents and our mayor, we want to make sure we bring our mayor in here for weekend. If he's doing good, well praise him. If he's not doing good then we're gonna go after him to make sure everyone even myself if I feel that I'm not guess what any of us can be replaced. You place me. I don't take our ship on that. We got someone else that wants to do or think they can do better. That's what democracy is all about. Getting out there and putting new people with new ideas and things to the table. And if you want me I'm here. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you Mr. Camacho. So I'm going to share my screen and I'm going to ask. I know we have a few of our nomination committee members on this evening. But just as a reminder for everyone that's on so these positions are only open to board members. The board member has to be on the board for at least a year. Nomination committee members are not eligible for nomination. So and if you're a committee chairperson, for instance and you're nominated, you would not be able to hold both your position as committee chair and as an executive officer as further the 2019 bylaw amendments.

Mr. Camacho: And the reason why we did that is because everybody was saying that, that I'm going to too many meetings. We're doing too much. So we're trying to consolidate some of the things and make everybody share the love because that's the Brooklyn way everybody has to eat. So we want everybody to form and make better decisions in regards to what we do. Because if the same person is the same person, that's the chairperson, and the same person that's on the executive board, then he goes to the full board meeting, then if he's on a committee, now he's going to fall so we were burning out these people so I wanted to make sure we change our bylaws to make sure that everybody eats and everybody is deficient serving this community.

Celeste: Thank you. All right. I'm gonna pull up the election form; don't fill it out just yet. We're gonna have to go through it. If you recall, we have to ask for nominations from the floor or rather, the committee has to so Desmonde or Dustin if you're comfortable. I'm going to pull up a form if you don't mind just reading through each of the titles that comes up Desmonde if you'd like. So the way it works, you just have to state the position name and then you have to ask if there are any nominations from the floor three times. So you have to say going once, second time, third time. Whenever you're ready, Desmonde.

Desmonde asked for any nominations from the floor three times per position. There were no nominations from the floor.

Celeste: Okay. All right, perfect. So what comes next for all of the positions that only have one individual and please board members correct me if I'm wrong. Since they are running uncontested they are automatically in that position. And I believe that recording the current



recording secretary has to cast the vote is that, yes? Okay. Is James Fitzgerald here? James, are you there? I don't hear James. I believe this happened last year as well. And we asked Ms. Davis, who is the Correspondence Secretary so if the board will allow for us to move this forward with a vote from the correspondence secretary would that work?

Mr. Camacho made a motion for the Correspondence Secretary, Ms. Davis. It was seconded by Cheryl Jones. All were in favor, so moved.

Ms. Davis cast a single vote for the following:

2nd Vice Chairperson - Raul Rubio

Recording Secretary - Felix Ceballos

Financial Secretary - Eliseo Ruiz

All were congratulated. Ms. Davis was unable to cast a vote for herself to continue as the board's Correspondence Secretary. Eliseo Ruiz, the Financial Secretary, cast one vote for Ms. Davis. She was congratulated.

Ms. Davis cast a single vote for Jerry Valentin. He was uncontested to become the board's Treasurer after Eliseo Ruiz was elected to remain the board's Financial Secretary.

Ms. Davis cast a single vote for Jo-Ena Bennett for Parliamentarian as she was uncontested.

Celeste: So we have now this is the time board members if you have the form I'm instructing you to go ahead, fill it out online. If you're calling in. I shared the call in number earlier via email. You're calling Dustin Sonneborn to enter the information for you. But please click the link that I sent earlier for the online form and please enter your selection for these positions.

Alright, so we have only one position this evening, folks. And before we voted and I'm apologizing for missing this because I'm doing all of this from scratch again. We only do this one time a year. But Josh, I know you're on, do you want to speak and say a few words about the position and about what you've been doing in the position?

Joshua Brown: Yes, yes. Good evening, CB4. My name is Joshua Brown. I'm currently first vice chair and my role represents CB4 in lieu of our chairperson. In terms of the work that I've been doing for CB4 is being a subject matter expert on issues concerning real estate, deeds as well estate planning because these are issues that affect the community greatly. We thank those of you who attended our webinar recently, we think there was critical information that will serve our community, as well as benefit families in Bushwick. But I've been serving in the capacity as somewhat of an educator as well as a clarifier and humbly look forward to serve in Bushwick further.

Celeste: And I'm going to call one more time for Mr. Fitzgerald, James. If you're there, this would be the time to also speak. If you're not there, we have to move on. Going once, going twice. All right, everyone should be voting now. We have 44 board members in total, and 22 are here this evening. So we should have 22 responses or at least somewhere close to 22

The results: Joshua brown with 96% of the vote. Congratulations, Josh. First Vice Chairperson All right. And that concludes this year's election. All right, everyone. I think this is a record. We should have put this down in the annals of history that we've completed an election in under like 30 minutes. All right. We'll move on now. The rest of the meeting.

#### **4) Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Camacho: Congrats to all. I want to thank everybody. I know we have a hard time. I'm gonna be a rough person. But we have hard work ahead of us. Bushwick needs us and we have to make sure that we serve Bushwick in whatever capacity that we have. So thank God for us. Thank God whoever made it. And let's go to work. Celeste, can I read my report on Thursday, April 21. Shape-Up Bushwick committee we met on April 23. Saturday at 10am. I went to a point day data function or workshop from 12 to 12 o'clock from 10 to 12. And I went to Josh thank you Josh for the CB4 webinar with Josh. It was great. I was there. I loved it. It was good to people you had, it was good, informative. I hope we can, you know, open where we can see everyone and everyone can participate even more but we did a good job that same day I went to the Clean Bushwick at Maria Hernandez Park from to four. Then from there I went to House of Yes this was on a Saturday. I spent my whole Saturday going to block parties. On Sunday the 24th I was at the inauguration from Borough Hall with Antonio Reynoso, an Uber president. We have good

Hear me, April 25 on a Monday. CB4 EPTS as part of the committee there are several concerns in regard to our parks. We will speak QA. I will know if I should speak up on it now or wait until the end? And we all have to go through the meetings and then you can see

I got it. All right. I want to make sure I don't want to take anymore on Tuesday, the 26th CB4 housing land use committee, Wednesday the 27th. When we went to Dr. Ted, our famous message deck, which I report to, I was thrown down there's pictures out there somewhere. And everybody got it. I had a suit, a little shirt and tie. And thank you for the committee that put this together. We had a nice time. Big shout out to Busch who did that clean delicious. I didn't tell him. On Tuesday, May 3 1pm. I was at the hearing with our public housing. The Rat Pack testified with Congresswoman Alexandria Ramirez. We had a good hearing on Tuesday, May 3 at 6pm Brooklyn Borough board meeting on Wednesday, May 4. Bushwick playgrounds. May Celestica. Walk over to the Bushwick playground on Wednesday, May 4 at 3pm. MTA briefing on the one one BX project, so let's fill you in on that. Wednesday, May 5 at 5pm cb for sanitation work go Friday 6pm. Friday, May 6 10pm. Oh garden project update with the RAD conversion. I'll speak in regards to them and feel on Friday, May 6 1pm. Assemblywoman we had a meeting with Assemblywoman regarding this establishment Wyckoff with Celeste offer you and an arrest with some of the concerns and issues that we had them operating out of their license. Tuesday May 10. Two of the remaining with the new employee from Congresswoman Jennifer Gutierrez on Tuesday, May 10 at 5pm CB4 arts and culture Work Group on Tuesday, May 10 At six o'clock that was their five permits and license on Wednesday, May 11. Attended District Cabinet meeting 27 participants on Thursday at 2pm walkthrough the NYC EM building or no street we did a walkthrough with me, Celeste, and Annette Spellman. And then that day, we found out that the guy that was giving us the walkthrough had COVID. So we weren't checking each other out but we're all thank God I'm good. So they let us know. We find out he got tested. We got tested, he came up positive. So he let us know we all got tested. So thank you all right on Thursday, the

sixth, the CPSR CB4 that 37 are community partners in patrol borough North Deputy Inspector Mascol on Tuesday 6pm at precinct Council on which is today on 630 On which was Tuesday, Tuesday at 630. I also want to thank the council woman, Sandy Nurse, who was in 195. We had a town hall. It was very I had things going on in regards to sanitation. So we got to help board and push some more money for sanitation. And we also with the controller, a ticket to land. Land. What's his name? Lander. Lander. Yes. Brad Lander was with us. We took pictures with him. He's really enthusiastic and trying to see if we can change the tax laws. 421a, we're pushing to get rid of it. Hopefully they can get rid of it and it expires. And then at today at 10am at PC clergy and then the full Board meeting today and I'm wanting to fill you guys in on some of the things that we've been getting in our office and also I have been getting a complaint in regards and hopefully when the captain is on there he can enlighten us on why these things are still occurring and we really need to support him to help him in any way. We don't want it to fund the police department who need more police officers because we have a lot of issues. 1122 Bushwick Avenue, the event studio. They sent me a video. It is horrendous. I know. Someone mentioned that there was a gun taken from that place. This is the first time I heard about it. They sent me a video, Bushwick part of the ball field or vendors playing volleyball all time late at night. We should park no poor. The dog didn't stop dogs and go crazy but I want all the elected officials, even the mayor's office that I know is on here. I know that the wrangles site has an open space one what's going on with that open space. They're using a park or baseball field as a dog park. There's holes there's land mandates feces urine. No one has helped me. They getting tickets people don't get, they're not paying them tickets. What happened to the open space or not? Why is it not that they pay \$4,000? They got to open space there. Why not? What's going on with it? We need to find out what's going on with that open space. They have open space that was catered to them on the rainbow side. 95% of those people that come to that park for men that are developments, and I had said they had seen the walking from across the street late and missing. The kids don't want to use their partner more. There's feces all over this old. They're making holes all over something that's got to be done. I don't know what's going on. And that's parks without borders for not listening to us. They shouldn't be closing these parks down for our kids 12 and under. That's not the only part that we have, we have every square park. They let them go there at the incident rates and they say call me some dog. Not a dog that they let go and there was an issue in the Palm Bay firming Park. Nobody wants to use a Thomas born park because of course the street they're carrying guns and shooting and the kids can jump over the fence and come into that park. Because the defenses are low. Another thing that they don't listen to on board is by another 299. They play volleyball at 2am in the morning, they got to generate it they sent me a video at two o'clock in the morning. They play volleyball and they gotta generate what's going on here. We really need the main noise and we need help. I don't know if PD needs help. Or we need somebody to come up and open. We're getting pictures, we have pictures. We got things going on prostitution. We got them going. Going into. We had this individual sent us a five page letter, a garage, working on the sidewalk, abandoned cars, a house as abandoned. There's rolling all over the place 193 Wycoff a limo, a whole car that should have been removed from the epic complaining call 311 all the time. What's going on? Now we get and they look at us like they don't even want to call them or the community because of what you guys are doing. So we really need to address these issues. Now but right now, we had a we had someone on Bushwick Avenue because of the prostitution

that's on the lock is gay but I guess you forgot to get the tenant. The key to the last one is calling the fire department and because the gate and they were going to give him a summons because it shouldn't allow but they're having sex in a property in front of his peers in the gate. They're going to negate How is this even possible? So that is my report. I hope that the mayor can sit down with the mayor and whoever is in charge I know that Tony Tony Tony Hubbard is no longer with the mayor's office. I don't know what happened. Maybe he'd been trying to get sick and tired of me yelling and screaming and went to the mayor's office tonight. He resigned so I don't know what's going on. So we need to find out who's in charge of the man. Oh, Harris, are you part of that now? Talk to us. Also, Mr. Herbert is no longer there you enjoy. Deputy Commissioner David Lewis but he had a conflict conference.

So okay, I hope I hope we can meet with and we can sit down and find out what's going on with the offices or what's going on with our captain. Maybe you might need some services. Or maybe we can go to see all of us and maybe start a protest real quick because they can protest to stop funding from the police. So when are we gonna get no service with taxpayers? These people have one or two family home? I got this lady sent me an email and the letter that states that she wants to sell her property and wants to leave because it's horrendous. No one's listening to our people. Now they saw the two three family home and all these big people come in and they pay for \$5,000 and they push the little people we help our seniors need help. Why? Why do I have to sit here and we are all taxpayers? In fact the services that we deserve this prostitution is going on illegal selling in parks we know the vendors we need to if they need to get licenses let's give licenses to these vendors they need but they shouldn't be selling food in the park because if they eat the kids eat the food and they don't have a license and they get sick or they died. What are we going to do? Who should park? There was a shooting and the guy ran through the park. What's going on here? We're going back and it's not even summer yet. Watch when someone comes up with what happened with the NCO program. They no longer have three priests in his club. We don't know if it's closed or open. The NCO program, we want the officers back. We know that officers are working but this time we really need to focus on what community really needs the services and what the community does. When we know that Bushwick doesn't have a lot of guns. We want more cops if it has problems in regard to quality of life issues. We want to have our NCO officers back in here to address some of the concerns. That we had at a regular base. Not at this time late at night because we're supposed to be building relationships, not when we're in bed, when they don't arrest you when you relationship now to like that they know who we are, and we know who they are. And we can tell them the people who it is who is to listen

Jo-Ena Bennett: Mr. Camacho, please excuse me. We're here, you're gonna make his order. The meeting is for reports and we need to walk but I hear you loud and clear, sir. Loud and clear.

Mr. Camacho: Thank you, Madame Parliamentarian. I just felt that people were seeing us.

Martha Brown: He's saying what the people in our community need is speaking from his heart. He is speaking from the heart of us people in the community who have worked and lifted all of our lives but are completely correct.

Barbara Smith: Where are our NCOs? Why did people still out there hooking up on Bushwick Ave with them selling their bodies and doing an act in front of people's houses? I'm not going to linger on this issue, but Mr. Camacho was like he is actually a person that he has the right to speak, go on. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho: I know this time. I'm not a parliamentarian, I understand that. But sometimes we have all these emails and all these letters. And it makes it sound like we're not doing anything but we are. We want to let the people know that we are fighting for the moon and continue Oh yes. Thank you. You should see the emails that people send to me in the middle of the night. It's a very bad situation. Jo-Ena: Yes. I agree. And I appreciate everything that he said. Every single thing that he said is correct. And I was just trying to get the agenda moving along. That's it but I know I agree with that. I'm glad that I move on.

Mr. Camacho: I understand. I guess that's my report. I guess. We'll set another meeting for another time. Thank you.

Celeste: Any questions? Any comments? For Mr. Camacho's report Going once.

Annette: Spellen: We just named Mr. Harris and put his contact information in the chat. So I want Tony Herbert, come to my meeting. So I guess Mr. Harris will replace him now. But I need to be able to contact him. Thank you.

Celeste: Marcus put the info in the chat a little bit a little while ago with some people who were chiming in. And I will also reach out to the deputy commissioner just to make sure if he's moved in so we've already communicated regarding the question of the playground but I was planning to follow up with them once we figured out who was going to be the right person to invite to the next meeting Ms. Spellen.

Mr. Camacho: With all due respect, I hope that you also can tell the mayor that we need to see him which we will need to hear and we don't need to see him on TV or going anywhere else. Because when I go vote, I'm not on TV. I'm a voter. So we are concerned and we need to see him and make sure that he understands from my heart what we mean and how we have been suffering for so many years. It gets me kind of angry and upset that we picked and choose someone that we think that can represent this and output and yet we're going backwards. So we really tell him how we feel and what we want and what we should deserve. Because if it was the new people fighting up overhead now, what is the right now? I'm getting sick and tired of us repeating the same thing over so let's just like you tell me all the time. We complain and complain. What are we doing about it? So I'm gonna say what are we doing about?

Jo-Ena Bennett: This Camacho This is Jo-Ena Bennett. We have an elected official official representing Bushwick who is promoting legalized sex workers. And I think that these people feel emboldened that they have a champion. I think you need to add to that person's name. You're aware of this and I can speak to that if that's directed at me. Okay, I don't know if it was directed at me, but I just wanted to say that I can help by connecting with the sex workers project so that it's not just about cops going to those folks. There's an entire network of people to support folks who are in those situations. It's different, it's not just about having cops go there and just shoot people away. There's there's more support services provided through that network.

Celeste: So just just to reiterate, without trying to open a can of worms because this could be its own townhall but we've had I think the frustration is because we've had these conversations with about four different commanding officers now with the chief now where we always come back to the same conclusion that it's not just the PD that needs to be involved in various organizations have been tapped to try to provide additional support and resources. You know, the DA's office has been looped into the issues. This is probably maybe once or twice every year that we have these conversations and you know, I don't want to be dismissive and I'm not I'm not trying to shade if anyone knows, I tried to be the I say the nice way, but I think everyone here is frustrated because we've reached the point where we keep repeating the same thing and everyone knows what they say about repeating the same thing. That's the definition of insanity. We're not crazy people here but yet we have crazy problems that aren't being addressed. And so I think what Mr. Camacho was trying to pose to those with the ability to do something on this meeting today is can you please help us and let us do something about it, and then get back to us maybe by our next meeting to see where we're at as opposed to having the same conversation and a year from now and no results. Did I get that right Mr. Camacho?

Joshua Brown: I want to say, Bushwick we've been aware of just the whole prostitution issue with Woodbine and I agree with Councilwoman that that this we shouldn't criminalize these people because they're not volunteer and sell their own bodies. This is more of a economic economic issue that this portion of them Bushwick isn't facing because there's if we're honest, these are trans people who are selling sex and lots of them can't go into regular working places and get them jobs. So given that that's been going on in that area, others feel comfortable comment. I agree it's a quality of life issue for residents because you don't want this outside of your home. But the NYPD said that they're not going to enforce this. So in terms of addressing this issue, I would also look at it through the lens of this as an economic issue because those people are doing that because they don't have any other means to get work. Whether there's discrimination or from other means just so we don't criminalize and population just as our come community face with drugs and things of that nature any 90s to where now, this is more of a mental health issue, since it's affecting a different demographic. But this is clearly an economic issue and people from our community can't get them jobs and since that's how it's been going. It's kind of like that's the known area where you go to get on prostitute.

Mr. Camacho: I understand that charge but when you're going if I were to go into the mayor's house in front of his gate and do that, I bet you I have security there wouldn't be there has nothing to do with what they don't want to say in that. Why don't they go kart street or somewhere else or give them a place where they could do that inside people's homes and in the gate? And there was a fight and a riot there just the other night with people going into the gates and the owner of the place finding them and they will fight and agree we're trying to get a hold on the cops. And it was all crazy at three in the morning and people were calling me that there were fights there with the residents and the people because they were doing it inside the gate. If they're doing it in the street or they go to Broadway or they got no one's saying that they're going into properties. That's right. people's properties. So maybe someone can address those questions and issues and concerns that they're going into people's personal property. And they're not getting anything done. And they're leaving all the sex paraphernalia and stuff in their home. Then you tell me that it's alright. But if it's in front of your house, inside your game, you

tell me to paint the picture, they're doing it, it's not that they can go move them off the couch and be there moving them along. We're not telling them to lock them up, move them out, just like they used to. Do when you used to sell drugs. A movie you got to move right you moved on they moved on to another spot. They can go somewhere else. We're not saying that but don't go inside my game and I got to put a padlock.

So I think we all have an idea based on these conversations of what exactly is happening. I want to also be mindful of time and respectful. We also have our captain here so if it's okay with the board, I would like to allow him to respond to some of these issues. Is that okay, everyone? Some heads? Yes, Captain. Yes.

Good evening, everyone. So yeah, this has been an ongoing issue for quite a while, even way before I was here, but um, you know, obviously it's unacceptable that sex workers would be going into private properties. We were talking earlier in the clergy meeting. If that is the case, please give us a call 911 immediately because that is a crime. Crime where we can issue a summons or an arrest. Probably an arrest. More than a summons. So I'm not sure about the fight. When was this fight? Come on? Mr. Camacho

Mr. Camacho: On Saturday night, this past Saturday. Yeah, the past Saturday. Yes. Three in the morning.

Captain: All right. I gotta look into that because it's the first time I heard of that. Saturday the 14th. Then I'll look into exactly what happened and to see body cameras and things like that if we did not handle it correctly, that will be addressed. But I could only know that if I look into it. So but yes, so what we've been doing is presents you know, the mayor, One Police Plaza put in where we're bringing in six cops four hours early from the Midnight's so they're working from 830 to 1130. And they have to be in certain zones. So we have three zones in the 83rd precinct, one in Sector Adam, which is like the Wilson and Halsey area, one in Sector David, which is like the Maria Hernandez area, and then zone two, which covers the area that we were talking about Woodbine Madison. every tweet seen evergreen and Bushwick. So they're there they are have their lights on and they're patrolling that area, looking for not only for our gang members there, but also they're very aware of the prostitution problem there. And they do address it. How do I know that they're there every morning? Yeah, after every tour, I get a we're able to track our vehicles through our computer systems. I get a report every morning, where I see where our cars are, are and we're and I can see that they're in that area, patrolling that area. I have I have not seen any 911 calls in regards to the prostitution, but we know that's there. I've heard you. We've all heard you and we're continuing to address that situation. I've had my NCOs do Midnight's. We actually have brought offered resources. And what's interesting is what Council Member Nurse said—that one of the people she works with said the other day we could be the wrong messengers. And I agree with that. I agree that we could be the wrong messengers in regards to offering services, but that, you know, these other nonprofits could come in and address that situation. Especially like Mr. Brown said, economically because when we've talked to them, when we have talked to them in the past, what they have said is we just want to make money. That's pretty much what they've said. So that is very true. We don't want to arrest people, nor can we arrest but this is what we're dealing with. But please if they are on your property that is a trespass. That is something that we can and will enforce. It doesn't matter what the judges do to the person, you know, after the fact when we bring them downtown. But

we can issue those summonses for an arrest. So that's what's going on in that area of Woodbine Madison. And I'm putting them

Celeste: Thank you, Captain. And we I know we have to move on but since you're already speaking is it okay for the Catholic to continue his report? Yeah, yeah.

### **83 Precinct Commanding Officer's Report:**

Captain Sanabria: All right. No problem. Really quick that the city as a whole has is increasing in crimes except for murders. On the 83 is no exception. But the thing is with us is that we have an increasing grand larcenies excuse me, a lot of it being packaged apps, a lot of it being cepstrum auto, you know, people are leaving their laptops leaving their phones and we're seeing an increase in that. What I have also seen lately, which has a concerning trend, is when people are at the gas stations filling up their cars or going to pay. I've seen at least five within the past two weeks where someone is coming on the other side of the vehicle, opening the doors and stealing their property. So please, when you're at these filling up your gas and your vehicles, please ensure you lock the doors and are very aware of what's going on there. We also have an increase in auto thefts. I haven't seen that in the past. 28 days right now. It's just broad. It's whatever is you know, whatever they can steal or whatever that that they're looking for, they're going to steal so it was economize, but please the kind of lines will always spike at some points throughout the year. But if you do have any kind of line, they're easy to steal. They don't have a key fob. They just could just pop the burglaries we're having an increase in burglaries. We have commercial break ins. We have a little bit of a pattern up in Sector David where they are cutting the box that controls the gates, they're cutting them or and they're either manually opening the gate or they're actually if it's electronic, they're actually hot wiring it to open. So that's what we're dealing with right now. I do have extra patrols to try to combat those grand larcenies wherever earlier because they are happening over on the Midnight's, so we are addressing that by using our resources as best as possible. But the one good thing is that our shootings are down. We're down 50%. We have four shootings for the year. We haven't had a shooting since March. And hopefully that trend continues. But we know how last year was a very violent year for the city. And it was a very violent year for the 83rd precinct. But as we deploy our resources to these known violent locations, we hope that we'll be able to continue with the trend downward

Mr. Camacho: Can you speak on 1122 Bushwick that event studio?

Captain Sanabria: So we do get a lot of 311 calls from 1122. It's all owned by someone, but it's rented by another person. And that person rents it out to the public. That's what we have right now. We do get a lot of calls actually, in regards to noise. This past, I believe, Saturday or Friday night. We had a call. We had a few calls there that it was loud. Our officers did go. We actually were working with DDP at the time and SLA. We brought SLA and DEP over into that location. SLA did not issue any summonses because they did not find any SLA violations. However, DEP did make summonses due to the noise level. I believe they wrote to and it should it to the to the owner, or who was running the 1122 punishment was anyone else had been caught with a gun?

Captain Sanabria: So an out and outside and outs, not the three but an outside another precinct. Their intelligence officers actually were tracking a known violent offender and they



were tracking him and he ended up and he ended up actually found in Bushwick. So when they were closing down, they went in there, found him, saw him, stopped him and he was arrested for having a gun.

Joshua Brown: Given that cannabis is legal in New York, what is the NYPD's formal policy regarding cannabis. People smoking outside and businesses selling cannabis just as a rule of thumb.

Captain: Yeah, so as you said, it's legal. Our policy is there's like a whole bunch of stipulations. But if you're under 21, you're not allowed to have cannabis. What we can do as the police department is all we can do is really just take it away from the person and voucher. Other than that, there's really not much more than that. We do that and that's our policy as of right now, until more is, you know, put down on paper for our policies. When we're talking about when we're talking about smoke shops that sell where we're telling them about the registration to the New York State that they have to do. But right now, we can't do anything about them. Selling you can't do anything about them selling them they're always 21 and so right now we're not we're not enforcing those those rules or laws until something more concrete is put on paper and everything is figured out from open as far as smoking outside, is if an NYPD officer sees someone smoking that's totally allowed, correct.

That is correct. There is nothing that we can do. Okay, thank you.

Celeste: I would just like to note for points of clarification, to my knowledge, it's still not legal to smoke in public parks. We know that that's not always something that's followed, but I don't think that that would be any different. If you can't smoke cigarettes in a public park. You're not supposed to smoke anything in public parks. So yes,

Mr. Camacho: Captain in regards to 299 the volleyball with the generators and parties that two three in the morning playing volleyball and a lady who wants to sell her house.

Captain: I'm going to be speaking with the Parks Department in regards to that. See, you know where what we can do in regards to locking or having them come out with us and it's showing summons if necessary. So that's what we're gonna be doing with the parks. Right now. We lock up the parks with the Parks Department permission we want you know, we reached out to the Parks department, we locked up Irving Square Park, and we locked up Maria Hernandez park at 22:00 hours. And that was you know, speaking with the parks department, so if we can spread that around to the other parks. We'll see what we can do with that. But I agree with you they shouldn't be having a generator which I'm sure is making tons of noise and people are trying to sleep very late at night when parks department when the parks should be closed, sometimes at 12. It depends upon the rules that are posted on the park itself. But or somebody even has sundown so it depends upon usually what it says but we have to we can only enforce it. If the sign is there. I just want to make sure that that's known. So if a park needs a sign so that it can be enforced. That's what we need to do as well.

Celeste: And just a point of clarification, this probably goes back at least three years ago, all parks in Bushwick should be closed at 10pm. There was confusion about what Dawn means. wood dust means everybody has it's very poetic term but it's not good for enforcement. So we wanted to make sure that there was a standard. If there are any parks that have outdated

signage. This is for anyone please check the signage at your local park. Let us know if it doesn't say 10am We need to make sure the Parks Department knows.

Mr. Camacho: Yes, I know the most recent thing that I saw. This is just in reference to 1122 Bushwick. They were asking why the party wasn't shut down if there was a known offender there. So I don't know if Captain you'd be able to speak to that and I mentioned another precinct. So I'm not sure how they chose to handle it.

Captain: The other person came in and the party was already done. When they were when they went in there and arrested that person

Celeste: Got it. Okay. And someone's asking about Yeah, so putting them in the Bushwick playground. And so just another I guess point of clarification, maybe a point of order. But I would say wow, this is probably going back to 2015, 2016. At this point. The board did make a recommendation to both the precinct and the parks department that four parks in the neighborhood should be closed on a regular basis two of which were Maria Hernandez, Irving Square, also Bushwick Playground, and Heckscher Park. I believe those were the four. Now we know two of the four are still close so we can revisit those conversations just to make sure that we're on the same page in terms of safety. So that was one of the questions from the chat as well.

Captain: Yeah, but the Parks department is still from what I know Parks Department closes Heckscher. We close Irving and Maria.

Celeste: got it. Okay, well, yeah, well, I'll follow up with the park manager. And then I know that there were some conversations at some point. Parks are folks who are trying to close the park, but I know they were having some issues, you know, with their staff. No one was listening. You know, and it was hard to get them out of the park. We haven't heard anything about that recently. But we can talk offline. And then the last question, and then we'll move on, folks, I know that this is a lot of important information. We just want to be mindful. The last question is what must decide on the park say so they changed Park signage recently. It's sometimes difficult to read, they're very tiny print, but somewhere on that sign, it should say the hours of the park. And so you want to make sure that the hours are there and that the park is closing at 10pm? Or just let us know if you see a sign that says something that's not 10pm You know, but if you'd let us know if you don't see a sign at all, that's a real big problem. But we'll follow up with the parks department and make sure we get some signage if it's not there.

Mr. Camacho: So let's get started with something presuming you know the police department goes by the guys who go by their driving by t after 12 o'clock. At night. Why do you got to call it toxic. Toxic, is not working after seven or eight o'clock at night. That's why they go to the parks and do whatever they want. Not on schedule that can make you say all night long. All night long. My Lord, I mean the police right there they go.

Celeste: Thank you really so I think we're emphasizing the increasing concerns. We want to make sure they're addressed before the summer. We know things get more intense during the summer. We don't want to see anything unnecessarily escalate because we all know what that means. We don't need any unfortunate tragedies, you know, within the next few months. So I think it's been made very clear. We're going to do what we have to do in following up but make

sure everybody has the resources they need to address these concerns. So final call. Going once. comments questions going once going twice. I don't see anything in the chat.

Captain: I just want to ensure that everyone knows that we are working as hard as we can to ensure the quality of life of Bushwick. And this is something that we think about trying to plan for every single day and just know that we are working hard.

Celeste: Thank you Captain and I would be remiss so Ms. Spellen mentioned this to me a few times but catalytic converters. Is there anything you can say very briefly about catalytic converters helping folks protect their vehicle?

Captain: Yeah, catalytic converters are being stolen throughout the city. We have seen some here and there in Bushwick. You know, I know parking is difficult in Bushwick. But you know, the only way to kind of stop it is to have your car parked in a well lit area. Because what they're doing is they're just driving right up next to it. It looks like a double parked car. And they're getting out and they're immediately just crawling under the car next to them using a saw and cut the catalytic converter and they're gone within five minutes. So you know, be aware and I and I let my guys know as well. My officers know as well that you know if they see that, you know, be Hey, what's going on here? Is it just a parked car, and also for the residents of Bushwick. If you do see that? And you see someone just looking around the car next to them, please give us a call immediately. This is a city wide problem. And it's not just for Bushwick. Thank you,

Elvena Davis: Oh, yes, Captain. Could you just mention the youth summer programs?

Captain: Yes, the Summer Youth Program. We actually were Thank God we're able to start this summer youth program. This year Officer Brunache, who was a youth officer a few years ago and I was able to bring them back. It is going to be from July 5 to August 26. From ages eight to 12. It's going to cost \$250 a child. We do have forms here if there's anyone who is interested. We are going to be taking 20 people or 20 Kids and also we're going to be taking donations. Thank you, Ms. Davis, for your donation today. to children. I've been blessed by that donation. So if there's anyone else who would like to donate to, you know, for these kids, these relationships are long lasting and we want it to be long lasting. And it's just not. I don't want to. I don't want you to think that it's just us babysitting. We're actually going to be at Bushwick High School for Orange and Irving. They have a pool there. They're allowing us to use their facilities, and they're allowing us to use their lifeguard as well. And we plan to do a bunch of trips, you know, cultural trips. And I want to make sure that the children of Bushwick are learning and growing and we can do that together as one you got to let me know about your connection because I've been trying to find that to be open for the community. I got to know who your connection is because it's alright because I know a couple of elected officials here we want to see we can make it happen All right. Sounds good.

Celeste: Very, very exciting and positive note to end on. So thank you, Captain, for the report this evening. And thank you everyone for the thoughtful questions where we're going to make it happen. We're doing the work. So thank you, everyone.

All right, and we'll move on now. Next we have our **introduction of elected officials and representatives**. Please name and contact information only.

Marcus Harris, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Marcus Harris, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. You can reach me at 212-676-3978 or my cell phone 929-287-7469 email address is [mharris@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:mharris@cityhall.nyc.gov).

Carlos Calzadilla, Senator Julia Salazar's Office

Hi, everyone. Hope you're all doing well, especially this better weather makes everything a little bit better. So I am the director of human relations for Senator Salazar. And I just want to let everyone know that you know senators fighting for good cause eviction. I know that a lot of people have questions about the incredible rent increases. That's a bill that the Senate is trying to pass so that we fight against that. Also, we have a lot of test kits.

Juan Mayancela, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez's office

Hey, everyone. Yeah. Hey, everyone. This is Juan Mayancela, community organizer for councilmember Jennifer Gutierrez and I will drop down the phone number and my email the chat

Evette Lopez, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila

Hi, good evening, everyone. My name is Evette. First I wanted to say congratulations to all the nominees. You guys have been great and the Community Board has been super supportive of Bushwick and Williamsburg Ridgewood. So, thank you guys so much for all the work that you continue to do. I'm the Communications Director for Assemblywoman Maritza Davila. We are located at 249 Wilson Avenue and can be reached at 718-443-1205. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you. If there are any other representatives, please raise your hand. It's not intentional. I'm looking at a bunch of little boxes on the screen. And I also want to acknowledge that our council member is still with us. I know in between meetings, listening in Oh, I see.

Jonathan Pomboza, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

Good evening, everyone. This is Jonathan. I bring greetings from District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. Our offices are located at 350 Jay Street. Our phone number is 718-250-2817. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you everyone. And the information is in the chat if anyone needs it. Okay, so we will move on now. If there's anything that I missed, please raise your hand. I know we have some folks from organizations and agencies with us this evening. I think for the sake of time, we're gonna let them do that during announcements. Is that okay? With the board so we can keep moving? Okay. Thank you. All right. So we will conclude the chairperson's report. Now. We'll move on now to the district manager's report.

## **5) District Manager's Report**

Celeste: I promise to keep it brief. Mr. Camacho and I do attend a lot of the same meetings. And at the beginning of my report, I usually write a little bit of information about what's happening in the community. But I think if our conversation this evening has said anything, it's very clear. So

as I usually do, I'll start by saying Good evening to everyone. And we're glad that you were able to join this evening's meeting. You can see it's a busy, busy time, a lot of going on, we had our elections, and I will paraphrase something that I've mentioned to see before his executive board for the past few months, and that's that there are no issues in Bushwick that are just straightforward, and I on a daily basis have been at a loss to explain to folks that are calling for help, how to address some of their concerns, because it's never Oh, you know, there's just some garbage or there's like a leaking fire hydrant. It's always you know, there's a building that was just built swaying in the wind, and I think it was illegally constructed. You know, there's a building where folks are, you know, now squatting and doing drugs. And you know, I've tried to report it, but nothing is happening. Or, you know, there's someone who reaches out and says there's a venue that had diesel generators on a block taking up parking for like eight months, and they tried to report it and nothing happened. And that same venue could be expanding to have a new space with a capacity of over 4000 people for some type of concert hall. And, you know, folks are looking for guidance. They're looking for support. They want their concerns to be heard. And I you know, I think everyone knows that when you contact us, we do hear you. But it has not been easy to address. The Community Board primarily what we do beyond hosting these meetings is refer a lot of these issues to our agency partners. And the other charter mandated responsibility is preparing a district needs statement, which will then of course, support those partners to be able to do the work that they're doing. We know a lot of things have changed. You know, budget cuts have been proposed, all of those things. There's a ripple effect. It affects our community. But we're hoping that, you know, we know our elected officials are advocating we're very fortunate. So I think that we have to keep at it. You know, it's tough, but every day, you know, little things do make a difference. You know, I believe that and I think a lot of people in this community wouldn't be here if we didn't believe that. So I want to say thank you to everyone, because if we didn't have you here with us, we could just be talking to ourselves. So probably not get as much done, but we have a lot of good people here in Bushwick. So thank you all and we're gonna keep doing what we have to do. So I will speed through some of the meetings that I think are important for everyone to hear about a lot of exciting things that are happening. You know, it's a lot. It's tough stuff, but there's a lot of exciting stuff, right. So, on April 21, I spoke with Linda Mackey from New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This was regarding bushwalks preservation priorities. Some folks may recall that we have a historic preservation working group. I want to give a quick shout out to Queen CB5, in particular their district manager Gary Giordano and also one of their board members, Paul Kerzner. They were both able to connect me with the greater Ridgewood restoration for who provided me with the contact for this state office. There is interest in working with Bushwick. But of course it all comes back to you know, capacity. What they did in Ridgewood is essentially applied for funding where they could have a consultant come in and do the work right to prepare an application, prepare a report. A lot of the buildings in Ridgewood to think about. They're very similar parts of Bushwick used to be Ridgewood. So we're hoping that you know we'll be able to continue building capacity, momentum around our preservation goals in the neighborhood. But we definitely have folks paying attention and that no, it's just a matter of connecting the dots. And then, on the same day, I spoke with city planning regarding their civic engagement studio. This was specifically the broaden and diversify community input team. Some of you may recall last year, the Board did something for the first time which was essentially to create a series of

surveys that were supposed to be used to supplement all of the budget request information that they review every year. So all of that feedback will be reviewed, and we'll be continuing that process. They wanted to hear you know what inspired those efforts. Learn a little bit more about how folks get excited about participating in the community, that kind of thing. And then we just wrapped up, the community board office had a fellow from the fund for the city of New York. She finished the final report, which is a report on homeownership in the neighborhood. So we have a lot of great qualitative and quantitative data that will be going to the housing and land use committee. I'll be speaking with Anne and Mr. Camacho and we'll be following up reviewing that and hopefully using it as a foundation to create a space for homeowners for small homeowners, any homeowner. In reality if you want to participate, all the meetings are public, but really a space for folks to learn a little bit more from each other and to hear about some of the resources and some of the challenges, share challenges that everyone has just to strengthen our social infrastructure. And we're also still working on our Bushwick sanitation campaign. We know there's garbage literally everywhere. We get videos all the time of people walking from their building instead of someone else's building, putting garbage there. We can't explain that. But what we can do is make sure people know that you know, we're here to provide the resources and support and we also know everybody plays a role in keeping the neighborhood clean. A big shout out to the clean Bushwick initiative, the Maria Hernandez dog run pack to sow from Tony's pizza Riseborough. These are a lot of our sanitation working group members. They attend almost every single meeting folks that I did not call out by name. I apologize but we do. Thank you for participating and being involved. And next, I have another community board related discussion, but this time with the civic engagement commission. So some of you may recall that I've been working with colleagues citywide from all the borough's regarding the future of community boards. The Civic Engagement commission was given this report and they wanted to find out how it's been received. They wanted to know how they can be helpful in terms of training for community boards. I know our board members have seen and attended some of those trainings. I'm glad they did also take notes on you know making sure that the information being provided is relevant to the community boards. Sometimes I think there was just one training where the individual conducting it didn't provide advice that was pertinent to community boards and it caused some confusion, but they are they are working on it and they're trying to staff up and make sure that they're providing the support that is mandated by the city's charter to the community boards. And we'll be continuing those conversations Friday, April 29. This is important. We referenced this briefly during last month's meeting but National Grid is still conducting their service line inspections. This is different from local law 152. This is another mandate that National Grid has to complete and they reached a point where after all of the mailers all of the phone calls, there's still some folks that have not gotten back to them and they don't want to find anyone. We have information in the board's office. We also have a list of those that have not gotten back to them. They're still continuing their efforts. We would like to assist them in any way that we can. So we'll be making sure to review that list and giving them feedback if we happen to know folks in those areas. And next, on Monday, May 2 I had a conversation with a Columbia University data science team. This is particularly exciting. We submitted some proposals for potential projects for the community to the Department of Design and constructions counting down program. All of these are public data science projects that students would potentially be working on. So I look forward to sharing more information about

that soon. Once that team convenes. And then moving forward Mr. Camacho mentioned the IVs and super Express project status briefing. Some of you may know this is the new railway that's being proposed all the way from Bay Ridge I believe up until I don't actually know where it ends. So it goes from Bay Ridge through Brooklyn passes through Bushwick and I'm pretty sure it goes into queens. So after that I you know, everything just stops at the Brooklyn border for me, I don't I don't see anything outside of Bushwick. So, but that being said, we're going to be hearing more about that soon. And it's pretty exciting. It would be connected to the Wilson Avenue el station for those that are familiar, and we are a ways away from it becoming a reality, but they are looking and exploring feasibility.

And on May 10, there was an arts and culture working group meeting, thank you to the members that also participated in that that space was really created to make sure that folks whether they've been in the community forever, they just got into the community. They have a space to connect and share information about the projects that they're doing. There's a brief meeting up there where they're talking about some of their upcoming events. And activities. They also shared that they were able to restore the mural by Bushwick playground, a lot of us may know that mural is a very beautiful mural. You know, there are issues there. You know, parks in the community.

But at some point, we'll have to be changed. And I think that that's a conversation that was acknowledged during that meeting, but for now we get to enjoy it and it's tradition and the legacy of that mural and management's Support Center tour. So I know Mr. Camacho referenced this it was a great tour there, a lot more than you would believe happening there. But any incident whether it's an environmental incident whether it's a health incident any emergency, they are deploying units and coverage from Bushwick, whether it's a fire, you know, they we have a team very close by so folks can rest a little bit assured that if there was ever anything in Bushwick, they'll be really close to respond. And it's a great, great asset that we have in the community. We were very thankful for the tour and the wealth of knowledge. We learned so much. I have so much great trivia. And then two quick announcements in regards to the Interborough Express. There's going to be a public meeting tomorrow evening. And there's some information that's going to be streamed online, and you can also call him by the phone. Feel free to reach out for any information. And then one last thing. Also ending on the positive note, the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, let us know that there's less than a month until the entry closes for the greenest block in Brooklyn contest. So can we get the greatest rock in Brooklyn? Bushwick, can we do it let's find out. Yeah. So that's all I have for everyone today. That concludes my report. And I'll take any questions going once.

Martha Brown: I'm logged in here is not as far as the connector, I believe to my knowledge that those same freight tracks that run along the wrong paths Broadway Junction back next to Wilson Avenue, that is afraid spur that same spurts for that they're going to they're going to try to make that connector for the for the new new, hopefully subway system threat and that same train tracks runs out into queens. I think that's what you're probably referring to.

Celeste: Yes, absolutely. I just couldn't remember after you get past Queens because I haven't looked at a map recently. Martha: So yeah, yeah, it runs back through all runs back through a long sigh I guess the freight tracks alongside and that connection goes back into I guess, Middle Village, I believe it's probably built in Middle Village, that area back there. And if you know I

mean people know flat which is the same tracks is the same freight drag that run along from the new flat was like Utica and the other thing. Those are the same freight tracks. So that much I do know.

Imini Mitchell: Yes. I just wanted to know about Kraupner's Pharmacy. Does anybody have any information why they closed nothing over the years and then they just closed? That was so distraught and confused.

Barbara Smith: The father had it and now the Son has it. So they sold the business. Yeah, so that's what's happening now on the money talking.

Mr. Camacho: He was having a hard time. I spoke to him. He was having a lot of issues too with the plaza too, that they were selling the same thing. He was telling me he couldn't make any money. So he was only making money off of prescription drugs. He told me I sat with him and he said that there's no way that he can continue doing that if they're going to continue selling outside and that's why everybody anyway, I have a crazy saying on it. But I keep my comments to myself because sometimes people don't know.

Celeste: There's a lot. There's a lot that goes into these decisions. And unfortunately, you know, people are forced to make a difficult choice and it's not so difficult when you have folks that are investing tons of money into Bushwick right now.

Unknown: And then we say the pharmaceutical companies are the ones making the money. So a lot of pharmacies, the middle you know, Mom and Pop pharmacy, they're closing down. They couldn't keep up with the pharmacy. The medical service that they see medicine so high, you know, it's terrible.

Celeste: Thank you, everyone. If there's nothing else under my report, I'll keep us going. I don't want to get too many calls tomorrow that I kept you all so late. So next we have our committee reports.

## **6) Committee Reports**

### Civic/Public Safety/Religious - Annette Spellén

Good evening. Just so you know, I got back my secondary test from our trip over to the OEM, and it was negative thank God for the sake of time. I would suggest that anyone that needs a copy of my report, reach out to the community board and get it from Celeste. We did quite a bit during our meeting and Mr. Camacho and the Captain touched on some of the stuff that we talked about. So just move this meeting along. I've suggested if you want a copy of my report, reach out to Celeste and she will give it to you. Is that okay? With the board? Meeting Sounds good.

Celeste: All right. Next, thank you, Ms. Spellén.

### Economic Development and Permits and Licenses - Desmonde Monroe

Celeste: Desmonde, do you want to give an overview or do you want us to cover it?



Desmonde: It's a lot. I'm trying to see how I can make it shorter. So that wouldn't be going to the clock. Do we have to vote on any of this stuff?

Yeah, the SLA applications Yeah.

All right. So it's just a lot so it's there. All right. Near statements, liquor license application, it's just music TBA that proclaimed Skyline they discovered this, the establishment was scheduled to hear for the committee approval recommendations in December 2021. We want to provide a brief update about the establishment progress. It's not going to be open in three weeks. AMK Brooklyn at Flushing Avenue, Bushwick Avenue flushing Avenue in April the TLC chairperson requested that the owners submit revised before the license application form and return to the committee in May. Owner submitted an updated form with the hours of operations. Their intimate silver alcohol hours, as stated in the committee meetings are as follows seven days a week Monday, Monday through Wednesday from 11am to 2am. Thursday through Saturday 11am to 4am and Sunday at 11am as well. Yeah 11am to 12am EDC chairperson are formed The only stipulation on alcohol past 12am On Sundays when he agreed to stimulation. He's the chairperson and invited the owner to attend this before the regular monthly meeting on May 18. I don't think they're here. As at the office, provide meeting information. Number three, detail you're in a court 160 Irving Avenue located between Stockholm Street and DeKalb Avenue, the establishment has been operating as an Italian restaurant for almost two years. The owner is applying for WBC liquor license yet liquor license and hopes to increase revenue. Their intended sales. Hours are stated in the committee's meetings are as follows seven days a week Monday through Thursday from 10am to 11pm. Friday through Saturday 10am to 1am and Sunday 10am to 12am EDC chairperson informatie owner of stipulation will have passed away in one Sunday's owner agrees to stipulation attorney for the attachments submitted amended hours of operations one 511 to reflect CB four stipulations. The establishment owner has conducted outreach with the neighborhood with the chairperson encouraged by the community outreach to nonprofit organizations to either precinct, EDC chairperson invited the owner to attend the CB4 regular monthly meeting on May 18. Seeking for TV for Office has provided meaning your permission number for max length group, I'll see DBA that Yeah. 104 Wilson Avenue, located between Star Street and Troutman Street, the establishment owner has worked at the SEC for many years and is looking to open up a Thai Japanese fusion restaurant and the community. The sales of alcohol as stated in the committee meetings are as follows seven days a week, Monday through Sunday, Monday through Sunday. 11:30am to 11 hours of operation fall within Cb4 stipulations no alcohol past 12am on Sundays is the chairperson's encouragement. It's clear locally and conduct outreach with neighbors local nonprofit organizations. Either precinct insecure person invited them to attend CB4 regular monthly meeting. Let me Honey Mustard LLC located at 140 Wilson Avenue. Its new license located between Willoughby Avenue and Sydenham street establishment owners have been minority owners of the current establishment in its place. Alphaville since 2014 and now are in the process of taking over the business. This would be considered a new application plus temporary retail permit transfer application. Their intended sales of alcohol hours as stated in the communities are as follows seven days a week Monday through Sunday from 5pm to 4am. Monday Monday through Sunday 5pm to 4am owners are made aware of TV for syndication our past 12am On Sunday, EC chairperson and CB four chairperson expressed concerns such as disapproval regarding hours of operation as it would affect quality of life for tenants neighbors

CB for community liaison to form the suggested hours or establishment are as follows Monday through Wednesday, Monday through Wednesday, closing at two Thursday through Saturday closing at four and Sunday closing as well. No single serving alcoholic says the owners were asked to recent forms with limited hours of operation that will keep listing for will consider stipulation before full board meeting one 518. Owners today will discuss with their attorney before submitting forms. Of course many new requirements the establishment will be re-invited to the committee in June. Due to 200 hours of operation the committee agreed to table the vote until June in the June meeting and see me for community ism follow up with the district manager regarding this Genda to push with Community Plan rebuild relevant recommendations for SQL chairperson the EDC chairperson reviewed the BC P relevant recommendations the committee concerned information was accurate and I know there's no feedback necessary. Community on recommendations. We do this now or later.

Later, later, recommendations okay. Yeah, recommendations for them. All right. Thank you.

You did a fine job. Thank you. All right.

#### Environmental Protection, Transportation, Sanitation + Parks and Recreation - Barbara Jackson

Celeste: I'm not sure if Ms. Jackson made it on Barbara Jackson. Are you there? All right. I don't hear Barbara. I know she's out of town. She has to be excused. So I was not at that meeting. But Kim, would you be able to share a brief overview of who was there?

Kim: Actually, Ms. Jackson is on, she's one of the phone numbers. Barbara: I was on the whole time but I was. Okay amount of time I don't have my notes, but I went to a couple of meetings. From the meetings the same meetings that the last a lot of them went to, but we did have one and for one company on Flushing Avenue, where they wanted to move a bus stop. They wanted to move a bus stop and then we had a, like an emergency meeting for portrait talk, because there was a problem with the vending and the kids playing baseball and the homeless are playing volleyball. So that was supposed to be looked into and I believe that was the captain don't get me wrong. He's supposed to be looking into things and speaking to his officers and letting him know that justly does have the playground and those hours on that day. You can read the summary report and the report. And I thank you.

Celeste: Amazing. Thanks, Barbara. All right. And next is housing and land use and I can also summarize if you need me to go up to you.

#### Housing and Land Use - Anne Guiney

Yeah, so I apologize. I had to miss that meeting. I was asleep in bed with COVID. So Celeste was able to do that. I can give the very brief and committee mail and if you can give the substance of the meeting, that would be terrific. So it was basically a no vote situation. Gabriel Jamison, Policy and Research Fellow from the Center for New York city neighborhoods presented on the black corner homeownership project, which is about understanding and maintaining and developing tools to make sure that black home ownership says but I think less can give a better review of that also the review of the Bushwick community plan and then I'll just quickly bust through the committee mail. So 1325 Broadway, which is I think something we've all

been watching, which has been a fairly large as-of-right building along Broadway and Linden. There's been a lot going back and forth today in terms of construction notices, so we're watching that very closely, and are trying to understand exactly what's going on number one. There's also notice about the rent guidelines. For anyone in a state of rent stabilized apartment. There's still active, active discussion about what the final rent guidelines are going to be. They're a little bit lower. There's still opportunity for public input. Also 826 Flushing Avenue, which, if you remember, used to be an old C-town supermarket. It's that whole block. Right along Beaver. They're doing some excavation there that's going to be a 47 unit building. This is the first I've seen of note of that in the committee mail. Maybe a Celeste you may know more about that but it's right across from visual houses. Also 48 Bleecker Street. This is an affordable housing notice. It's not affordable. It is one bedroom at \$2,300 for affordable housing. So I don't think that's super useful. Two bedrooms at \$2,500. So, I mean, that's a larger conversation that we will pick up. There's also a demolition for weight or 24 dodworth. Also 233 Linden, which is a project we've been talking about a lot, which is that 153 units of senior housing that finally got the Go ahead. So that's exciting that got funded by HPD at the cost of \$12 million, or some support there. 144. Noll is a remedial, it's a one story industrial building at the moment. It's actually just a block behind me. But it has some low to mid levels of pollution that's going to be cleaned up which presumably is a preface to some future development. So we will be watching that very closely. 1160 Flushing Avenue is, if you remember, it's a very low building right at the corner of Irving Ave. It's been pretty much closed down for the last 20 plus years. They finally knocked that down and are doing some Yeah, it's I walked by the other day that there's construction fence up the building itself is gone. It used to be a florist or something but I think it's been closed for 20 plus years. And then they're doing some excavation and then 60 Cedar Street there is a demolition notice. So that is the committee mail. That's a lot and I guess I'm gonna follow up with Celeste and we'd like to check in with everybody. What is the best way to follow this information? Maybe we make a map or maybe we make a spreadsheet. So we can actually look at this because I realized there's a lot to throw at people about all of this. So maybe Celeste and I will put our heads together and come back next month with a better solution for this. I apologize. I was not able to be there for the meeting and Celeste will you fill in for what actually you discussed at the meeting?

Celeste: Yeah, thanks. And that was a great overview. And like I said earlier, there's a lot going on in Bushwick and in particular for the housing and land use committee even though a lot of these things don't come through as a presentation we will get noticed this so we want to make sure everyone is aware. If you ever have questions about something happening on your blog or concern please call us, call 311 Call us Yes. So and and pretty much summarize everything else. We had a discussion. The Center for New York City Neighborhoods, they're looking for funding to be able to provide additional services and resources for homeowners, particularly for their black homeownership project. There was a survey. I know some folks requested the board by mail, please take a look online. I don't know if someone's able to drop that link in the chat if they haven't on their website. But it's the Center for New York city neighborhoods. They provide resources for small homeowners throughout the city. And then also we have the Bushwick Community Plan; it was only the zoning recommendations. I want to quickly think Borough Hall Inna Guzenfeld was on with us all city planning our new liaison for Bushwick, Colin, as well as

carencia, who folks may remember from the planning process, they were all on able to provide some technical insight into some of the questions that we weren't able some of the zoning designations that we weren't able to really elaborate on. It's an ongoing iterative process. We're doing this, we're finding it this is all part of the board's district needs larger district needs process and we'll keep everyone posted. Some folks asked why are we doing this? Are we going to start talking about the rezoning again? I think the goal is for us to reassess to make sure we're updating the language for this plan, looking at the areas where we may have negotiated against ourselves, making sure everything's relevant. And then basically, you know, sending that to our elected officials saying hey, listen, we've done the work. We want to get a better idea of what's possible for Bushwick. And so I think it's a conversation that's happening. We want to get a better sense of what the mayor's office is thinking in terms of their priorities as well their vision for housing and development in the city. And hopefully we can align some of those priorities and protect Bushwick in the process so we don't end up too far gone. From where we are now. But everything is ongoing. We will keep everyone posted. And also want to thank both council members, Council Member Nurse and council members with the edits for you know, meeting with us in April to provide some some you know, preliminary insight into what they're hearing from their end and I think the back I feel like there was one thing that I thought of, but it's gone now. Oh, yeah, the next meeting is going to be on the 30/31 last Tuesday. 31st Thank you.

Council Member Nurse: I just want to request that and hopefully that you all can discuss and I'll send over the slides if needed. Broadway-Junction and the proposal going there. I know the summer meetings are gonna close down and there might not be time for that. But the other side districts are moving on that and their community board so I'm just making the pitch. I didn't mention it. You know, I know. I talked about it. I just want to throw that out on the radar so hopefully we can dive into that proposal, as well. Thank you.

Anne: Thank you, Council Member Nurse, if you can send that like it's absolutely like what affects that side affects us and we want to support the whole wider community. So please do Absolutely. Great. Thank you.

Celeste: And I see the link. Thank you Kimberly for the Center for New York City Neighborhoods in the chat and then we also had a question from Luisa say, we don't know what they're building and 60 Cedar yet but we do know that there was no notice regarding but we can look into it and try to get more information. All right. I see no other hands. No other questions in the chat or q&a. We will move on now. Thank you.

## **7) Recommendations**

Celeste: Yes, thank you, everyone. And I believe it's only permits and licenses this evening for recommendations if I'm not mistaken. All right, Desmonde, do you have the recommendations of two all right. So the recommendations: No, I don't have my tablet before but I don't.

So essentially it's paraphrasing what you said before so and I can so based on my notes I have here. If you would like for me to go through them. I know that there might be five and please jump in.

Kim: Okay, there were five establishments on the agenda, but we only voted on four because the first one was just an update. But there are four recommendations for this portion.

Celeste: Okay, and can you just run through the addresses and the hours one by one?

Kim: Yes. So the first recommendation was, the committee made a motion to vote and approve of the establishment for AMK Brooklyn, 880 Flushing Ave located on the corner of Bushwick Ave and Flushing Avenue with the hours that were stated at the committee meeting were seven days a week Monday through Wednesday 11am to 2am, Thursday through Saturday from 11am to 4pm, and Sunday from 11am to 12am. And with the recognition of the stipulations in place. Desmonde Monroe made a motion in favor of the committee's recommendation. Felix Ceballos seconded the motion. Elvena Davis abstained. The motion carried.

Kim: The next one is the committee made a motion to vote and approval of the establishment support a the Italia Corp. That's at 160 Irving Avenue located between Stockholm Street and DeKalb Avenue with the hour stated at the time of the committee, which were seven days a week, Monday through Thursday from 10am to 11pm, Friday through Saturday from 10am to 1a, and Sunday from 10am to 12am. And with the recognition of the stipulations in place.

Anne Guiney made a motion in support of the committee's recommendation. It was seconded by Robert Camacho. Elvena Davis abstained. The motion carried.

Kim: Okay. The committee made a motion to vote and approve of the establishment Mai Mali Group LLC located at 105 Wilson Avenue, located between Star Street and Troutman Street with the hours stated at the time of the committee meeting, which were seven days a week, Monday through Sunday from 11:30am to 11pm. The hours fall within the CB4 stipulation which is no alcohol past 12am on Sundays. So the recognition of these stipulations are already in place.

Barbara Jackson made a motion in support of the committee's recommendation. Joshua Brown seconded the motion. Elvena Davis abstained. The motion carried.

Kim: Okay. The committee made a motion to table any recommendation for Honey Mustard LLC 140 Wilson Avenue. This is located between Willoughby Avenue and Suydam Street. This establishment did not get back to us with amended hours and we did send an email yesterday. So we did not hear back.

Mr. Camacho: I want I wanted as everybody saw Desmonde's face when, when you saw the hours at four in the morning is taking over another place they used to be there so the hours are not granted for I think and I said to table it, but I know they're not going to come back. They're gonna go to the SLA and put in according to what they have. So what I think we should do is put it into what we make the recommendations on. This is my recommendation. And while we normally give to people, they're so like that. So when they go to the SLA, they'll say, well, they made this recommendation they have to determine instead of them going until 4am seven days a week. No, it's 4am, seven days a week. And he says even Sundays, so we really need to make a recommendation, because then we don't know what the SLA gonna do. We really, they're they're all body. We're only advisory. So I guess we should advise him or them in regards to the hours that this community wants to give them. But if the SLA feels that they can give it to

them, then they're going to do whatever the possible but once we have what we have in writing, and we find out later on if they are a bad neighbor, that we can say we told you so. But if we leave it blank, and we leave it up to the SLA, guess what? We're going to get what we got, so I make a recommendation that we give them the hours according to what the community board normally do, which is Kimberly's indicate now,

Kim: Yes, so the suggested hours for establishments that come before the committee are as follows Monday through Wednesday, closing at 2am. Thursday through Saturday, closing at 4am and Sunday closing at 12am.

Celeste: Just a point of clarification, its sale of alcohol. They can stay open.

Barbara Smith made a motion in support of the recommendation. Felix Ceballos seconded the motion. Elvena Davis and Carlotta Williams abstained. The motion carried.

Celeste: And if I may make a suggestion just because I see that it wasn't noted in the recommendations. Usually we also add no amplified music. I don't know if anyone plans to have anything outdoors. But I would just say since it's a standard stipulation, we should put it in just to be safe. So they don't put a speaker um, so I leave that out there if anyone would like to make a motion on that. That's up to the board.

Mr. Camacho made a motion to include the above. Martha Brown seconded the motion. Elvena Davis and Carlotta Williams abstained. The motion carried.

Mr. Camacho: I really think that this board, just a point of clarification in regards to what's going on. Now that everybody wants to use Bushwick as a new activity and regards all these establishments and all these corners that are shook is only a place to come drink and have a party and get on a train and leave. We really, really need to focus on all these elected officials or write something down in this board and indicate the 500 ft. rule and make sure we enforce whatever needs to be done in regards to what's going on in CB four because we're gonna sit here, this is nothing. We're gonna have a wine cheese and then their numbers are gonna say well according to my square footage, and this is what they say. And it's kind of designed to treat this community like this and say well, because according to my square footage, I can make the money if I don't operate seven days a week to five in the morning when people that live in this community and sleep on top of some of these places. Got to go over now they're working from home and have all this coming in here and going Ching Ching, let the casual just during this board really needs to focus on finding out what it is that we can do to make sure that this community don't get flooded. With nightlife activities drinking now. Just my philosophy is now we have drinking. We have legal legal prostitution. We have we have we have outside reflect the marijuana outside thing. So we really need to focus and educate ourselves and make sure unity continue to keep the people that make this community what it is and it's amazing that they open it up and then people want to vote for them like they don't want to pay man but you can find exactly, exactly. Another thing I'd like to add and when Celeste does that when you make that recommendation regarding the hours of this place, just put a note near when you advise them tell them a copy of the board's recommendation will be going to the New York State Liquor story

as well. So they will know what your recommendations are and they know that you forward your recommendation to the liquor, the SLA. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you very much. Thank you. So I believe that concludes our recommendations. I know we are past our time to conclude the candy hasn't been really quick.

Kim: Yes. So I just wanted to bring up for the Environmental Protection transportation sanitation committee. There was an establishment owner who came to ask for a letter of support regarding the bus relocation. And the committee had voted to not give them the letter of support. I'm not sure if that was something to just bring up during this time.

Celeste: Yeah, just to flag there doesn't need to be a formal vote because they said no. So it ends in committee, but it's good to just remind everyone that that was stopped at the committee level.

Anne: So thank you. Yes. The reason why, just out of curiosity of the relocation requests that got denied. I just want to know the address. I'm sorry, I missed it.

Celeste: I think it's 930 Flushing, Tabare.

Anne: Oh, I know exactly where that is. Okay. Yeah.

Mr. Camacho: Yeah. So they wanted to talk if we're going to get a letter of recommendation to move on the bus stops to accommodate also dining and we'll be sitting here taking all the buses out of Bushwick, which is close to the train station, because we might have seniors that can't walk another block or to set the train station is close to their cut. That's right adjacent to the Washington Avenue train station. Yeah. It's Morgan, actually, but yeah. But it's right there. So they wanted us to move in a black robe. I said, Yeah, but a senior that's in a wheelchair, or someone that's handicap can't walk over that extra block. So we're inconveniencing them. Thank you.

Celeste: All right. So I believe that's it for recommendations. And if that is then we have reached I think everyone's favorite part of the meeting.

## **8) Old Business**

Celeste: Anyone have old business? Going once, going twice.

None

## **9) New Business**

Celeste: Next is new business. I do have one item of new business, this is not to open a can of worms just to alert everyone that we did receive an inquiry from someone that intends to open up a cannabis retail store in Bushwick. They are exploring the feasibility. We have not been contacted by the New York State Cannabis Control Board yet however, a representative from the governor's office after persistent inquiry from Community Board 1 finally responded and said we will be contacting you with more information soon. The community board is specifically listed in their guidance as the municipality providing guidance. So this may be something coming to our permits and licenses committee in the future and we will keep everyone posted as we learn more. That is all I have for new business.

Desmonde Monroe: On the 31st the Housing Committee and Economic Development Committee we're going to be meeting on 5/31 Regarding 1160 Flushing Avenue, city planning will be proposing an increase in industrial capacity. We really need a quorum for there so everybody who is on the board, not everybody but we need a quorum so permit and licensing and economic development. Along with housing landings. You guys can all just take a minute to be at that meeting so that we can really get some stuff done on that day. That'd be great. Perfect.

Celeste: Thank you. All right. I believe that that's it for new business. Going once, going twice. And next is announcements.

### **10) Announcements**

Celeste: Anyone with an announcement please raise your hand. Raise your hand, raise your hand, raise your hand, Ms. Davis.

#### Elvena Davis, CB4 Correspondence Secretary + Shape-Up Bushwick Planning Committee Chairperson

Yes, I just want to do a quick one for the shape of Bushwick is Thursday, June 9, between the hours of 11 and two, the actual event but setup time is at 10am. At Irving Square Park. We will be on Weirfield between Wilson and Knickerbocker. Our theme theme will be pressing forward standing united our colors are purple and yellow. We will be getting food distribution and PPE bags, masks and such. Our rain if it rains, we have a rain location as for 22 Central Avenue and we have our last meeting on May 26. At 2pm we're asking everyone who's going to participate anyone wants to volunteer to attend the Zoom meeting on the 26th And I know the 83 Precinct Council donated the money to pay for the DJ and also going to donate some water. So thank you, Barbara Smith, and all her council for supporting that DJ, DJ Woody.

#### Robert Camacho, CB4 Chairperson

Yeah, don't forget the 12th Sunday Knickerbocker Park, bring your flags, bring everything you want. Whatever flag you want to wear, any flag. I don't care. They just get it gone.

#### Marcus Harris, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Hey, everyone, I just want to remind everyone that the Mayor's community affairs unit is there to be the liaison between all the city agencies to navigate. If there is something that's needed, please feel free to send me the information. I will make sure that we address it. In addition, Celeste and Camacho if there is an issue in which an agency is not appearing on an actual on the cabinet service meeting, please let me know immediately because we want to make sure that the issues are addressed while I'm with the appropriate agencies that

Mr. Camacho: We want to thank you. Yeah, mostly all of them come but we give them homework and we don't get to follow up on some of their homework. So we want to make sure that they are made sure they take care of it's easy for them to come there and go yeah, they got it and then you come back to another place and before you know nothing gets done. So I don't



want to keep repeating ourselves. Like I said we're not and that's what that's what our job is to maintain that. The problem is that if we don't know then we don't know. But I spoke to Commissioner Kreisman yesterday. The idea is that we have to make sure those people are on and if they're not on or they're not addressing the issues we need to know about it immediately. So the commissioner can reach out to the other Commissioner. And secondly, as we know COVID cases are going up. So um there are some things were doing at home kids care about, I believe that 16 million of them are being given out. So I will reach out to Celeste to figure out a way that we can drop some off to Brooklyn, you guys know I live down the street. So not a problem. That's it for me.

Celeste: And I just I want to say briefly, Marcus is just so you know, and everyone knows the Deputy Commissioner for the mayor's community affairs unit the two times that I've previously called for any concerns, I got a response so fast I was like wow, this is how you guys work now. He was like I can't guarantee it every time but at least we got it we got it done. So I always like it. But I'm saying we know and we thank you Marcus and we're glad that we have a resource in the community affairs unit to make sure that if we're not getting a response or if we have any concerns about any agencies that they're able to be addressed. So thank you.

Barbara Smith, CB4 Board Member/83 Precinct Community Council President

Oh, I just want to let the community know that one of our bar restaurants donated \$1,500 to one of our residents down the shelter. The money he made on Mother's Day. He gave a path. He was so upset that he said he only made a little money. The name of the restaurant is sorry, the food is good. They deliver the good care for earnings. So my counsel is going to deposit the check protect and the 50 murders in the shelter is at Cena families but it's 60 women in the past father, so we're gonna divvy up the \$1,500.20 \$5 each 50 mothers in the shelter. I want everybody to know. That take money out. He put some more back then and he donated a \$250 summer camp to whoever they're gonna give it to this Wilson Avenue  
Thank you. Bye bye. That's great news. Yeah, all right. And what is next?

Juan Mayancela, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez

Yes. Council Member Gutierrez and District 34 want to wish a happy belated birthday. So happy birthday. We also want to thank everyone who came out to the swearing in ceremony that Monday. We're also starting the Trash Task Force and district 34. It is going to be people driven so we're asking for people to sign up and be volunteers. We will have more information in the upcoming weeks but I will drop down the link where you could sign up and be a volunteer. We also want to let the community know that we the PB results are in and Maria Hernandez dog run will be receiving \$300,000.

Felix Ceballos: I want to remind everyone I'm running for district leader and the election day is going to be June 28. Thank you.

Council Member Sandy Nurse, District 37

Hey, everyone, just a couple of things. We're starting a regular Tuesday program with the CUNY Citizenship Now so if you need to get or if you know anyone who needs to renew their DACA or

has questions about their immigration status, we'll be having that every Tuesday. And we'll send that information out and then that will start on the 24th and then on the 25th is the final public hearing on our city's budget. So if you have not had a chance to raise a concern about education, sanitation, health, transportation, whatever thing you're most passionate about, if you haven't raised the concern, I really encourage you all to submit testimony. I do want to mention that education budget cuts really hit hard this year. So please pay attention to that. And thank you so much for the conversation tonight.

Mr. Camacho: Sandy, thank you for having that forum. I went there and it was very well attended. Thank you very much for giving us a lot of good information and we appreciate everything you've done for us. Thank you. Thank you all.

And we have someone about dental services announcement.

#### Aslynn Ortiz, Dental Hygiene Student

Hi everybody. My name is Aslynn Ortiz. I'm a longtime resident of Bushwick. I know Mr. Camacho. He knows my grandma Carmen. Everybody knows Carmen from the big distributors from my community. I'm a dental hygiene student at Plaza College in Queens, New York. And as part of my graduating class, we are offering free dental services to anybody in the public. No insurance is required. You get a full set of x-rays and an exam with the doctor. We offer fluoride and seal in placement. And everybody's accepted. We accept children and adults, adolescents, seniors 55 and up everybody is welcome. No insurance is required for this again, and please rest assured we are following very strict COVID protocols to keep everybody healthy and safe. We're following CDC recommendations. We have a state of the art clinic that has sterilization units, and everybody's doing what they need to do to keep everybody safe again totally free of charge. And in July specifically for the entire month of July. We are having an event called shining teeth of Queens. The school is located on Queens Boulevard 118-33 Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills. And it is specifically for children that shine at the Queens. We have a really great raffle entry for a gift basket and children can come in and get free services as well during this time, but we are accepting from now so I'll put my contact information in the chat. If anyone is interested please feel free to pass it along.

The clinic is in Queens on Queens Boulevard in the school. It is part of a school clinic.

#### Desmonde Monroe, CB4 Economic Development Committee Chairperson

So I just want to let you know the next. The next meeting that we're gonna have is this economic meeting we're bringing in MWBE Unite. They're basically they hook up with lenders and all kinds of wonderful stuff basically just basically come in. If you have a storefront they help you buy or build. That's it. So if you have some people who you know who have stores or whatever and they want to own the building because their risk is too high. These will come in and help finance that whole project. That's it.

#### Evelyn Cruz, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office

Hi, good evening, everyone. Thank you. Chairman Camacho and district directors last and all the board members. This has been an amazing and a really interesting meeting with a lot of really good information. So thank you for sharing that with the public. I wanted to quickly say on

this issue with COVID. I want to put in your heads that in Washington, DC remote voting was never allowed or revoke meetings. However COVID changed that for the United States Congress. If we were able to do that in Congress, we should be able to do that at the Community Board level. So I'm just putting it there for you. I want to share some of the things that the member has done locally in the past few weeks she was in the district. We did some check presentations to nonprofit organizations in the district that have been servicing the neighborhood, one of them that will be also impacting the work in the Bushwick Police Corps community to assist. The Congresswoman was successful in securing a direct earmark of \$750,000. So core can continue to advocate for the residents in Williamsburg and Bushwick and reach what providing legal assistance or tenant protection services. So we were really proud to present that to them. We also presented a \$750,000 check to Soros in order for them to continue the work they're doing with the senior housing in our communities. And so those are two of the programs that were near and dear to us this past week. Something else that was important to the member in Congress that they debated last week that she is wholeheartedly supportive of is HR 5129. This is a critical bill for those in our community. This is the community service block grant program. And as you know, this is the only federal program that has the overreaching powers to help reduce poverty in our neighborhoods. The CBS G funding supports a network of hundreds and 1000s of organizations. If you're a head of a daycare provider you're an after school program. If you have a housing development located provider else, what is a Local Development Corporation, you are receiving community service block grant dollars. And what's happened is that since COVID, we realized that it was the nonprofit, the small organizations in our community. I have been doing the huge, heavy lifting of helping the community and because of that Congress has decided to reform how this funding is secured. And it is reauthorizing the SPG. Grant be awarded for 10 years. It makes it easier for community based organizations or for the full network. And it just gives us 10 years. So once you're funded, then that'll be 10 years in a row as opposed to having to go back to the world every two or three years. So this is really important for our district. Something else that was important to the district. For small business, Congresswoman Velazquez was able to pass two bills in the Small Business Committee. We heard from a lot of organizations, a lot of small businesses and community groups that said, Look, you know, there are people that apply for loans that you know were fraudulent, they weren't eligible and they got money. And so there was a full investigation. And so we were able to pass hr 7334, which is the COVID-19 idol fraud statute of limitations Act, and the bill will establish a 10 year statute of limitations for all COVID fraud including eidl advances and targeted advances that means that you know, if you committed fraud, you are more likely to be pursued for the for 10 years, so that you will have to repay, pay back that loan. If necessary. The other one is HR 73525 Is the PPP and bank fraud Enforcement Act of 2022. And this bill will establish a 10 year statute of limitations on all forms of the PPP loan fraud including cases involving FinTech originated loans consistent with that of bank fraud. So if a financial company, a financial tech firm, also committed fraud, they too will be held accountable for these acts. And then lastly, there was also HR 903 HR 903 has to do with the TSA workers at the airports. And it's important because we all know someone that works at an airport as a TSA employee and they're underpaid, they're underpaid, they're understaffed, and they don't have a union and they don't even have regular daily schedules, work schedules. So this law is going to reform all of that. It will enable them to get organized, it will enable those to

be disciplined, they'll be able to have regular hours. So this is a committee that we are watching closely and a bill that the congresswoman has endorsed and the other thing is having to do with magnet fundings. As you know, the magnet fundings are funds that are allocated by the Department of Education to help improve education resources to local schools in our district and school district 32. There are three schools that have applied and that we are supporting. And you may recall that a few years back we were able to collect a million dollars within a few schools in Williamsburg and in Bushwick, one of them being PS 123. And so we are at the table now fighting for these three schools in our district to make sure that they are eligible and they do secure the magnet, the magnet funding. So these could be about maybe \$500,000 apiece, or a little more, but once we do get it passed, we will let you know I'm sure the school district 32 will also advise you so that's really it for now. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho: I'm Celeste. Can I please? Oh, Evelyn. I would like to thank our Congresswoman for that, that money for Communities Resist. Because they are really doing a wonderful job. But we also want to see we have 2, 3 family homes. Just because you own a home doesn't mean you're rich. And we have scrupulous developers that are digging into their homes and some of them don't even have money to get a lawyer. If their foundation is cracked or something and then they have to go out. And just because they don't go home or refinance just to get a lawyer to try to get their stuff. So there's any way that we can help our seniors that are not making the money they're supposed to have in order to get a lawyer just because they have and sometimes as you know some of the tenants aren't paying rent or weren't paying rent because of the code. So they're having a hard time with their homes too. And when what happens with that is a trickle effect because now these developers go in and buy their property and put all these big buildings and we couldn't save this. Two and three family homes. I also heard in the news in regards to the lines. She might not be representing us.

Evelyn: No, no. What happened is that and again, this is you know, we don't know what's going to happen Friday. The judge will, the special master will confirm what the lines are. But as of now the new proposed district, they've cut out basically like 50% of our district. So this new map totally removes the Lower East Side from our district. In addition to Red Hook, Dumbo Park Slope, Sunset Park, like all of our sounds and belt that's been slashed out of our district. We are so saddened to hear this. I know we've been working, you know, we've been hearing from constituents throughout our district that are really outraged that this has happened, have written and submitted comments, asking the special master to reconsider and what we have gained and what we will gain if approved will be Greenpoint don't have them sitting Sunnyside Maspeth Glendale Woodhaven parts of Ozone Park, East New York, and Bushwick and Williamsburg. So instead of being a tribal district, it looks like we're going to be a dual borough district. It'll be Queens and Brooklyn and the large majority being Queen centered. And so you know, this is not in the hands of the congresswoman because you know, it would not for the elected official for the Congress member to pick her district. Right. That's But definitely this will have a big impact on a lot of the communities. You know, it's kind of diminishing the voting strength, the electoral power that united communities of interest, right? Latino, black Asian, have and it's kind of diminished all of that across the district. So we are, you know, dismayed by this. Absolutely. So it's Friday.

Celeste: I mean, you know, thank you. I'm gonna say thank you, Evelyn, and I wanted to just flag before more folks jump off. I know it's late. But there was one recommendation that the Board did not vote on, which was regarding the open meeting laws amendment, so we wouldn't have folks, everyone would have to be in person next month unless the board votes on that. I forgot. I apologize. But if we can revisit that I highly recommend it does not have to be very long. Is that okay for board members and then we can just circle back to announcements. Yes. Okay.

So the short version I suggest is that we just take the language directly from the document, allow for a state of emergency to remain remote. They mentioned extraordinary circumstances, essentially the extraordinary circumstances that are there. Just outline them in the resolution. And then I don't think there's any other language in particular that has to be laid out to my knowledge, or those are like the two main things. So long as there's a motion to adopt, like a recommendation to adopt these measures in order to remain remote for those individuals as per the amendments. I think a motion on that would suffice. So is there a motion?

Yeah, Robert Camacho made a motion to adopt the amendment. Elvena Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

So thank you. Thank you so much. All in favor, Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? So moved.

#### Carlos Calzadilla, Senator Julia Salazar's office

Great evening. Everyone. First, I want to congratulate all the newly elected and virtually Camacho. And just very briefly, I want to say that, you know, last Thursday, the senator had the State of the District address. We had really great turnout, the senator was able to talk about a lot of the funds that she's been able to bring into the district legislation that was passed on for Senator Lewis house are live streamed and so you can rewatch it there and really encourage folks to see there she goes in depth on a lot of the funding we got for education, so much for legal support a lot for and more and more for our community. Also, I encourage folks to still apply for Iraq. Did not have funding. Stay on the lookout, we're seeing folks still being approved. There's still money there and just the application of it protects Kevin's from eviction proceedings, or at least adds a layer of protection. So we really encourage you that and the Senator is fighting really hard for good cause eviction, as many of you probably yourself heard from both landlords are getting out of control, because eviction would make sure that there isn't a cause. Which means that there will be automatic to make sure that folks are able to also protect landlords because there's if there are good tenants, but this is me it is a balanced legislation to make sure that our communities are not displaced, that we don't have developers, just displacing all the folks that have been here in our community for so long. Also, I know the whys and COVID We want to let everyone know we still have some test kits at the office. So please reach out to me or reach out to the office. I'm going to draw up more information again, in the chat. Please feel free to reach out. We'll be happy to provide test kits to anyone who needs that. And yeah, let me know anything and have a great wonderful night everyone.

Celeste: Alright, no more hands, no more comments.

## **11) Second Roll Call**

Board members in attendance: Carlotta Williams, Jerry Valentin, Annette Spellin, Dustin Sonneborn, Barbara Smith, Eliseo Ruiz, Acire Polight, Kyle O'Rourke, Imini Mitchell, Luisa Jose, Barbara Jackson, Tanesha Honeygan, Hadiyah Harrison, Jose Guzman, Anne Guiney, Elvena Davis, Louisa Chan, Felix Ceballos, Robert Camacho, Rawle Brown, Martha Brown, Joshua Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett

Excused: Vernedeaneer Shell, Raul Rubio, Zulma Novoa, Desmonde Monroe, Mary McClellan, Virgie Jones, Christopher Graham, Freddy Fowler, Melissa Carrera

Absent: Odolph Wright, Leo Tineo, Gladys Puglla, Samy Nemir Olivares, Andy Marte, Egaudy Gomez, James Fitzgerald, Carlos Feliciano, Andrew Choi,

Resigned: Jared Hicks

## **12) Adjournment**

Barbara Jackson made a motion to adjourn and Jo-Ena Bennett seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Good night, everyone.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:38pm