

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, April 17, 2019  
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center  
195 Linden Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11221  
6:00PM

Chairperson, Mr. Robert Camacho  
District Manager Ms. Celestina Leon

Board Members in Attendance:

Grace Aytes, , L. A. Blacksmith, Joshua Brown, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Louisa Chan, Sufia Chowdhry, Elvena Davis, Julie Dent, Carlos Feliciano, Victoria Fernandez, Freddy Fowler, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Michelle Hilliard, Barbara Jackson, Cheryl Jones, Mary McClellan, Desmond Monroe, Sharline Moore, Cirilo Nunez, Luisa Jose-Olea, Acire Polight, Raul Rubio, John Scheaffer, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jerry Valentin, James Wiseman and Odolph Wright.

Board Members Excused:

Jo-Ena Bennett, Martha Brown, Ernest Estime, Jose Guzman, Virgie Jones, Nancy Liao, Zulma Novoa, Gladys Puglla, and Eliseo Ruiz

Board Members Absent: Denisse Reyna-Dolin, Egaudy Gomez, Austin Martinez, and Julio Salinas

The District Manger opened the monthly Community Board #4 meeting at 6:15PM

- Public Hearing Item -

1) National Grid – Presentation on the Metropolitan Rehabilitation Project.

Renee McClure & Fabio Perta: National Grid Files Rate Review Proposals for Downstate New York

Filings will Improve Safety and Customer Service, Upgrade Infrastructure, and Help Prepare for a Cleaner Energy Future for 1.85 Million Customers in New York City and on Long Island  
Improve safety and upgrade infrastructure

- Make further investments to modernize the gas infrastructure, monitor and replace aging pipelines, enhance storm response and recovery, and reduce methane emissions.

- Replace 310 and 620 miles of aging pipeline for New York City and Long Island respectively over a four-year period.

- Meet mandated federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, which now account for more than 60 percent of total capital expenditures.

- Enhance safety by applying improved training, oversight, inspections and quality control programs.

### Improve customer service

- • Implement a new Customer Information System and other digital solutions.
- • Provide further support for economic development and energy efficiency.
- • Enhance Energy Affordability programs and services.

National Grid's construction team continued work along Central Avenue, and they are pleased to note that they have completed backfilling up to Bleecker Street. The outreach team will continue to discuss upcoming construction schedules with residents and other local partners.

\*Over the next couple of week, neighbors can expect to see:

- Work on Central Avenue between Bleecker Street and Suydam Street.
- Changes in traffic patterns Central Avenue between Bleecker Street and Suydam Street. They will have flaggers on site to redirect traffic as necessary.
- Continued outreach along Central Avenue in advance of upcoming gas main installation.

Feel free to reach out by emailing to [BrooklynMetro@NationalGridGasProjectsNY.com](mailto:BrooklynMetro@NationalGridGasProjectsNY.com), or calling their project outreach team at (718) 337-8138. You can also use the [Contact Us](#) page of our website to submit any questions, comments, or concerns.

Questions and concerns were entertained.

Chairperson Camacho: You must communicated with other city agencies because you cannot keep shutting everything down. Just coming to the meeting tonight, Bushwick Avenue at 6:00pm has traffic bumper to bumper going towards East New York. Then when I tried to come down Central Avenue, it is close. I can't come down Linden, then you make me have to go back to Evergreen Avenue and Bushwick because I have to come back around to come here, 195 Linden Street. What am I to do?

If you close the street where one is going up, keep the one going down open. You can't close the streets in both directions.

Bushwick is full, Central is close, Evergreen you can't touch so where are we going to go?

Renee McClure stated that she understands Mr. Camacho's and everyone's concern, and that they do have to collaborate more when other agencies. National Grid feels that when they get the permit from DOT that it is ok for them to move forward.

Councilmember Antonio Espinal: Update on what he has been working on at City Hall. He stated that even though he did run for Public Advocate office and did not get it he will continue to the great work that he has spoken about in the past as a city council member here In Bushwick but also across the city.

There is one big ticket item that he is fighting for and he hope that the people of Bushwick can join him and push for the Department of Education to fund 50 million dollars to get wellness coordinators in every single school. A wellness coordinator will be in charge of creating a wellness program for every student in their school. We have healthy teachers in every school which have nutrition programming and therefore we should have healthy students. He is looking for mindfulness and mediation in the classrooms. The reason why he is focusing on this so much is because for so many years we've been pumping money into education and not figuring out why children are not preforming. And the reason why they are not preforming is

because they come into schools with issues already. They are not being fed properly. They are probably coming from a homeless shelter, or they may not be able to focus because of what they are dealing with at home. A wellness coordinator would be able to give our students the tools they need to live a healthy lifestyle. This will help them to do better on tests and get into better schools in the future.

He will be working on the budget for the next few months. He is working with non-profits to make sure that they are fully funded. He is working with the Capital Budget to make sure that the schools and agencies have computers. He is making sure that the roads are fixed.

He is working on getting affordable housing for as many as possible in Bushwick.

His new office is located at 1945 Broadway, near Broadway Junction. He has a staff that willing to help with issues such as potholes, dealing with tenant harassment issues, helping finding affordable housing, etc.

He is here to help, please feel free to give him and his staff member your email address if you are interested in receiving newsletter.

Julie Dent: Ms. Dent runs an early learning center in Bushwick. She mentioned that her teachers are leaving her center and going to work in schools because their pay will be higher. 3K program will be strictly under the DOE. They are looking for parity and salary for the teachers. Ms. Dent asked if Councilman Espinal can find out by doing the legwork when he's back to his office and can speak to the other councilmembers and let her know what they are going to do about the teachers' salaries. Her teachers in early learn, head start programs have the same qualifications and the degrees as the teachers in the public school programs. If they didn't have the same degrees then they would not be able to have the early learning programs or pre-k for all programs in our centers she stated. The problem is, is that the teachers nor the director get the same salary. The union, as well as the city council is trying to bring this to light.

Councilmember Espinal: there was a press conference this week the councilman stated. Hopefully they can push the mayor to make the right investment and make sure that all teachers get the same pay for the same work.

He passed a bill regarding store awnings over the last few months because DOB was fining businesses for their awnings because they did not have the proper permits to have them up. These are businesses who have had these awnings up for decades. Now they are facing fines for 20, 30,000 dollars and they city did not want to do anything about it. He has passed a bill reversing all of the violations. If anyone know of a business that have been effected by this please have them come see me. If they have already paid the fine there is nothing that he can do because the city will not give back money, but if they have not paid the fine he can get it reversed.

If you were not fined as of yet you have two years to get it up to code. Please see him as soon as possible. He will give the board an update when he come back.

Mr. Joshua Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson: The main issue in Bushwick and citywide is we have been hearing conflicting information about the 500 million dollars that the mayor dedicated to senior housing, some of our coalitions here are concerned that the mayor is going to renege on that amount of money. Can you give us an update on that? Whether the \$500 million is allocated or projected and if you will ensure that we hold the mayor accountable for the 500 million?

Councilman Espinal: last year he joined the East Brooklyn Congregation on a 500 million dollar campaign to get the mayor to put in \$500 in the budget to build senior housing with a lot of it being here in Bushwick especially in some of the empty lots near some of the next development and dedicate money towards those lots and towards senior housing.

EBC recently found out that the money is not there and when we talked to the mayor about it, the mayor said the money is there but it is not exactly there. We have a 100 million there. There really is a lot of confusion and we are continuing to push the mayor on this. Where is the money because we did submit that every single year the money would be there, so the conversation is ongoing. So we have to keep pushing and we have to make sure that the money is exactly there for housing.

Mr. Joshua Brown: Is the money there?

CM Espinal: We are not sure we have to figure out through HPD and the other agencies involved.

97 Wyckoff Avenue why was that house not dedicated to housing? Homeland security says that this is the largest area where people are being evicted from their homes. Is the city doing anything about this?

CM Espinal: The city has done a lot to make sure that everyone who is facing tenant harassment or anyone being evicted from their homes has access to free legal representation to Represent them in housing court and keep them in their apartment. Unfortunately the market is out of hand.

We should all be pushing for stronger rent laws in Albany.

- 2) NYC Department of City Planning: Presenting the North Brooklyn Industry and Innovation Plan. This is an informational presentation.

This plan has been underway for quite a while.

North Brooklyn Goals:

- Grow jobs close to workers and encourage reduced and reverse-commutes
- Update M zoning to ensure industrial businesses can stay and grow in place.
- Create new space for jobs such as advance manufacturing, technology and media.

North Brooklyn Industry & Innovation Plan Timetable:

- Launched in late 2015
- Held 3 large public meeting
- Held interviews/roundtable
- Developed a land use framework and recommendations
- Released the north Brooklyn report in November 2018

Over 20% of Bushwick residents work in education/health care

Over 20% of Bushwick residents work in industrial jobs, such as construction or warehousing

15% of Bushwick residents work in arts /entertainment /hospitality

- Similar to most NYC residents, employment destinations for Bushwick residents include traditional job hubs like Midtown, the Financial District and downtown Brooklyn
- However, many other Bushwick residents work in the North Brooklyn Study Area - where there is a concentration of jobs that are walkable and or transit accessible.

Zoning today (M1-1, M1-2, M3-1)

- Density is too low for business (1 to 2 FAR, even near transit)
- High parking and loading (1 parking space per 300 sq. feet in most cases)
- Height regulations do not allow for loft style buildings with large floorplates (and can produce tall towers)
- Preferences community facilities (like medical offices)

Grow an ecosystem of creative and tech-driven jobs in office – based and industrial sectors near transit balanced by reinforcement of the Core Industrial Area.

Support a continued mix of uses by allowing modest commercial growth while encouraging creation of industrial space.

What would change?

FAR

- 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 FAR based on proximity to transit and residential adjacencies

Uses

- Allow large retail, such as supermarkets, allow gyms, allow non-profit arts space

Their proposal for the area is to allow 3 FAR and 2FAR right on top of transit. Low density it will allow all industrial uses except for the heaviest industrial uses and most commercial uses.

Meredith R. Jones Democrat for Surrogate’s Court Judge:

- Integrity, Experience & Commitment

Meredith Jones’ journey from Wingate High School to prestigious Cornell Law School. As a young woman growing up in Brooklyn she decides to reach high. Hard work and perseverance, along with the encouragement and opportunities the community provided, has resulted in her reaching a top attorney position in the Kings County Surrogate’s Court. Meredith Jones is grateful and knows it is time to do even more for the community. That is why she is running for Judge of the Surrogate’s Court.

She will not need any on the job training and will be ready on day one. In her present position she advises one of the current Surrogates on complex legal issues and manages a large caseload of estate litigation proceedings.

Vote Democratic Primary Tuesday, June 25

Edward King for Civil Court Judge: “I believe in justice for all people regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status”

- 35 years Civil law Practice
- Court Attorney in Civil & Supreme Court
- Administrative Law Judge
- US Army Veteran

Community Service

- Assists formerly incarcerated individuals
- Fights foreclosure & predatory lenders
- “Know your Legal Rights” Forums
- Advocates for Families

Vote for King Democratic Primary on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

[www.king4kingscounty.com](http://www.king4kingscounty.com); [ed@king4kingscounty.com](mailto:ed@king4kingscounty.com); 347-708-2792

Senator Julia Salazar: Update on the State Budget. We finally passed comprehensive bail reform discovery reform and speedy trial reform in New York. This will affect 90% of the case that currently are eligible for money bail in New York. This will help low income New Yorkers who have been detained based on what they can afford to pay rather based on justice. There will be a town hall meeting next Tuesday April 23 so as to be fully debrief on the budget process.

We have secured a billion dollar increase in school aid in New York State.

The District Manager, Ms. Celestina Leon called the first roll call:

**First Roll Call:** – 32 members present this does constitute a quorum.

The acceptance of the agenda was made by Ms. Julie Dent and second by Ms. Elvena Davis.

The acceptance of last month's minutes was made by Ms. Annette Spellen and second by Ms. Victoria Fernandez. All members present were in favor.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Mr. Robert Camacho welcomed all to the Community Board #4 Wednesday, April 17, 2019 monthly meeting.

Chairperson Camacho has been very business attending a number of meetings that he has attended since the March 2019 Community Board meeting.

**The Elected Officials and / or their representatives that was present at the meeting.**

- 1) Karen Cherry, Representing 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, Assembly Member Erik Martin Dilan, 366 Cornelia Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-386-4576
- 2) Paula Mendez, Representing 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-443-1205
- 3) Jonathan Pomboza, Representing District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, 350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-250-2340
- 4) Ms. Blackshear, Representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-3863
- 5) Lorenzo Brea, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, 37<sup>th</sup> Council District, 1945 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664
- 6) Boris Santos, Representing Senator Julia Salazar, 18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, 1068 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11221
- 7) State Senator, Julia Salazar, 18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, 1068 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11221
- 8) Asher Freeman Representing Council Member Antonio, 34<sup>th</sup> Council District Reynoso, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

**Federal, State or City Agencies**

- 1) Sergeant Anna Serrano, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct N.C.O. (Neighborhood Coordination Officer), 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- 2) PO Gomez, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697

- 3) Commanding Officer DI Dan Dooley,, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- 4) Raul Rubio, DOHMH, Thrive New York, Mental First Aide Training, 646-988-8639.
- 5) Mercedes Ramirez, North Brooklyn Coalition: 718-302-4073
- 6) Katie, Home Health Care: 1976 McDonald Street, 917-426-3471

Commanding Officer Dooley: Last 3 months there has been a reduction in crime.  
 Captain Dominquez has been transferred to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.  
 Good News: Captain Steven has been transferred to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct from the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

**District Manager’s Report:**

The District Manager, Ms. Celestina Leon thanked all in attendance.  
 Ms. Leon list some of meetings that she attended. (For her report please contact the CB)

**Committee Reports:**

**Civic and Religious Committee (CRC) & Health Hospitals Human Services Citizen**

**Veterans (HHHSV),** Committees Chairperson Ms. Elvena Davis (CRC) & Mary McClellan.

Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2019, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, New York 11207-1422, 3:00PM

Board Members in Attendance: Ms. Elvena Davis, Rev. Grace Aytes, Virgie Jones, Mary McClellan, Cheryl Jones (via phone), and Barbara Smith,

Others in Attendance: CB4 Chairperson, Mr. Robert Camacho; CB4 District Manager Celestina Leon; CB4 Community Associate, Sharon Fludd; Zulma Novoa, DOMHH: Maggie Manual, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center; PO Gomez & PO Velez, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct; Cruz Fukman & Selina LeBron, NYPCC; Thenga Jenkins, EmpireBlue; Joseph Estella, Affinity Health Plan; Monica Holowacz, Broadway Stages; Sherry Davis, Woodhull Hospital; Cristina Guimaraes, Gotham Health; Danny Torres, Swerve Church; Abraham Tejada, NYC Commission on Human Rights

Members Excused: Barabra Jackson

Members Not in Attendance: Ernest Estime

**Items Discussed:**

- 1) Joshua Brown and Pastor Cornelius Brown, Founder: Presenting on the petition to establish a Family First Friday, a family summer time holiday to celebrate the gift of family on the first Friday of August.

They are asking for a letter of support of this proposed national holiday that celebrates the gift of families. It is the goal of this holiday to stimulate healing among families as well as promote morale and mental health.

Family First Day’s vision is to make the first Friday in August into a National Holiday! They want to create a three day weekend to celebrate the gift of family before the summer ends. The First Friday in August is what Pastor Brown feels is the ideal time for families to have one more chance to travel, attend family reunions, attend weddings, enjoy cookouts, go shopping and spend quality times with family before the summer ends.

It is their hope that Family First Day would be a time for healing and reconciliation within families. He stated that there are a lot of broken families and he hope that this day would help fix the problem.

Family First Day hopes to be time for many families to set aside their issues and differences and for one day to be a family again.

He asked that the Community Board join and support the campaign to create more quality time for families, by giving him a letter of support. The letter will allow him to go and speak to elected Officials and others in order to gain their support.

Pastor C. Brown says that this holiday will put millions of dollars back into the economy. Donations will be needed.

CRC Chairperson Elvena Davis stated that the committee will talk about a letter of support.

2) Discussion of Shape Up Bushwick Parade.

**Recommendation:**

Barbara Smith motion to send a letter of support for agenda item #1- Family First Friday, the motion was second by Ms. Mary McClellan. All member CRC and HHHSV committee members present approved.

Recommendation will go before the full board in May 2019.

**Old Business:**

Greenest Block Awards Outreach, Volunteer Opportunity Directory  
Rat Academy event scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 6pm

**New Business:**

Emergency Preparedness Workshop, May 16, 2019, 6pm at PS 376, 194 Harman Street  
Save the Date: Monday, June 17, 2019, 6:00PM, the ACC planning their summer mixer.

It was suggested the planning for the parade next year start in January 2020.

Next planning CRC & HHHSV committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 3PM.

Meeting adjourned: 5:58pm

**Public Safety Committee (PSC)**, Committee Chairperson, Mr. Jerry Valentine,

Members in Attendance: PSC Vice-Chairperson, Rev. Grace Aytes, Elvena Davis, Victoria Fernandez, Freddy Fowler, Mary McClellan, Gladys Puglla, Annette Spellen

Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2019, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, New York 11207-1422, 6:00PM

Others in Attendance: Willie Morales, CB4 Community Associate; Gabriele Maurello, Li Jia Wang, Yassine Bentances, Ingrid Ammann, PO Gomez, PO Lopez, PO Prezzano, Regina Wilson

**Items Discussed:**

33 Wyckoff Avenue – Wyckoff Beer Garden, LLC

65 Irving Avenue – The Ten Bells Bushwick: Still under construction



### **Recommendations:**

- 1) PSC: To hold both 65 Irving (have not been built as of yet) and 33 Wyckoff Avenue (Community was not happy with his establishment). Motion to hold 65 Irving Avenue and 33 Wyckoff was made by Annette Spellens and second by Barbara Jackson. All member present was in favor. Motion moved.
- 2) Bylaws: Parliamentarian Mr. Odolph Wright: The bylaws are being presented for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time to the board members for their approval. Motion to vote for the approval of the proposed by-laws recommendation changes as stated on the draft was made by Joshua Brown. Second by Ms. Julie Dent. All members present were in favor. Motion moved. These by-laws are immediately a part of documentation for Community Board 4.

### **New Business:**

Election of Officers will be held next month.

### **Announcements:**

Apply Online! Join the 2020 Census Team! [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs) ; 1-855-562-2020  
Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339 TTY / ASCII ([www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay))

The Federal Relay Service provides telecommunications services to allow individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and /or have speech disabilities to conduct official business with and within the federal government. The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Excellent Pay, Flexible Hours, Paid Training and Temporary Positions

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez: SAVE THE DATE! U.S. Census 2020, Community Roundtable

When: Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM

Where: New Jerusalem United Methodist Church, 484 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237

Invited Guest: State Senator Julia Salazar, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila and Councilman Antonio Reynoso. For more information call: 718-599-3658

SAVE A LIFE. Carry Naloxone. About 3 New Yorkers die from drug overdose everyday...YOU can save a life with Naloxone. Take a course. Save a life. Strengthen your community. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Brooklyn Neighborhood Health Action Center.  
Contact: Z Novoa, DOHMH, [ZNovoa@health.nyc.gov](mailto:ZNovoa@health.nyc.gov), 718-637-5221  
For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/health/naloxone](http://www.nyc.gov/health/naloxone)

The Bushwick Starr: Big Green Theater Festival by Superhero Clubhouse with PS75 & PS239  
April 25-28, Thursday at 7pm. FREE!! Reserve Tickets at – [thebushwickstarr.org](http://thebushwickstarr.org) or call: 718-210-2962  
207 Starr St. between Wyckoff & Irving Avenues.

Meeting Adjourned: 34 Members Present, at 8:33PM.

The April 2019 streaming of Community Board 4 meeting can be found on YouTube under “Brooklyn Community Board 4”