

Brooklyn Community Board 4
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 6pm

Webex

Chairperson: Robert Camacho
District Manager: Celestina Leon

Meeting Start: 6:04pm

Public Hearing:

Celeste: Welcome, everybody, to Community Board 4's May 2021 public hearing and regular meeting. We're going to go ahead and get started. It is now 6:04pm. As you may have heard me mention a few minutes ago, we have a very long agenda this evening, but we are so glad to have with us our first agenda item which is our Assistant Attorney General Michael Barbosa. He's going to present on the Attorney General's efforts to combat deed theft. Whenever you're ready, please take it away.

(Assistant AG Barbosa experienced sound issues and had to disconnect/rejoin. The second presenter was asked to speak first to move the meeting forward.)

Celeste: We do have another agenda item this evening for our public hearing. Omar Suarez from NYC Votes. He's the director of partnerships and outreach, providing an overview of ranked-choice voting. This is coming from the Campaign Finance Board. Just make sure Omar is there, you should be able to control your sound and video now.

Agenda Item #2: Omar Suarez, Director of Partnerships and Outreach, NYC Votes – New York City Campaign Finance Board – providing an overview of ranked choice voting.

Omar: You should be able to see my screen now. I hope so. And thank you very much for having me and thank you to the community board, members of the community as well for joining this evening. My name is Omar Suarez, with the New York City Campaign Finance Board. I'm gonna explain what that is in just a second. But the topic of my presentation this evening will be ranked-choice voting representation. And I'll also have a video to share. At the end of the presentation, I will share some additional resources and links where you can get more information about this new voting method that's going to be impacting our upcoming New York city elections in June. So moving forward, the entity I represent is the Campaign Finance Board or CFB, I may say sometimes. We are a city agency, independent and nonpartisan. Our principal responsibility is New York City's public matching funds program where small donors throughout New York City elections get a match on their donations, but we also have a charter

mandate to do voter education, including education on ranked-choice voting. So that's what we discussed today. As I said, we do voter education so if I'm around, usually it means elections are coming up. And we have some important elections in 2021 in New York City, some of the positions that we are voting for at city level, on the left hand side are the mayor, the public advocate and the comptroller. Those are all citywide, and then the five borough presidents we're also electing and the 51 city council members are also up for election, or at least the seats are up for election. I'll also add, you know the community boards are appointed by the borough president and city council, I'm sure you all know, just only to say that even if the committee reports are not community boards are not directly affected. We will be impacting who will be on the community boards with these elections. And just some of the key issues that local government can impact, education, housing, transportation, small businesses and jobs, our economic or economic livelihood, healthcare and many many many more. So it is very important to participate in our local elections.

I would just like to provide you with some key dates. On June 22 we have the citywide primary election. That's where the parties nominate who they're going to have on the ballot for the November election. That's again June 22. With early voting, we do have early voting again this year and that's going to be from June 12 to June 20. I will share the link where you can get your poll site location for early voting, and for election day, they are likely not the same location to vote, you have to be registered to a political party that is holding a primary so the two big ones are Democrat and Republican. If you're not affiliated then you cannot vote in the primary. And unfortunately the deadline has passed to change your affiliation, if you already registered, and affiliated. And then, later in the year, November 2 we have a general election, and again, there'll be early voting. October 23 to the 31st. So that's just the landscape tiers elections. We came to discuss voting, and I just want to quickly share a very brief video that will just explain a little bit.

Celeste: I don't know if it'll work for you but Webex apparently doesn't allow for folks to share videos with audio or at least we haven't figured out the mechanism yet, so it may not work, just a heads up.

Omar: Okay, it's fine. I can share the link to watch the video and I'll just explain it perfectly. I have the slides that go over the video, sometimes it's just a helpful explanation. I'll go through the process step by step and explain it. So what is ranked-choice voting? It's a new way for us to elect our representatives. You know, it allows voters to rank their favorite candidates for a given office, instead of just having to choose only one. And what this does is it gives voters more of a say in who wins the elections because they now have a second or third option fourth or fifth in case their top option candidate does not end up winning. It increases stability among the campaigns because they now have more of a reason to appeal to other voters who are not their supporters because they will want to be a second or third choice and so on. And it can lead to more diverse candidates winning, that's something that we've seen in other locations. So just moving ahead. It was established in 2019. It was a ballot question that was put to the voters. It wasn't something that was only implemented from on high. It was put to the voters. Back in 2019, almost three out of every four NYC voters that went out proved it got 74% of the vote. And, you know, that's a pretty high percentage, I think it helps to see on a map, all the green areas are where the majority of people were in favor of ranked-choice voting. And you can see

North Brooklyn is in the very dark, dark green area. We're over at 85% approval so very strong approval throughout the city, but especially in some of the areas, you know, that are covered by this community board.

How is it going to affect our elections? How is this going to impact New York City? This is only for the city offices so mayor, public advocate, comptroller, a borough president, and city council. Those of you may notice as opposed to the offices I mentioned earlier. So, this is for city offices, local offices. It is not for federal or state office. This is not, you're not using this for president, Governor, US Senate, Congress, State Senate, State Assembly. We're also not using this for district attorneys or judges. So, if you are if you live somewhere, or someone that you know lives somewhere with a district attorney race or judge race. Those are not rank choice voting elections. Finally, ranked-choice voting is something that we're only going to use for special elections if there's a vacancy in a city office or in primary elections where you need to be registered with the party to select the nominee. This is not for the general election in November, so you will not see rank choice voting on a November ballot. You will see it in June coming up, but not in November. Now I'm just gonna cover very briefly how you're going to fill out your ballot. When you see your ballot, it's going to look something like this. You'll have a list of candidates on the left hand side. And next to that list of candidates will be five. With a bubble in each column next to each candidate's name, so it's like a grid. Now what you do is, whoever your first choice candidate is the person that's at the top of your list and you're number one, you go next to their name, and you fill in that first column. If you only like one person and you only want to vote for one person, you can stop right there and that's a valid vote, that does count as a vote for that person. But if you have a second or third choice. What you would do is you go next to whoever your second choice is, you fill in that second column, you go next to your third choice and you fill in the third column and so on. So in this example on the left, we have Candidate B is this person's first choice so they're filled in under the first column candidacy as their second so they're filled in the second and so on. You get to have up to five rankings. Five rankings is the max, you can have, or you can stick with one or anything in between.

Now I just showed you that only five people are listed but you can actually have as many candidates as make it on the ballot, for example, this year for Mayor there are going to be 13 candidates on the ballot. You know, it's a lot, but now you're going to have more of an opportunity to use those five rankings because there are so many candidates. And you will also have the chance to use the write-in candidate if you would like. So similar to the traditional way of voting, you would just fill in that candidates name, and now with ranked-choice voting, you would just fill in the bubble for them for whatever ranking, they are if they are your first choice then you would fill in the first column, and then your second choice you would fill in the second column and so on.

And then finally, this is an example ballot from this earlier special election. Again, you have the list of candidates. The order is determined by lottery. Next to the list of candidates you have the five columns. So, on the ballot in June, you're going to have several of these sections for each office so you'll have one for Mayor, you'll have one section like this for comptroller, one section for borough president and so on. So the ballot is going to have several of these types of grids on it. There's a couple of things that I want people to be aware of to watch out for. Do not over vote. Do not give multiple candidates the same rank. This will invalidate your ballot. If you leave it like this. You cannot have multiple number one options, and not have multiple number two choices

you cannot have multiple number three choices. If you vote like this in person the machine will reject it, but you will have a chance to correct it. If you send your ballot in the mail. This way, we won't have a way to count it. The Board of Elections will see this. It will be rejected by the scanner and once they take it out of the privacy sleeve, they don't know who's valid, so you won't have an opportunity to correct it. The second thing I want people to watch out for is duplicate ranking. Even if you really like the candidate. There's no need to rank them first, second, third, fourth and fifth. It doesn't count as a vote, it's just the same as voting for that person once, and just having them be your number one choice. It does not make your vote any stronger, it does not give any extra benefit to that person, what you are doing is you're wasting your opportunity to have a second or third or fourth choice. And just to end out. Counting on how the winner is decided, how the counting process will work, we'll just cover that briefly.

The Board of Elections will count all the votes so they have to count up. Election Day votes they have to count up early voting in person and they have to count up the mail votes. And once all the votes are counted, if someone, if one of the candidates reaches a majority, meaning over 50% plus one vote, they are the winner. So for example as candidate B with 54%, they will be declared the winner, right there in the first round and there's no tallying of, there's no counting of the second choices and third just would add right there. However, this only happens around half the time. We did have this situation happen in the first special election with rank choice voting. Earlier this year, but in the other cases, it looks more like this, where no one has a majority in this case, Candidate A. B does have the most votes, but they only have 39%. So what would happen is we now count in rounds we go round by round, and every round, what happens is the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. So here, candidate D has the fewest votes, they only have 12%. So as we move to the second round, they get eliminated. And what happened and I'm going to explain what happens to all of those votes in just a second. Here you can see on the left hand side you can see someone filled out about it with candidate D as their first choice. And they had candidacy as their second choice. What would happen is, now they get to pay their vote moves to their second choice to their next highest choice, which is candidacy.

And that happens to everybody that voted for candidate D. So all those votes are being distributed. And now these votes have been redistributed to the other candidates. Everyone's vote total just went up, so Candidate A went from 27 to 31. Candidate B, he went from 39 to 45 and Candidate C went from 22 to 24. You can see that is not an even split, it's based on whoever had the most second choices for the candidate that was eliminated. So this will continue until you get to your final two. In New York even if somebody gets a majority earlier, you always continue until you get to the last two candidates. So this same thing would happen with Candidate C now, where they're the lowest. So they get eliminated, and all of that the people that are voting for them, their votes move to their next highest choice. So, this person will have their candidacy as their second choice, and now their own candidate their third choice. Some people may be Candidate A so both of them do move up and forward when you get down to the final two. Someone has a majority. This time the candidate beat them when they had to do a percent of the final vote. It doesn't always happen where the person who had the most first choice, ends up with the most, the majority at the end are coming from behind. Victory is a ranked-choice voting as well. It's all about who has the most products or gets the most second choices, or the third choices, and so on. So having that broad support and being included on the most ballots is actually what's helpful, more so than just having that strong first choice. That

does change the dynamic a little bit. Finally, one thing to be. This is a new term that's being used called an exhausted ballot. A ballot is exhausted when all the candidates that have voted ranked capslock have lost. Even though there are still some candidates left in the running. So let's say, in the example I just gave you, Candidate D was the first candidate that was eliminated because they had the lowest. If you only voted for candidate D and no one else. You have nowhere for you to vote to go after that. So you would just have Candidate B and then once they're eliminated your vote has nowhere to go. So your vote date does count, it didn't count, it was counted. But you just didn't pick the winner and the candidate, the only candidate that you did pick last. Finally, just want to leave you with some reminders before we wrap up, you can rank up to five candidates, but you do not need to use all of the five. If you prefer, you can still vote for just your first choice candidate. But just be aware, ranking those other candidates does not hurt your first choice. It does not harm your first choice to have a second or third. If you make five candidates, you don't have five votes. You always only have one vote. It just moves if the candidate is eliminated, then it moves to wherever your second choice making multiple candidates ensures your vote will go towards your second, third, fourth, or fifth choice. If your AP choice is eliminated. This is what gives you more of a say in winning that second choice of third and so on. Those backup options. I like to say that your first choice is the person that you really really love for that position, your second or third is someone that you like. Maybe they're not your favorite but you still kind of like them, and therefore their fifth is. Who can you live with, if it comes down to when it comes down to this person versus someone that you really don't have to do not want to see who can you live with, you know, so you can include them.

And the last thing is the timing of the election results. This is very important for people to know the results. In all likelihood, we will not know on election night. For many races who the winner is, who the final winner is, especially if there's no majority in that race. So, the reason for this is because the Board of Elections does have to accept absentee ballots sometimes that arrive after election day. It's very, very common people put their ballot in the mail on election day, and it can take some time to arrive and the board of elections must response count goes, and they have to count every single vote before they can actually do the tabulation process, they have to see what the final result of the first choices is before they can do the tabulation tabulation isn't what takes that long. It's making sure that every single vote is counted as the most important part, making sure that everybody's vote is counted. I'm going to leave you with some links and I will share these in the chat and we'll also send them to our host community board to share out via email. If possible, included here is the general voting is our website voting.nyc.gov. There you can get anything that's due, you can find out your poll site, you can get all the election dates, including early voting hours, you can get the absentee ballot application if you need to get information about registering to vote, anything that has to do with voting. Voting NYC, obviously keep repeating anything that you need to know about this upcoming election or voting in general. We also have our voter guide up there that has information about all the candidates. But in addition to that, we have additional resources on ranked-choice voting, educational resources, we have a training schedule, and we have a video that I was going to show but we had some technical difficulties. That video is available in English, Spanish, Chinese Bengali and Korean. And finally you can find us on social media at NYC votes. The Board of Elections is another site, another location that you can go to for additional information, and I'll include their information as well. And finally, I just want to say thank you for having me. And I'm here to

answer any questions that you may have about ranked-choice voting, and also share some of the links that I just mentioned. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you, Omar, and before we get started with questions, board members, I just want to make sure that I have everyone that's called in.

Q & A/Discussion:

Barbara Jackson: I have a question. Hi, Barbara. Okay, you saw them on quite another day, more than one person, more than one candidate, and not just one. **Omar:** Hello, thank you for emphasizing that. It's important to, if you want to take advantage of this new system the guide is meant to empower the voters. It's meant for you to use those, of those five rankings you know other locations, such as San Francisco, Oakland, Minneapolis, those are some of the largest cities they use it. Other locations only give you three New York City gives you up to five. As I mentioned earlier, you know, we have 13 candidates running for mayor just as one office. So, pretty sure if you like to do a little, do a little research, and you can find five that you can rank in order you know you don't have to rank all 13. But you have up to those five options. So you can have a backup option. **B. Jackson:** By the way, you have to vote for more than one candidate. And this is gonna be a little difficult for a lot of power in the bubble stuff, and I can see I'm getting annoyed, frustrated, you know, I would say. **Omar:** So just to be clear you're not forcing you. You don't have to if you really only like one person you can just stick with the one person that you don't like anybody else, you don't have to. But if it does, it does help make sure that when it comes down to it in case that one person that you could maybe they ended up losing in the first round or second round. You want to have options, so it is important to emphasize that.

Tanesha Honeygan: Yeah, I have a question. My question is, how successful has this been, because it seems very complicated, and I'm not sure that there's a great benefit to this chain? It's going to be difficult for a lot of people to do. **Omar:** So my response is ranking one through five. And then you fill in the bubble, based on if they're 123 or five, three or four or five in other places. Some of the cities I just mentioned, it's very common for, you know, upwards of 90 to 90% of people to use at least two options. Now it's still new here and so in, in the polling that we have seen from the first special elections. It's around, maybe two out of three people end up choosing multiple rankings. But most people like over 90% from the first special elections that we've seen the vast, vast majority of people. It was understandable to them. It was clear to them if they didn't rank somebody it's because they only liked one person, which is, you know, that's, that's understandable. There's only one person that you like and if that one person but you know the rest of the percentage of people that just didn't understand the concept was very low, like, and we'll continue our education campaign so it depends on, you know, I'm not sure how you would want to define success but I think if we have you know, 95% or more of people that are uncomfortable with the system or at least, are clear on how to use it. And over 90% are ranking multiple people. I think that's something that we can consider a success for our first ranked-choice voting election.

Louisa Chan: Hey Omar, this is Louisa. I'm sorry I joined late, but my question is if you vote, you only pick one person and that person gets eliminated. Does that mean then your vote, like when it comes to the actual election, that means that you don't have a vote anymore because your candidate got eliminated? **Omar:** It just means that your vote, the person that you voted for lost. We used to have something that's called runoff elections, that we used to do runoff elections for city elections, and this compresses that process so it's like you have the runoff, all in one single process. Instead of having to come back, you know, several weeks later and vote in a new election. It's all, it's an instant runoff based on your second or third choice so you know if you didn't have a second choice or you know, the candidate that you, the candidate or candidates that you picked last. It's as if you just voted and that person didn't, they didn't make it to the next round. I'm sorry. Sorry for the background noise.

Celeste: Any other questions? I don't see anything in the chat. Just a reminder to the public, feel free to add messages to the chat and we will ask the question.

Robert Camacho: I don't have a question, I just want to know that. So the gentlemen, we thank you. We understand--what my thing is, why now? Why couldn't we have something that's very important now that is crucial to this community, especially when it was going on around the world. So what you're doing is taking away our seniors and our people that are disenfranchised, you're taking away their power. People the new people that came in by dictating and showing them, which they already know that they came from West Baba feel where was if they moved here to now we're learning a new stuff, and you're not educating, instead of giving a trial basis for a while, and do something big like this, we might get someone that we really don't. And you guys are the ones responsible for it. And then when you put it on a city charter, you remake the ballot, just like you did. Nobody knows to turn around and you don't want that time, they're not turning around. You guys are educating now. There should be a process to educate everyone. The epidemic. We can't go to the senior booth as a teacher. I can't see compatibility. I can't show my father that too little, that don't know how to read and write, but knows how to check something off and do it. That's the problem. And that's why we Latinos and Black lose out because the board and the latest agenda is totally different, and it shouldn't be that way. It's really absurd, and we really need to sit down, whoever it is, it shouldn't be done this way now. Not at something so important when we just had, people just died. And you're bringing me something. I won't even go to some of the people I said and so what we lose out. Why don't we have a quote, unquote community, that we're being disenfranchised, that we are being pushed out by this community, that there's no affordability, and the new people coming in and taking over. And this pushes us off. That's just elected, your election works in some places, but it doesn't work here, and education is the key. And in order to educate our community. It has to be not once, not twice, it has to be several times. And it's sad because I have all my seniors and everybody that calls me and speaks to me. I don't know how to do that. I'm not going to overdo it. So you took that person away from the boardroom and I said that to our people. So someone's in there that we don't feel is going to represent and represent us. It's you guys. So we really need to echo and everybody that's on this panel all these elected officials need to turn around and do something that needs to be done before it's too late. They, it'll be a week we're going to suffer more than ever. So we really need to work on that and we really need to find out.

I know you're just, just an employee company and telling them, but we're telling you how we feel, so you can go back until you think about understanding things. **Omar:** I don't work for the Board of Elections, the board--. **R. Camacho:** You see us as tied together in a three year old lady that doesn't know how to check a ballot, but knows how to put your bag, put your finger in. So that's what I'm saying you got people that have been pushing for a long time so that other person that's going to someone that doesn't represent that's taken away from when ranked-choice do that, that's what happens.

Celeste: Mr Camacho, if I may, respectfully and I apologize for cutting you off. I just want to remind everyone that we are pressed for time, I know that you are speaking passionately on behalf of our seniors, if I may suggest the Board may want to recommend that we formalize this information that we're sharing right now to formalize these concerns in a letter, however ranked-choice voting is here and this presentation was really just to make sure we know what's going to be happening next month when people go. So thank you Mr Camacho, and thank you Omar. Final questions: this is the last call.

R. Camacho: I think just having to what our focus should just be education because centers here. We should push for as as many workshops flyers and handouts, just so we could get the information out, we aren't pointing hands at Omar, we just want to be where people don't get in a booth and are totally confused so I just encourage that any upcoming workshops, events, can we just strongly pushed out to the pushing community. **B. Jackson:** As you know, but there's been a lot. Not many seniors have the news, but I said way back in March that the elected officials should have been coming out and letting their constituents know what was going on. That was also part of their responsibility, not just the point of the lecture. Okay, I've been to many workshops which are very close.

Joshua Brown: I just want to add to that. You know I hear what the Chairman said was Robert what you said I agree it's here to stay and we just have to educate people also want us to understand too that we're going to community this this was put to a vote. So there was something where the committee voted for ranked-choice for rank choice board to be implemented so people voted so while we may have different opinions, there will be other people in the community who supported this and want this. So, you know, The again that's how the processes, was put before followed and they put water on it so here are the concerns but we also have to be mindful that you know as a community we have different opinions so there may be some people who support it while there's others who did not buy it from us on the presentation, a majority of the voters voted in February is that's what we added today so now we just have to move on and try to encourage more education for our people, so people understand how to go and take advantage of the process. And so that's, that's my take on it.

Samy Nemir Olivares: Yeah, thank you everyone. I am onsite with county committee members every Saturday, we'll be going and we started three weeks ago. Every title they will be in this part of Bushwick going to parks and this Saturday we're going to be at Cooper Park and also Maria Hernandez Park. If anyone is interested in coming out in the streets to educate people who are ranked-choice voting, they can contact me, and if they want to work in the election and

learn about ranked-choice voting at the actual poll sites, they can actually also contact me as soon as possible if they want to take opportunity of working on the polls. Thank you to Celeste for putting this presentation together.

Celeste: Thank you, Samy, and just one question from the chat. I have here, will the Board of Elections publish the ranking votes for all the candidates in each round? So I don't know if you're able to answer that Omar, but if you're not then we can certainly follow up and get that information. **Omar:** I will answer the question. To the best of my knowledge and then I'll just say okay, just a word or two. In response, the Board of Elections will publish on election night. The results of the early voting in person and Election Day vote. And this is about making sure that everybody's vote is counted. Not talking about people that vote by mail, you know, you brought up seniors, a lot of them are seniors that vote by mail, you want to make sure that those votes are counted before we declare somebody a winner. And once that's done, they will publish the full results, including a chart with the tabulation with a round by round tabulation of who was eliminated in which round and where those votes went. And then, you know, just said, that I'm waiting, like, I'm born and raised in New York City resident. I'm from the Bronx, Queens in the Bronx. My life and so I understand exactly how you feel, you know, and I see what's going on. And I understand, I think it's, it is up to look, if I could do this presentation, you know, not 24/7 from now to election day, I very happily would. And my email is in the chat. I welcome you know, you know, invitations to do similar type presentations. I think we do have to focus on education, you know, you may have gotten something in the mail from us, I just got mine a postcard that explains it.

On this coming Tuesday, I'm doing an event that's going to include Spanish as well. So I'll be sure to share that event out. And we're going to be doing other Spanish language events moving forward, and in other languages as well. You know, is the best that we can do. There was litigation, and my goal and my job is to present the information. It's not administration and is not policy and is not passing the policy. Here's the information about our work, right choice. Voting is the policy. Here's how it works. I do have faith, you know, people think that in other cities it is only white people that are voting, and that's not the case, this has been passed in other cities that have very large, black and Hispanic populations. Of course, no, there's no place like New York City, I understand that very well. But it's not to say that we can't understand though that we can't select our top five, you know, you send me or if I send somebody to the, to the grocery store or something, and somebody sends me to the grocery store, and I say, what kind of cereal do you want? You know, they don't have that. What do you want? If they don't have that? What do you want? You know, that's that you have to make it make sense for people. It's, it's literal, top five, is a little bit more tedious. He is Oh, we asked him a little bit more of the voters, yes. But I think at the end, it's not to strip away from residents to then give to others. This actually can have benefits in many other ways, actually, for black and brown communities. Because now you don't have to worry about splitting the vote. Because now you know, there's a history of this happening where there'll be, you know, multiple candidates appealing to this voting bloc, and then the vote is split. But now because you can rank is less of a chance of that happening. And it's going to reflect the actual will of the people. And so, you know, I really do, ask the folks, you know, work with us on getting this education out and getting this information out. I'm going to follow up in an email with the slides and with additional links. We're adding that

training link. We're adding new training and dates and times to it all the time. So, you know, as folks keep that plugged in, so that you can send people and, you know, my email, is there anybody who has any additional questions? My email is in the chat, and I'm happy to speak.

R. Camacho: I thank you. And it wasn't anything personal. What I'm saying is that COVID just happened. We're learning something, you know, people are busy dying. And we're worried about ranked-choice voting. Right? So let's be realistic. So that's my point across, there is an election year, right. And so that 18 months, nine to 14 months, people were dying, when they were talking about an election. So that's my point. Education starts all the time, some of the time. So we really need to, oh, that's the only thing I was saying in regards to educating our seniors and making sure that people have the right. So thank you.

Celeste: Thank you. That's all the time. I'm so sorry. That's all the time we have for this particular agenda item. Please, please, please let me know if you have any questions. If we did not get to your question in the chat. We will absolutely follow up. You can reach me at the board's office that goes for board members as well. Omar, thank you also thank you to Rs con from the controller's office for connecting us. We really appreciate it and we will certainly keep getting this information out there.

Moving us along, I believe the technical issues were resolved. T

Agenda Item #1: Michael Barbosa, Assistant Attorney General, Brooklyn/Queens Regional Office, Office of New York State Attorney General Letitia James – presenting on the Attorney General's efforts to combat deed theft.

Mr. Barbosa: I'm gonna share my screen as well. Alright, so my name is Michael Barbosa. I'm the Assistant Attorney General in charge at the Brooklyn regional office. I'm here, representing our wonderful Attorney General Letitia James, who has always been the people's lawyer, but she has been officially the people's lawyer for the entire state in New York. She's our chief guardian. As the attorney in charge at a Brooklyn regional office, we're one of 13 throughout the state, and we cover both Brooklyn and Queens counties. Our cases focus on all affirmative litigation, civil cases, civil rights, defendant labor laws and environment investors just a slew of civil issues. And our investigations focus on any type of violations of state law. Our state, we also defend the state in litigation, we enforce regulations, we recruit state funds, we propose legislation, all of those other types of things. Just quickly, because there's always a difference, or confusion, I'd say between the powers of the New York State Attorney General's offices and for instance, with the district attorney's offices, our authority comes from New York Executive Law 1612. So we investigate and prosecute repeated fraud or illegal acts in the carrying on conducting a business. Most of our cases involve filing what's called pre-subpoena filing power where we can collect documents and testimony under oath when we see that there's a pattern of practice of illegal fraud or illegality. And we've also filed lawsuits. We have limited criminal authority under the penal law. But we also partner very closely with the district attorney's office with district attorney Gonzales, who has the fraud authority. So we partner with many different cases that you probably all know about. And some of our typical criminal prosecutions involve complex financial crimes, tax mortgage fraud, insurance fraud, and I'm here to tell you a little bit

more about data. Most of our settlements involve assurances of discontinuance, which is basically a contract or court order settlement. Our focus is always to provide restitution on behalf of new workers and incur penalties for different violations and criminal convictions if it weren't. So just quickly, just to remind, there's so much information on our website, our website is www.att.ny.gov. Our outreach involves what we call smart senior presentations, or scam prevention, presentations that protect the elderly. We also do Internet safety, and we're doing many more D specific D fraud presentations. And of course, we publicize our enforcement litigation and settlement. So people can understand whether or not they qualify for restitution because sometimes they might not know. pandemic for the past year, plus, we've been having virtual appointments and we call it our protecting our community virtual appointments. Before the pandemic, you could walk into our office, nine to five, but you can also have virtual one on one video appointments or phone appointments. And many of the different cases that we've been focusing on this past year have, of course, been called culvert related scams. scams targeting the elderly, identity theft. You know, stimulus checks, scams, immigration fraud, and of course housing employment rights, dealing with the tenant moratorium and the foreclosure moratorium and the tax lien for tourism. Okay, so we're just talking about, you know, everyone. It's a widespread scheme to obtain title to Real Property through deceptive or fraudulent means against vulnerable homeowners in Brooklyn, especially in light of just gentrification in general. It's very prevalent. People have been tricked into signing the title of their home. There's been outright forgery. There's imposition of signatures when certain documents and short sell agreements, which is basically a scam where they say, you know, we'll help you. But you have to sign over your property and you know, your credit will get better, all different types of schemes. And it's just important for us to try to remind the community to try to protect yourself. There was a report in 2018, about these tasks. And if you look at this map, close to 50% of the 3000 complaints that we received involve neighborhoods, vulnerable neighborhoods, black and Latino neighborhoods in Brooklyn. scam, because it's public information, court records, foreclosure filings, public clock, 10s, or obituaries, these are different ways that scam artists look at these records to try to target vulnerable homeowners, you know, if there's a tax lien, if there's water bills, in certain judgment, certain abandoned buildings, all those types of issues. So it's really important for our office to just hear from the community about anything that they hear, oh, well, all of a sudden, you know, this building was vacant, and now they're tenants in it. And there's different construction and common deed fraud, def scams involved, like I said, shorts, short sale scams, loan modifications, be financing. I mean, all of these terms are just really hard for people to understand. It's like legal mumbo jumbo right. But there are different agencies, and it's more funding to try to help the community and help homeowners and family members understand what these terms mean. And I think you mentioned that--Can we hear this video or no? **Celeste**: For whatever reason, we don't have the audio capability for video.

Mr. Barbosa: Okay, well, I'll just say this is a video that the Center for New York City Neighborhoods has where it talks about the most common scam, which is mortgage modifications, owners get behind and, you know, when things like this happen, they call that bank, try to lower the mortgage. There's different types of qualifications if you qualify, and people get desperate. They ask people in the neighborhood, and you know, there's just affinity scams where people say, okay, well, I can help you. And one of the things that I always say in

these scam presentations is, if it's too good to be true, it's too good to be true. You know, they're just telling you a chance, you know, just a dream. So, definitely, you know, we always encourage homeowners and relatives to just make sure you understand what you signed in copies that are different documents. And another problem with mortgage issues and foreclosures as foreclosures take years. So the scammers can be saying, oh, okay, this has been resolved. But you know, you won't receive notices of foreclosure, you won't appear in court, there may be a default judgment against you. So it's just really important to try to really understand and try to get free legal services. So I'm just going to skip that, to talk about our protect our homes initiative. We launched it before the pandemic, where we identify different neighborhoods to try to collect more complaints, let people know what their rights are. We recently issued another \$800,000 grant, to our partner agencies, HPD, and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods where they launched a help desk and they're doing a number of different outreach events, which provides legal counseling, financial counseling, legal services, scam prevention and referrals. This article is really trying to see the different patterns. Because many times when it comes to our office, because we're, you know, our attorney general was wonderful with people trusting our attorney general, but we're still a prosecutor. So many times, the first people that find out about these scams are, you know, your organization, community board, nonprofits, and so we partner with these groups to try to get that information and continue our confidential investigation. So just really quickly, other types of, you know, outreach presentations we talked about is the smart thing. There's a statistic that has we only received one and 25 likes, that means 24 complaints we don't even care about. And so these outreach events that we have, it's really important for us to try to get that information, even if it's anonymous. You know, sometimes if it's anonymous, or you send different documents, or you know, other types of tips or send out a complaint, our office is going to read it and review it. And sometimes these investigations take years, we have, you know, there's a statute of limitation rule where you, you know, you have a certain amount of time to be able to file a lawsuit. And because we're law enforcement, you know, sometimes we can look back from six years ago, you know, especially with a continuing fraud. So, you know, some of the regular scams that are always successful, are the sweepstakes accounts, and you put checks to try to catch it, and they take money out of your account, the grandparent scams where family members are injured, and they need help really quickly, and money needs to be wired. So here are some websites to try to protect yourself with: Do not call registry. We have, we have electronic copies. And of course, we have copies that we can mail to different offices. So I'm just going to skip this because I know time and I want to, you know, provide information for questions. But there's also ways that you can protect yourself from identity theft, and obtain a free credit report. So one of the things that's really important I wanted to talk about with identity theft is, if you've been, you know, like, for instance, we've received so many different complaints.

You know, unemployment scams, and our names are listed, as you know, receiving unemployment and you haven't even applied for unemployment. The Department of Labor is also investigating stance. And one thing that's really important is to try to protect your identity, and do fraud monitoring. And what you can do is if you are a victim, file a police report and also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, and that creates an identity theft report. So the number to the FTC is here, [ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov). I'm also going to put some of this information in the chat and all this information is on our website. And then, of course, with charitable giving, I mean, in

light of the pandemic and everything. people, especially people in Brooklyn, even if we don't have much gift to you know, and it's important for you to know your charity, we have this website, www dot charities and why is calm, where you look at every register, every charity has to be registered with the New York State Office of Attorney General. And if they're not here, that's a red flag. It's also information about their fundraising, and certain reports, which you can, you know, read and understand because it's public information. So again, our website is www.att.ny.gov. And our one 800 hotline is 1-800-771-7755. So I'll stop right there. And, you know, thank you again for your time.

Q & A/Discussion:

Celeste: Thank you. Questions, board members? All right. Any questions from the public? Please add them to the chat. All right, someone has requested video links.

Gladys Puglla: All right. So the other day they sent me a letter saying that I was applying for another social security while giving me no reason. And then they called me saying that my social security was canceled. But when I called in to the Social Security Department, which I had the number with, they said the FBI. What if I did apply? **Mr. Barbosa:** Yes, that sounds like one of the scams that is prevalent. I receive you know, robo calls, you know, that say, okay, your Social Security has been cancelled. You know, please, you know, call us and those are, you know, if it sounds too much, I mean, the IRS is not going to call you and say that you know, you're going to get arrested. And that also sounds like something that, you know, you double checked. And the most important thing that we tell, you know, community members is not to give any type of personal information, when you happen to speak to individuals that contact you in this way. Or if you respond to a notice that doesn't really appear to be legitimate, you know, so you did exactly the things that you were supposed to do. And I also tried to put the link in the chat for the video.

Jo-Ena Bennett: Okay. Yes, Michael, what should a homeowner do? What is the very first step they should take? If they suspect they've been a victim of deed fraud? What's the very first action they should take? **Mr. Barbosa:** Okay, so when I mean, of course, the very first step is to try to look at the public records, the Office of the city registry, is public information there. And there's a way to register and have phone calls and emails sent to you directly, if there's any change in your property. It's called address. So if you see that there's also a fraud department within the sheriff's office in the city registry, and you can file a complaint there. And you also file a complaint with our office, and also the police department. So any type of you know, just use the same complaint and send it everywhere. So because there are different agencies that look at the various different prices to see if it's a civil fraud, to see if it's a dispute between quote unquote, family members, where sometimes they say, Oh, it's a civil matter, you have to go to civil court. But another thing is, we have our hot program. So it's the reason why, you know, we've obtained different judgments because of different frauds. And what we're turning that money back to legal services so that they can represent individuals because we don't do individual representation. We do a pattern of practice cases against businesses. So clarity, and

if someone is the victim of deed fraud, they should call the county sheriff immediately. Yes, yes. there's a complaint form on the website.

Celeste: And we have another question in the chat. Bear with me one moment, is the New York Attorney General able to sue gun manufacturers for all the illegal guns in our streets? Mr. Barbosa: So we thank you for that question. But yes, we will, let me just say that there's a number of initiatives that that our office and investigations that our office has done in the past, and that we continue to do to try to get illegal guns off of, you know, outside of our community, while also recent, we're actually going to do a gun buyback initiative this upcoming Saturday, you know, at Howard houses. So, you know, if there's been lawsuits against manufacturers by the office as well. So but I mean, it's like throwing water in a bucket. But since there's so many different cases, we continue to work and do the best that we can. And what can also help us is any type of complaints or anonymous tips that you have, that you can send to us.

L. Chan: This is Louisa. Sorry, I have my hand raised. I guess maybe I didn't do it. Right. But thank you very much for your presentation and for this information, Attorney Barbosa. I was just curious about whether or not the Attorney General we'll start, like, does she have the power to initiate or recommend, like, some sort of clearinghouse for credit? I mean, sorry, I credit theft victims, like I'm just speaking from personal experience. I had an issue last year, I was a victim of the, you know, unemployment fraud. And I had to go through so many hoops to get somebody to pay attention to my case, I had to reach out to my congressional representative reach out to my state senator. And it was like, as somebody who is, you know, like, tech, technology savvy, you know, can work the phones and call people and stuff. I mean, it was unbelievable the type of work and hours and hours and hours of effort that it took for me to try to get that result. And I'm just thinking about senior citizens in our community who might be a victim of it, and who don't have the time or the know how to be able to go to all these places like, like, we have to do something about this, especially last year, it was I had two identity theft issues caught pop up within six months of each other. And, and so I'm just hoping that there is there any sort of legislation or for solution that the attorney general can propose, or work with the governor's office to, to initiate because this is, this is something that is just really, really difficult to get a whole, like, get control over once your information is out there. And I check my credit card, you know, report and credit reports as well. But, you know, for some of us who may not be so savvy with that, we're still victims of it. So I don't know what to do anymore. It's the bottom line, I think. And I'm just hoping that this is an issue that she will look into, in terms of finding a solution, and making it harder for the thieves and crooks to be able to like make claims and for unemployment claim money, especially during that pandemic, when, you know, so many people were suffering. And, you know, that was when this kind of stuff came out of the Woodworks and people just did whatever type of scam they were. **Mr. Barbosa:** No, I mean, this it's a huge problem. It's not only just a New York State problem, or the United States. It's a global problem. So we're using as many resources to, you know, in terms of our investigative litigation, enforcement, and also outreach, you know, to try to protect people once once they are a victim of identity theft, but also to even, you know, because sometimes people just don't even file a complaint, you know, with with our office, you know, I know, you're not going to do anything for me right now. But we have a database we have, you know, there needs to be a collection of, you know, to try to track, you know, the different trends that happen. And we partner with the

Federal Trade Commission, we partner with district attorney's offices, so any type of information and evidence collection we can have can help, you know, just try to help in more ways than one. But our reach is the biggest, you know, to try to, you know, give you different tips and different scans and other types of trends that people fall victim to, which which we found to be effective, when, when certain people are confronted with by the scam artists, but we'll continue to fight and continue to, you know, present, you know, different or support different legislation, you know, throughout the states.

L. Chan: So, are you saying that we should file a report with the attorney general's office as well? I did all these other agencies. I saw a police report, and the police didn't even do anything about it. I don't think I ever got reports. **Mr. Barbosa:** Yes, yes. I'm saying you should also file a complaint with our office like that figure. I talked about one in 25. And if there's just confusion, and it's like, oh, well, you know, they're not going to do anything anyway. So I'm just not going to file a report, or let me just focus on the most, you know, the thing that I need to do now with like, monitoring my credit, or, you know, maybe calling the police department but not following a report. So that's the real reason why I can't stress enough written complaints are important and online on our website, www.hp.ny.gov back up, you know, you can just do it really quickly. And there you go. **L. Chan:** All right. Thank you.

Andrew Ramos Choi: Actually, Louisa more or less covered my concern. It just has to do more with education and outreach, especially for seniors and people who aren't tech savvy. But thank you for your time, Michael. **Mr. Barbosa:** Thank you. Thank you and again, our community outreach liaison, Darryl White is on and we schedule, you know, specific, smart, senior detailed presentations, you know, either Hopefully, it will be in person now that things open up soon. We haven't had we we don't have any authorizations to do that yet. But we're still doing numerous virtual presentations.

Celeste: And at this time, thank you very much. That concludes this public hearing item. As I mentioned before, if we did not get to your question board members or anyone from the public, we are happy to follow up outside of this meeting. Thank you to the AG's office. We really appreciate you joining us this evening. So that will move us along. Now. that closes our public hearing portion out, we will move into the regular meeting agenda. Board Members, please be ready. And I will reiterate that we do have a dense agenda this evening. So please keep your comments, to the extent that's possible, short and sweet.

Regular Meeting:

1. First Roll Call

Celeste: We're going to begin with the first roll call. Please be ready to unmute, and then mute yourself again.

Board Members in attendance: Rev. Grace Aytes, Jo-Ena Bennett, Joshua Brown, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Felix A. Ceballos, Louisa Chan, Andrew Choi, Elvena Davis, Freddy Fowler, Egaudy Gomez, Anne Guiney, Tanesha Honeygan, Barbara Jackson, Kristen Jock, Cheryl Jones, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Mary McClellan,

Desmonde Monroe, Gladys Puglla, Raul Rubio, Julio Salinas, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams

Excused: Martha Brown, James Fitzgerald, Zulma Novoa, Odolph Wright

Absent: Rev. Migdalia Gutierrez,

Celeste: 33 board members, that constitutes a quorum. Thank you, everyone.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

Celeste: Moving on now to our second agenda item, we have acceptance of the agenda. Is there a motion from the board?

Barbara Jackson made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Melissa Carrera. None opposed, no abstentions, so moved.

3. Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Moving on now. acceptance of the previous meeting minutes. Is there a motion from the board?

Raul Rubio made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Robert Camacho. None opposed, no abstentions, so moved.

4. Annual Election of Executive Board Officers

Celeste: Alright, so now moving on to our elections. Let me just double check the list to make sure we have all of our board members here. You know, I've received a few messages in the chat as well. I apologize if anyone is having issues with the roll call. I have you marked as present. Right. Everyone should have received guidance prior to this meeting. I know Ms. McClellan would like to speak, if you still would like to say a few words about the elections and the importance of the executive board.

Mary McClellan (Ad hoc Nomination Committee Chairperson): Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Mary McClellan and I am the chairperson of the nomination committee. We have an election of new members today. Now I want to just stress, the importance of these roles is that we have to be able to be available to come to meetings and voice your opinion, because you are one of our leaders. And we cannot have leaders that do not attend and we cannot count on. That's the importance of being a leader. And that's why you were chosen tonight, to be a leader. Because we look up to you. I look up to my leaders, okay. And this is very important. And there's also very important, I have to put this in that we all get vaccinated. Because this is a very important thing. Because if you don't get vaccinated, you are a danger to yourself and your family and your friends, and all of us around you. Okay, but this election tonight is a very important election. So please remember everyone who has enrolled into a new position. Your presence in doing your part is very important for us to continue being a community board. Okay. All right. Thank you.

Celeste: Thank you, Miss McClellan. So now we will have another nomination committee member, Dustin Sonneborn will read the slate. So the slate will be the individuals when they were called for each position who accepted best and also call for nominations from the floor. He calls three times as per Robert's Rules of Order as per the by-laws for those nominations. Dustin when you're ready.

The following executive board members ran uncontested: Robert Camacho - Chairperson, Joshua Brown - 1st Vice Chairperson, Raul Rubio - 2nd Vice Chairperson, James Fitzgerald - Recording Secretary, Eliseo Ruiz - Financial Secretary, and Elvena Davis - Correspondence Secretary.

Acire Polight declined a nomination for Financial Secretary. Barbara Smith declined a nomination for Correspondence Secretary and Parliamentarian.

As per procedure, Ms. Davis cast one vote for every executive board member, except herself. Mr. Camacho cast one vote for Ms. Davis. Everyone was congratulated on the election to their respective positions.

For Treasurer, both Gardea Caphart and Jose Guzman were nominated and accepted.

For the role of Parliamentarian, none of the nominees accepted prior to the election. Eliseo Ruiz nominated Jose from the floor and the motion was seconded by Desmond Monroe. All were in favor. Barbara Jackson nominated Jo-Ena Bennett and Louisa Chan seconded the motion. All were in favor. Rev. Grace Aytes self-nominated and Veronica Shell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Virgie asked about Mr. Odolph Wright. Did anyone contact him? Celeste and Mr. Camacho confirmed they did. Mr. Camacho elaborated, referencing that he spoke to him on the phone. He's been facing some health challenges.

Celeste: Just a reminder that there was a recommendation previously for each person that accepts a nomination to briefly speak on why they want that position. I defer to you if you would still like for each person to speak briefly very briefly on why they want the position. I would suggest doing that now. What would you like to do?

Eliseo Ruiz: Move forward. **Celeste:** Move forward as in keep going with the vote. Is there a second? **Desmond Monroe:** I have an opinion on it's only because it's been around positions over the years have been really certain people have really taken and moved with it. I'm not gonna say any names, but I know that certain people have really taken a position very seriously. And I want to make sure that we understand what we're voting for next. People deserve people who have really set up and have done the work. And been there and in town and dependable. So I would like to hear. Mr. Camacho: I second that. I second the summary.

Celeste: All in favor, so moved. So briefly, Gardea, we can start with you if you want to share why you would like to be the next treasurer?

Gardea Caphart: Sure, great. everybody. My name is Gardea Caphart. I'm the current treasurer, I just wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to serve over the last year plus, it's been a great experience just working with you all members of the board, as a board, just contribute my expertise to a wide range of things on a board, just working with less than the rest of the themes in terms of just making decisions about the operation to the office, and just get guidance on how to navigate to city to city processes. It's been a good experience. I enjoy doing it. I love it. And I'm looking for the opportunity to continue to do that. And I would appreciate your vote. Thank you.

Jose Guzman: Hi, everybody. My only experience about accounting is being the chair of the routine credit union. I monitor that transaction. And I think it's been great, the community board. The current board member is doing a great job. But if I can help out, I'm glad to provide more support. Thank you. **Celeste:** And Jose, if you want to speak for the Parliamentarian as well, since you were nominated for that position. **J. Guzman:** As a board member, I'm chair of a couple of board members, volunteers, and I understand the parliamentary rules and whatever I can do to help Community Board 4, I'll be happy to help. Thank you.

Jo-Ena Bennett: Okay, good evening, everyone. I'm sorry. I was a little surprised when Dustin Sonneborn called me and said I was nominated as a parliamentarian. Mr. Wright had done a wonderful job. And I did not know that he wouldn't continue the job. Once I learned that he was ill, I just learned that this evening that I decided to accept. I'm very glad to be a member of Community Board 4 and I would try to do a good job. That's the best that I can tell you.

Rev. Grace Aytes: Yes. Oh, I thought you know that I would like to fill in that position. Because I do know a little bit about it. But I mean, if there's someone else.

Celeste: Thank you, Reverend Aytes. All right. So now is the time, board members. Thank you to all of our nominees. If you have yet to vote, this is the time to fill out the form. I notice we already have two three responses going up. You can see this on the shared screen for the folks who are calling in. I'm going to read out this list of people--not all at once. But you should have gotten the instructions to call Melissa Carrera. I gave you her number earlier. So Mary, if you'd like to go first just disconnect from this call. You can call Melissa and then let her know and she'll enter your information and she'll let us know when you finish. So that way I can have the next person call her. Okay. Excellent.

Gardea won the election for Treasurer. There was a tie between Jo-Ena Bennett and Jose Guzman for Parliamentarian. Jose decided to withdraw his candidacy. The board was temporarily unsure what to do to break the tie. Celeste suggested a potential option to revisit the matter in June. Barbara (with audio issues) mentioned that the board should wait until June in case Mr. Wright comes back. Celeste summarized the board's current options to make a motion for Ms. Bennett or wait until June, as she originally suggested. Desmond Monroe made a

motion in support of Ms. Bennett. Mr. Camacho seconded the motion. Raul Rubio, Barbara Smith, and Virgie Jones abstained. So moved. **Ms. Bennett was ultimately elected as the Parliamentarian.**

5. Chairperson's Report

See the [Meeting Recording on YouTube](#) (2:02:00) for additional information.

Introduction of Elected Official Representatives:

Andres Aguirre, Assembly Member Maritza Davila's office
249 Wilson Avenue, (718) 443-1205
Scheduling in-person appointments

Nan Blackshear, Borough President Eric Adams' office
(Backup for Marcus Harris)
409 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3700
Staff started to return, staggered two days a week, the rest work from home

Janette Gonzalez, Council Member Darma Diaz's office
1945 Broadway, (718) 642-8664
Phone and email service

Haris Khan, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office

Introduction of Agency and CBO Representatives:

- Frank Fontana, Office of Community Engagement and Programming, NYC Department of Buildings (filling in for Damaris Falero)
- Noel Allain, The Bushwick Starr, noel@bushwickstarr.org, (917) 620-8546
- Richard Williams, NYC Parks & Recreation
- Mayra Mera, North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence

83rd Precinct Report - Captain Abraham Sanabria

See the [Meeting Recording on YouTube](#) (2:12:00) for additional information.

6. District Manager's Report

See the [Meeting Recording on YouTube](#) (2:19:09) for additional information or review it [here](#).

7. Committee Reports

- [Housing and Land Use](#)
- [Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Economic Development + Permits and Licenses](#)
- [Civic/Public Safety/Religious](#)
- [Arts/Culture/Technology](#)

8. Recommendations

Permits and Licenses

Mr. Camacho made a motion for a blanket vote. It was seconded by Jose Guzman. All were in favor, so moved

Egaudy made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation of approval with the specified criteria/stipulations (see EDC + PLC report linked above). It was seconded by Gardea Caphart. All were in favor, so moved.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Announcements

Desmonde Monroe, CB4 Economic Development Committee Chairperson

There's an election going on in our district. We really need to look at the candidates. Information has been given to me regarding spending. I put a link in the chat. This is the spending for all the candidates running for Espinal's former seat. What has come back to me--if they are running in support of MWBEs and entrepreneurs, they need to honor those commitments. I'm not saying any names or putting anyone on blast. If they have people working for them, they need to pay them. Make the decision based on more than popularity, like how they treat their staff. It's indicative of how they're going to work in the council. I know people who haven't been paid. Look at the link from the CFB. Look at their spending, what they're spending on. If they're not living up to their commitments during the campaign, they won't live up to them in office. Keep that in mind when you're preparing to vote. There are women-owned firms and canvassers that haven't been paid. We need to make sure that someone that doesn't honor their commitments now doesn't end up in that seat.

Nan Blackshear, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' office

Congratulations to the new CB4 Executive Board, to Chair Camacho. For those who are interested, the BP's office is still finishing up the appointments. Letters are going out at the end of May. You should receive them in June. Finally, there was a lot of talk about ranked-choice voting. The BP's office had a training with CFB. We recorded it and put it on YouTube for you to view later. There is some comparison with questions asked there and during the board's meeting. The link is in the chat. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day. Thank you.

Mr. Camacho - thank you, we're going to miss you. I told the Borough President, as well.

Samy Nemir Olivares on behalf of Latinos Americanos Unidos

On June 11 alongside the Amigos Unidos Latinos Committee and AW Davila they're hosting a benefit gala. Every year around the Puerto Rican Day parade they will hold a gala to benefit a

local organization. This year it's around Latinos Americanos Unidos working for the community. The gala is Friday. The parade is the 13th. People can call or text him for more information. This week they will have tickets.

Neil Sethi, community member and business owner

Hey, I'm Neil Sethi. I lived here all my life. I went to IS 383 right off of Knickerbocker. I'm a comptroller at a tech company in the city. I'm here with my mother, Mina, who has turned around a number of failing gas stations and opened a very successful fried chicken franchise in Louisville, Kentucky. I'm also here with my partner, Steven, who has been in the restaurant industry for the past 15 years. He's been instrumental in opening a number of bars and restaurants as well as curating many LGBTQ events across Brooklyn bringing the community together. We're here to announce that we aim to open a minority and family-owned and operated jive bar and weed lounge with the aim to invest and give back to this community and be one of the city's first businesses within the space. We have a unique opportunity at this moment on the other side of this pandemic to help revitalize commerce in this area as well as flip the narrative on cannabis, which has been used as an excuse for the unjust discrimination of those in our communities, especially people of color. I myself have been targeted along with those close to me, which I'm sure is the case for many of you in attendance, as well. The recent passing of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act allows us to create a positive space for folks to gather and it's our belief that creating a safe and fun place for all to enjoy recreational marijuana can be extremely beneficial to the community at large. We hope to be seeing you all around and please feel free to reach out to us if this has inspired you. I'll share my contact information as well as my partners and leave it at that.

J. Brown - can the previous person share their information? Neil was able to send the info to all panelists. B. Smith - why can't he just say it? Celeste asked if they have a location already. Neil mentioned that they are currently negotiating a lease contingent on the permit coming through. The Cannabis Control Board is still ironing out the details around regulations for permits for business in this space so everything is still a bit up in the air. We're not sure what the regulations are going to look like, but fingers crossed that comes through in our favor and we just wanted to start a dialogue with the community, and let you guys know what we aim to do. My email is Sethneil0@gmail.com. I also shared a link to my LinkedIn. I'll also share my partner's and my mother's.

Neil's mother and partner also said hello to everyone.

Haris Khan, NYC Comptroller
hkhan@comptroller.nyc.gov, (929) 512-1946

I can help with constituent services issues. The office also did an audit that was dropped on May 18th. It was on the management of Brooklyn estates. The info was dropped in the chat.

12. Second Roll Call

Board Members in attendance: Carlotta Williams, Jerry Valentin, Gladys Puglla, Acire Polight, Sammy Nemir Olivares, Desmonde Monroe, Cheryl Jones, Kristen Jock, Barbara Jackson, Tanesha Honeygan, Jose R. Guzman, Egaudy Gomez, Freddy Fowler, Elvena Davis, Daniella Davi, Andrew Choi, Felix Ceballos, Melissa Carrera, Gardea Caphart, Robert Camacho,

Excused: Odolph Wright, Annette Spellen, Dustin Sonneborn, Eliseo Ruiz, Zulma Novoa, Anne Guiney, James Fitzgerald, Louisa Chan, Martha Brown, Rev. Grace Aytes

13. Adjournment

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

Meeting Adjourned: 9:09pm