

Brooklyn Community Board 4  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 20, 2023 6pm

Hope Gardens Community Center  
195 Linden Street  
& Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celestina Leon

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Meeting Start: 6:08pm

Celeste called the meeting to order and announced the first public hearing item.

**Public Hearing:**

- 1) Public Comment** – the public was invited to speak on neighborhood concerns and other matters affecting Bushwick

Comments from Board Members. Committee chairs expressed their gratitude for the community. Mr. Camacho expressed his gratitude to the District Office staff and reminded Board Members whose terms are expiring to fill out their applications for re-appointment.

Former Council Member and former Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna introduced developers of Linden Grove Senior Residences, which is senior housing opening in 2024. Prospective tenants are encouraged to apply via NYC Housing Connect. Board Members asked about why preferential treatment wouldn't be given to Bushwick residences, and expressed concerns about the management of NYCHA.

Riseboro Community Partnership announced a toy drive outside of Maria Hernandez Park, as well as an announcement of \$1 to 2 million to expand their food pantry operation. Johnathan Betancourt offered an update from Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez's office about anti-hate initiatives and wished the Board happy holidays. Paula Melendez, community liaison from Hope Gardens offered her contact and wished the Board Members happy holidays. Fran Sanhueza announced remote office hours for Council Member Sandy Nurse's office. Lacy Tauber announced that community board applications are due February 19th.

**Regular Meeting:**

## 1) First Roll Call:

**Board Members in attendance:** Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Joshua Brown, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Felix Ceballos, Christian C. Tate, Andrew Choi, Cecilia Fabian, Freddy Fowler, Zachary Hendrickson, Barbara Jackson, Kyeshia Johnson, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Nicolas Kaplan, Edward Kopp, Kristine Malden, Desmonde Monroe, Katelin Penner, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Vernedeaner Shell, Maria Soler, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jessica Tiburcio, Ben Tocker, Jerry Valentin

**Board Members in attendance via a remote waiver:** Isa Abney, Anne Guiney, Tanesha Honeygan, Zulma Novoa, Barbara Smith, Tashawna Wade

**Excused:** Elvena Davis, Christopher Graham, Tara Jones-Thomas, Raman Mama, Acire Polight, James Steward

**Absent:** Jasmin De Santiago Diaz, Joanna Fuentes (remote - no waiver), Mary McClellan, Levi Orenstein-Wolf

34 board members present constitute a quorum.

## 2) Acceptance of the Agenda

Katelin Penner made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Zachary Hendrickson. All were in favor, so moved.

## 3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Melissa Carrera-Solano made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Felix Ceballos. All were in favor, so moved.

## 4) Chairperson's Report

Mr. Camacho announced a Meet and Greet with Hope Gardens' new management. Updated the board on efforts to organize small homeowners and businesses in Bushwick and a walkthrough on Wyckoff Ave focused on nightlife that was coordinated by Assemblymember Maritza Davila's office. Finally, he expressed gratitude for people and organizations who donated to toy drives across Bushwick.

Mr. Camacho also summarized his attendance at various events within the past month.

### Elected Officials and Representatives:

Johnathan Betancourt, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
266 Broadway, Suite 201, (718) 599-3658

Evette Lopez, Assemblymember Maritza Davila

249 Wilson Ave, (718) 443-1275

Jonathan Pomboza, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez  
350 Jay St, (347) 986-6146

Lacey Tauber, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
209 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3700

Fran Sanhueza, Council Member Sandy Nurse  
56 Pennsylvania Ave, (718) 642-8664

Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez  
244 Union Ave, (718) 963-3141

City Agencies and Community-Based organizations:

Melissa Reyes, Complete Care Medical Of New York  
347-252-2344, 311 St. Nicholas Ave, Suite E

Desiree Soriano, Coalition for Hispanic Family Services  
929-603-7966, 315 Wyckoff Ave

Noel Allain, Co-Founder / Artistic Director, Bushwick Starr Theater  
917-620-8546, [noel@thebushwickstarr.org](mailto:noel@thebushwickstarr.org)

Alicia Torres, Program Director, Riseboro Community Partnership  
646-794-0078

Officer Oscar Lopez, 83rd Precinct Community Affairs  
(718) 574-1697

83rd Precinct Report:

No report from the 83rd Precinct.

**5) District Manager's Report**

District Manager Celeste Leon updated the board members of the efforts the District Office has made to ensure compliance with the recommendations. Ms. Leon expressed her gratitude to board members and members of the public who contributed to the first holiday potluck since the pandemic.

Ms. Leon also summarized the various meetings and events she attended over the past month.

[Review the full District Manager's Report - December 2023](#)

## 6) Committee Reports

\*Digital and/or hard copies are available upon request

[Youth and Education](#) - Virgie Jones

[Permits and Licenses](#) - Mr. Robert Camacho and Melissa Carrera-Solano

[Economic Development + Housing and Land Use](#) – Anne Guiney and Desmond Monroe

[Arts/Culture/Technology](#) – Dustin Sonneborn

## 7) Recommendations

Permits and Licenses:

**Recommendation to blanket vote on all OCM application committee recommendations.**

Motion: Ben Tocker

Second: Desmonde Monroe

All in favor, so moved.

**Recommendation to approve the committee recommendations for all OCM applications within the specified hours.**

Motion: Katelin Penner

Second: Felix Ceballos

Abstentions: Jo-Ena Bennett, Raul Rubio, Zulma Novoa

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

**Recommendation to blanket vote on all SLA application committee recommendations.**

Motion: Zachary Hendrickson

Second: Tashawna Wade

All in favor, so moved.

**Recommendation to approve the committee recommendations for all SLA applications with the usual stipulations.**

Motion: Edward Kopp

Second: Jessica Tiburcio

Abstentions: Jo-Ena Bennet, Raul Rubio

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

**8) Old Business**

None

**9) New Business**

None

**10) Announcements**

None

**11) Second Roll Call**

**Board Members in attendance:** Jerry Valentin, Ben Tocker, Jessica Tiburcio, Annette Spellin, Dustin Sonneborn, Maria Soler, Vernedeaner Shell, Milagros Sandoval, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Katelin Penner, Desmonde Monroe, Kristine Malden, Edward Kopp, Nicolas Kaplan, Luisa Jose, Virgie Jones, Kyeshia Johnson, Barbara Jackson, Zachary Hendrickson, Freddy Fowler, Cecilia Fabian, Andrew Choi, Christian C. Tate, Felix Ceballos, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Robert Camacho, Rawle Brown, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Joshua Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson

**Board Members in attendance via a remote waiver:** Tashawna Wade, Barbara Smith, Zulma Novoa, Tanesha Honeygan, Isa Abney

**Excused:** James Steward, Acire Polight, Raman Mama, Tara Jones-Thomas, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Elvena Davis

**Absent:** Levi Orenstein-Wolf, Mary McClellan, Joanna Fuentes, Jasmin De Santiago Diaz

**12) Adjournment**

Joshua Brown made a motion to adjourn. Melissa Carrera-Solano seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:42pm