

Brooklyn Community Board 4
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 6pm

Hope Gardens Multi-Service Senior Center
195 Linden Street
Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho
District Manager: Celestina León

Meeting Start: 6:14pm

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

Public Hearing:

- 1) **Daniel Abram, Project Manager: Research & Policy, New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P)** – presenting on NY4P’s advocacy campaign to increase the NYC Parks’ budget.

Carl Nelson provided the presentation in place of Daniel Abram.

Organization Background:

- New Yorkers for Parks is the only independent parks advocacy organization in NYC, founded in 1908.
- The organization champions equitable distribution and development of parks and open spaces citywide through partnerships, advocacy, and research.

Coalition and Partnerships:

- Co-founder of the Play Fair Coalition, which includes over 500 park stewardship groups, community gardeners, nonprofits, and sustainable organizations.
- Coalition partners include the New York League of Conservation Voters, District Council 37, NYC Parks Workers Union, and Council Member Shekar Krishnan.

Recent Research:

- Released the “1% for Parks Impact Report,” analyzing what an increase in NYC Parks Department funding to 1% of the city budget would mean for parks, workers, and residents.
- Published “Open Space Profiles,” providing data on park access, demographics, and public health for community districts.

The 1% for Parks Campaign:

- The campaign calls on Mayor Adams and the City Council to allocate 1% of the total city expense budget to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.
- The mayor has publicly supported this goal but has not yet delivered on the commitment.
- Nearly every council member is on record in support; no council members are specifically opposed.

Historical and Comparative Context:

- NYC Parks received 1.4% of the city's operating budget until the 1970s fiscal crisis; it now receives only 0.6%.
- Other major cities spend 1–5% of their budgets on parks, while NYC spends less despite having more parkland.
- NYC Parks has one gardener for every 114 acres, compared to one for every 18 acres in San Francisco and Chicago.

Benefits of Increased Parks Funding:

- Better maintained parks, quicker repairs, increased accessibility, and safer parks.
- Parks are critical for climate resilience, stormwater management, and public health.
- Parks generate and save billions of dollars for taxpayers annually.

Community Engagement and Support:

- The campaign has collected over 12,000 signatures from New Yorkers in support of the 1% for Parks goal.
- The next step is to secure letters of support from every community board in the city.

Call to Action:

Carl Nelson requested that Brooklyn Community Board 4 issue a letter of support for the 1% for Parks campaign, emphasizing that increased funding would directly benefit local parks like Irving Square and Maria Hernandez Park.

Q&A/Discussion

Recreation Centers and Funding Allocation

Jo-Ena Bennett

Question: Asked how much of the proposed 1% budget increase would be allocated to building a recreation center in Bushwick, since the neighborhood lacks one.

Response: Carl Nelson explained that the 1% for Parks campaign is focused on the city's expense (operating) budget, which covers maintenance and operations, not capital projects like building new recreation centers. He acknowledged the need for new centers but clarified that this campaign is about maintaining and improving existing parks and facilities.

Parks Department Capital Budget

Celeste (District Manager)

Response (to Jo-Ena Bennett's question): Added that the Parks Department does not have its own capital budget; capital projects are typically funded through discretionary allocations from council members, the borough president, or the mayor.

Daffodil Project

Louise Manning

Question: Asked if the Daffodil Project would be held again this year, as she missed it last year.

Response: Carl Nelson replied that the Daffodil Project had recently concluded for the year but promised to ensure Louise Manning is on the list for future communications so she doesn't miss it next year.

Parks and Climate Resilience

Zachary Hendrickson

Question: Asked for more information on how parks and green spaces help protect against extreme weather events and climate change.

Response: Carl Nelson (Speaker 9) explained that well-maintained parks act as "sponges" to absorb stormwater during extreme weather, helping to prevent flooding. He also mentioned the importance of new technologies for waterfront parks to address sea level rise and the need for ongoing maintenance to ensure parks can fulfill these climate resilience functions.

Additional Clarifications

Celeste

Response: Provided further information about how capital projects for parks are funded and encouraged board members to advocate for these needs with elected officials.

- 2) **CB4 Annual Budget Meeting Overview** – the board's leadership will provide a summary of the board's budget request priorities.

Introduction and Process:

- Celeste welcomed attendees and explained that the meeting would cover the board's annual budget priorities, including both capital and expense requests.
- The board's role is to advise city agencies on district needs; agencies then respond to these requests.

Capital Budget Priorities (Presented by Mr. Camacho):

The capital budget covers large, long-term investments (typically over \$1 million), such as infrastructure, parks, and public facilities.

- Mr. Camacho reviewed the list of 13 capital priorities, noting which items moved up or down in priority from the previous year.
- Key priorities included:
 - More housing for extremely low and low-income households.
 - Special needs and homeless housing.

- Parks reconstruction and upgrades (e.g., comfort stations, toddler play equipment).
- Repairs and upgrades to NYPD, MTA, and transit infrastructure.
- Investment in commercial corridors and public libraries.
- Street reconstruction and ADA compliance.

Mr. Camacho explained the rationale for changes in priority and highlighted ongoing community needs.

Expense Budget Priorities (Presented by Joshua Brown):

The expense budget covers programming, personnel, and services (typically under \$1 million).

- Joshua Brown reviewed the list of 19 expense priorities, noting changes in order and rationale.
- Key priorities included:
 - Enhanced park safety and enforcement.
 - Additional NYPD officers.
 - Expanded HPD housing inspection programs.
 - Public health outreach and mental health services.
 - More building, fire, and housing inspectors.
 - Forestry services, pest control, and catch basin maintenance.
 - Trash removal, graffiti removal, and streetlight repairs.
 - Expanded outreach for homeless and at-risk populations.
 - Support for after-school and educational programs.
 - Increased enforcement of canine waste laws.

The board discussed the importance of these services for community well-being.

Agency Responses and Budget Process:

- Celeste explained that agency responses to board requests are often vague, with agencies stating they will “accommodate within existing resources.”
- The board must follow up to clarify what these responses mean and advocate for funding.
- The board can request funding for its own needs alongside district needs.

Community Engagement:

- Board members and the public were invited to ask questions and request hard copies of budget materials.
- The board encouraged community involvement in the budget process and advocacy for district needs.

Q&A/Discussion

Distinction Between Capital and Expense Budgets

Zachary Hendrickson

Question: Asked for clarification on the difference between the capital and expense budgets, and how expense budgets relate to the community board and city agencies.

Response: Celeste (District Manager) explained that the capital budget is for large, long-term investments (typically over \$1 million), while the expense budget covers programming and services. The board's budget requests advise city agencies on district needs, and agencies respond with how they can accommodate those requests.

Agency Responses to Budget Requests**Zachary Hendrickson**

Question: Asked about the meaning of agency responses such as "the agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources."

Response: Celeste clarified that these responses are often vague and require the board to follow up for more details. The board must advocate to ensure requests are actually addressed.

Community Engagement and Access to Budget Materials**Louise Manning**

Question: Asked how board members can obtain hard copies of budget materials.

Response: Celeste stated that hard copies are available by request and can be provided to any board member who needs them.

Longstanding Infrastructure Concerns (Broadway Repairs)**Louise Manning**

Question: Expressed concern about the lack of progress on Broadway repairs, noting it has been a longstanding issue.

Response: Mr. Camacho (Board Chair) acknowledged the issue, explained the complexity due to multiple agencies' involvement, and emphasized the need for community organization and advocacy to push for action.

E-Scooter and E-Bike Safety**Jessica Tiburcio**

Question: Asked how the agency is addressing the public safety hazard posed by electronic scooters and bikes, referencing a recent fire.

Response: Mr. Camacho described his personal efforts to ensure property managers address e-bike safety, and the board's commitment to supporting affected residents. He also discussed the need for regulation and community education.

Parks and Recreation Center Funding**Jo-EnaBennett**

Question: Asked about the lack of a recreation center in Bushwick and how budget requests address this need.

Response: Celeste and Mr. Camacho explained that capital projects like recreation centers are typically funded through discretionary allocations from elected officials, not the Parks Department's own capital budget.

Regular Meeting:

1) First Roll Call

Board Members in attendance: Jo-Ena Bennett, Joshua Brown, Makeba Brown-Alleyne, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Christian C. Tate, Elvena Davis, Cecilia Fabian, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Zachary Hendrickson, Barbara Jackson, Kyeshia Johnson, Luisa Jose, Nicolas Kaplan, Edward Kopp, Kristine Malden (did not sign-in), Katelin Penner, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, James Steward II, Jessica Tiburcio, Ben Tocker

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

Excused: Stephanie Anderson, Felix Ceballos, Freddy Fowler, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Virgie Jones, Desmonde Monroe, Vernedeaner Shell, Maria Soler

Absent: Andrew Choi, Jasmin De Santiago Diaz, Tara Jones-Thomas, Raman Mama, Levi Orenstein-Wolf, Acire Polight

Resigned: Cassandra Leveille

33 board members were present, which constitutes a quorum.

2) Acceptance of the Agenda

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

3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Annette Spellen made a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes. It was seconded by Barbara Jackson.

4) Chairperson's Report

Meetings Attended & Community Engagement:

- Mr. Camacho listed important meetings he attended, including hearings and community events.
- He expressed gratitude to those supporting community members affected by a recent fire and a hospitalized veteran.

Legislative & Policy Updates:

Discussed several legislative items:

- Intro 0160 (2022): Exempting music-oriented spaces (restaurants, bars, clubs) from the noise code.
- Intro 1194 (2023): Capping fines for noise violations at \$5 (if reported by DEP) or \$10 (if reported by a citizen).
- LDU 0012 (2022): Allowing restaurants to keep facilities open as long as they are operating.
- Local Law 121: Mandating restaurants and bars be allowed to operate from 10am to 12pm (likely meant midnight) Monday through Friday, including in residential neighborhoods.
- Expressed concern that these changes would allow restaurants to keep windows open and play music for up to 14 hours a day, negatively impacting residents.

Community Concerns:

- Highlighted ongoing complaints about noise from outdoor dining and late-night activity.
- Shared a personal anecdote about the high cost of dining locally and the impact on neighborhood quality of life.
- Emphasized the need for community members to attend hearings and advocate for their interests, as “the squeaky wheel gets the most grease.”

Audit & Operations:

- Mentioned a recent audit, clarifying that issues found were not the board’s fault but related to HR processes managed by Borough Hall.
- Stressed the importance of correcting operational issues and maintaining compliance.

Calls to Action:

- Urged board members and the community to stay engaged, attend hearings, and fight for the community’s needs.
- Thanked everyone who participated in the district needs town hall and other community consultations.

See the [Executive Board Report](#).

Q&A/Discussion**How to Find Out About Board Meetings and Noise Hearings**

Unidentified Speaker (in person)

Question: How do we find out about these board meetings and the noise hearings Mr. Camacho mentioned?

Response: Celeste explained that the hearings Mr. Camacho referred to are city council hearings. The board is generally advised of these by the city council, and information is sent to board and committee members. The most direct way to find out about city council hearings is to contact your city council member.

Implications of New Noise Laws and the 1972 Federal Noise Act Zulma Novoa (on Zoom)

Question: If noise can now be allowed for almost 14 hours a day with no fine, does that mean the 1972 federal noise control act is no longer in effect?

Response: Mr. Camacho replied that the city is also working on changes to noise regulations, and what may be considered noise to residents may be considered a party to the authorities. He implied that the effectiveness of noise control is being diminished and advised to be prepared for more lenient enforcement. Celeste added that the board can request an update from city council members at the next Environmental Protection Committee meeting.

Council Member Sandy Nurse's Remarks

Flooding and Infrastructure:

- Thanked Mr. Camacho for advocacy on flooding issues.
- Reported that the Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner promised a proposal for flooding infrastructure improvements by the end of the year.
- Provided updates on Broadway street improvements, including line painting and repaving, and noted ongoing and upcoming construction affecting the J and M train lines.

E-Bike Legislation and Safety:

- Discussed recent city, state, and federal legislation to address E-bike battery safety, including bans on uncertified batteries, battery swap programs, and record-keeping requirements for battery sales.
- Noted that the FDNY will be conducting outreach and education on lithium-ion battery safety.

Recreation and Teen Center Funding:

- Addressed the lack of a Parks Department recreation center in Bushwick.
- Shared that her office submitted a capital request to the governor for a teen or community center that would serve a broader age range.

Participatory Budgeting and Community Events:

- Announced the start of participatory budgeting, highlighted last year's successes, and encouraged community participation in submitting project ideas.
- Promoted upcoming events, including a Bushwick Assembly info session and a Halloween party on Knickerbocker Plaza.

Migrant Situation and Shelter Policies:

- Provided an update on the humanitarian emergency relief center (HERC) at Wyckoff and Jefferson, including shelter time limits for single adults and families.
- Explained the city's policy of 60-day and 30-day limits for shelter stays and the process for returning to intake centers.
- Noted the lack of detailed data on shelter populations by district and the challenges in tracking outcomes for individuals.

Church Stipends and Community Support:

Responded to questions about stipends for churches housing migrants, explaining that a program exists but has strict requirements and limited participation.

Housing and Shelter Crisis:

- Addressed concerns about long-term shelter residents, voucher acceptance, and the challenges of moving people from shelters to permanent housing.
- Emphasized the need for compassion, community support, and advocacy for both long-term residents and new arrivals.

Right to Shelter and Legal Challenges:

- Explained the city and state's legal actions to pause or end the right to shelter, the impact of the eviction moratorium ending, and the shortage of housing attorneys.
- Called for community members willing to accept vouchers to come forward and for continued advocacy for housing justice.

Community Engagement and Compassion:

- Praised Bushwick's community groups for their support of migrants and those in need through clothing, food, and diaper drives.
- Stressed that benefits for new arrivals do not take away from existing residents, as funding streams are separate.

Calls to Action:

Encouraged community members to volunteer, participate in participatory budgeting, and stay engaged with her office for support and information.

Q&A/Discussion**Migrant Shelter Situation and Shelter Policies**

Joshua Brown and others

Question: Asked about the status and management of the humanitarian emergency response and relief center (HERRC) on Jefferson Street, and whether Bushwick will be getting more migrants.

Response: Council Member Nurse explained the shelter's management, the 60-day and 30-day limits for single adults and families, and the process for returning to intake centers. She noted

the lack of detailed data by district and explained that Bushwick is not expected to get new pop-up sites due to limited space.

Church Stipends for Housing Migrants

Joshua Brown

Question: Asked if local churches in Bushwick can receive stipends for housing migrants, similar to hotels.

Response: Council Member Nurse confirmed a program exists for houses of worship to receive funding, but participation is limited due to strict requirements (e.g., shower facilities, building suitability).

Bushwick Community Plan and Community Centers

Robert Camacho and Celeste

Question: Asked about the status of the Bushwick Community Plan, city-owned land, and the possibility of a Parks Department recreation center or community center.

Response: Council Member Nurse and Celeste discussed the ongoing advocacy for a recreation or teen center, the submission of capital requests, and the need for city action on affordable housing and community resources.

Right to Shelter, Housing Vouchers, and Legal Challenges

Edward Kopp, Robert Camacho, and others

Question: Raised concerns about the right to shelter, the city's legal actions, the shortage of housing attorneys, and the challenges of moving people from shelters to permanent housing even with vouchers.

Response: Council Member Nurse explained the city and state's legal efforts to pause or end the right to shelter, the impact of the eviction moratorium ending, and the overwhelming demand on housing attorneys. She called for community members willing to accept vouchers to come forward and described the city council's efforts to expand voucher eligibility.

Discrimination in Affordable Housing

Jo-Ena Bennett

Question: Asked about discrimination in affordable housing, specifically landlords requiring good credit for Section 8 applicants.

Response: Council Member Nurse acknowledged the issue and said it would require state action. She mentioned the city is exploring a New York City-specific credit rating system to help address this form of discrimination.

AMI (Area Median Income) and Affordable Housing Eligibility

Tashawna Wade

Question: Raised concerns about the AMI used for affordable housing, noting it does not reflect the true income of Bushwick families and can be manipulated by landlords.

Response: Council Member Nurse agreed, explaining that AMI is set federally and includes Westchester, which skews the numbers. She said the city negotiates for lower AMI levels in new projects and prioritizes multi-bedroom units for families.

Federal and City Budget Cuts and Impact on Services

Zulma, on Zoom

Question: Asked about the mayor's announcement of 5% budget cuts and whether migrant services are affecting city services for residents.

Response: Council Member Nurse clarified that benefits for new arrivals do not take away from existing residents, as funding streams are separate. She explained that budget cuts are due to the end of federal COVID stimulus money and urged the board to advocate during budget hearings.

PAL (Police Athletic League) and Youth Services

Barbara Smith

Question: Asked about establishing a PAL in Bushwick for teenagers.

Response: Council Member Nurse explained the history of a previous PAL site and said her office has requested funding for a teen center, which could take various forms.

Introduction of Elected Officials and Representatives:

Johnathan Betancourt (Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's Office)

Phone: 718-599-3658

Lacey Tauber (Borough President Reynoso's Office)

Phone: 718-788-0237

Pablo Rivera (Assemblyman Erik Dilan's Office)

Office Address: 366 Cornelia

Office Phone: 718-386-4576

Cell Phone: 347-739-8484

Anna Bessendorf (Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez's Office)

Office Address: 244 Union Avenue

Phone: 718-963-3141

Fran (Council Member Sandy Nurse's Office)

Office Address: 56 Pennsylvania Avenue

Phone: 718-642-8664

Maria Valdez (Senator Julia Salazar's Office)

Office Address: 212 Evergreen Avenue

Phone: 718-573-1726

Agency/Other Representatives:

Samantha Edwards (Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving branch)

Address: 360 Irving Avenue

Phone: 718-628-8378

Kweighbaye Kotee (Bushwick Film Festival)
Phone: 347-450-3464

Nalisha (RiseBoro Community Partnership)
Phone: 667-950-078 (Note: This number appears to be missing a digit; please verify for accuracy.)
Office Address: 85 Miles (likely 85 Miles Avenue, but the transcript is unclear)

Denise Watkins (SCO Cluster Family Residences)
Phone: 718-326-5950

83rd Precinct Commanding Officer's Report:

There was no report from the 83rd Precinct Commanding Officer at this meeting. Officer Lopez was present, but the commanding officer was unavailable, and no report or remarks were given on behalf of the precinct.

5) District Manager's Report

Community Engagement & Events:

- Emphasized the importance of community togetherness, especially during challenging times.
- Thanked the Department of City Planning for supporting the district needs town hall and making it engaging.
- Invited board members and the public to get more involved in future events and activities.

Staffing Updates:

Announced the hiring of a new part-time community liaison, Adelina Rivera, who will assist with several board committees and administrative tasks.

Project Submissions:

- Submitted three projects to the Fund for the City of New York's fellowship program:
- A cultural archive and mapping project for the Arts, Culture, and Technology Committee.
- A 311 comparative data analysis for the district office committee.
- A community board resource library for the district office and potentially citywide use.

Meetings & Initiatives:

- Highlighted recent meetings and events attended, including those focused on the migrant shelter, youth intervention, and street vendor outreach.

- Noted ongoing collaboration with elected officials and agencies to address community concerns, especially regarding migrants and youth mental health.

Partnerships:

- Announced a partnership with the Living City Project, bringing 10 college students to work with the board on community needs.
- Mentioned ongoing work with the Future of Community Boards working group, which includes district managers citywide.

Budget & Operations:

- Clarified the board's actual operational budget (much less than the \$400,000 some believe), with most funds going to rent and staff salaries.
- Explained the distinction between staff pay and the board's operational budget.

Audit & Compliance:

- Reported on the board's response to a recent audit, including corrective actions related to staff training and compliance with Equal Employment Practices Commission requirements.
- Noted that most audit items received positive marks, with a few requiring additional documentation or training.

Communication & Transparency:

Reiterated the board's commitment to transparency, open communication, and keeping the community informed about important developments and compliance matters.

Q&A/Discussion

Audit Reminder

Mr. Camacho

Comment: Reminded Celeste to mention the audit in her report.

Response: Celeste elaborated on the audit findings, corrective actions, and compliance steps taken by the board.

Residency of College Students Working with the Board

Millie Sandoval (board member)

Question: Asked if the 10 college students working with the board through the Living City Project would be residents of Bushwick.

Response: Celeste replied that she does not know where the students are from but will meet with them soon and can report back with more information.

6) Committee Reports*

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

Economic Development + Housing and Land Use – Desmond Monroe and Anne Guiney

Anne provided the report.

Committee Meeting & Presentation:

- The Housing and Land Use Committee met on September 26.
- Christian Celeste Tate presented a data analysis marking the 10-year anniversary of the Bushwick Community Plan.
- The analysis reviewed where housing has been built, levels of affordability, and the prevalence of LLC (investor-owned) housing.

Bushwick Community Plan:

- The Bushwick Community Plan was a comprehensive, multi-year planning process addressing land use, housing, economic development, health, culture, and preservation.
- The committee reflected on what has changed in the 10 years since the plan's launch, including city actions and missed opportunities.

Data Analysis & Findings:

- The presentation included data on affordable housing, the distribution of new housing, and the impact of LLC ownership in Bushwick.
- The committee discussed the need for more deeply affordable housing and the use of city-owned land for this purpose.

Recommendations:

- The committee recommended reaching out to elected officials and city agencies to advocate for the conversion of city-owned land into permanently, deeply affordable housing.
- They also called for exploring additional tools to advance the goals of the Bushwick Community Plan.

Additional Resources & Events:

The report highlighted a district needs assessment, an affordable housing workshop from the borough president's office, and an upcoming homeowners' resource fair with agencies providing support for long-term homeowners.

Q&A/Discussion

Follow-up on HPD and Pending Projects

Comment/Question: After Anne's report, Celeste emphasized the importance of following up with HPD (Department of Housing Preservation and Development) to get clarity on how they are accommodating the board's requests for affordable housing within existing resources.

Response: This was a commitment to action rather than a direct response, indicating the board's intent to hold agencies accountable.

City-Owned Land and Affordable Housing

Comment/Question: Mr. Camacho elaborated on the need for the city to use vacant or underutilized city-owned land for deeply affordable housing and community centers. He referenced past efforts, such as the Bushwick Community Plan, and expressed frustration over missed opportunities and the impact of gentrification.

Response: This was an expansion on the report's recommendations, reinforcing the need for advocacy and city action.

Permits and Licenses – Tashawna Wade (Interim Committee Chairperson)

The report was provided by Tashawna Wade (acting as chairperson for Melissa Carrera-Solano), with input from Celeste (District Manager), Mr. Camacho (Board Chair), and other board members.

Surge in Cannabis Retail Applications:

- The committee received a significant increase in cannabis retail applications, going from 2 to 10 in less than a week.
- Applications included both "CAURD" (Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary) applicants and non-CAURD applicants.

Details of Applications:

- Each applicant's business name, address, and intended hours of operation were reviewed.
 - Some applicants requested late hours (up to 2am), but the board discussed the appropriateness of these hours for the community.
1. Evija Artworks Inc. (299 Knickerbocker Avenue)
Proposed hours: Monday–Friday 8am–10/11pm, Saturday–Sunday 8am–2am
Board stipulation: Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight (if requested hours exceed these).
 2. WVH Cannabis, LLC dba Cannabis Girl (590 Bushwick Avenue)
Proposed hours: At least 5 days/week, 10am–10pm (exact days not specified)
Board stipulation: Hours are within board's recommended limits, so the applicant may keep proposed hours.
 3. Caffeeind LLC (892 Wyckoff Avenue)
Proposed hours: Monday–Sunday 8am–2am (owner may close early on some days)
Board stipulation: Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight.
 4. Plantbase LLC dba Plantbase (8 Wilson Avenue)

Proposed hours: Monday–Friday 9am–12am, Saturday–Sunday 9am–2am
Board stipulation: Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight.

5. Lemonhaze LLC (4 Stanwix Street)
Applicant did not attend committee meeting; no hours specified.
6. Sunny Days Dispensary LLC (380 Troutman Street)
Proposed hours: 70 hours/week, days and hours not specified, closed one day/week for admin
Board stipulation: Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight, max 70 hours/week, max 10 hours/day.
7. Devil’s Harvest (1444 Dekalb Avenue)
Proposed hours: Monday–Sunday 10am–10pm
Board stipulation: Hours are within board’s recommended limits, so the applicant may keep proposed hours.
8. Cachimba LLC (1224 Flushing Avenue)
Proposed hours: Monday–Wednesday 10am–10pm, Thursday–Saturday 12pm–12am, Sunday 12pm–7pm
Board stipulation: Hours are within or less than board’s recommended limits, so the applicant may keep proposed hours.
9. Everyday Dispensary (214 Knickerbocker Avenue)
Proposed hours: Sunday–Thursday 9am–11pm, Friday–Saturday 9am–12am; delivery 11am–midnight all days
Board stipulation: Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight (for in-store sales); delivery hours may be subject to further review.
10. Skewville (237 Starr Street)
Proposed hours: Monday–Saturday 10am–10pm, Monday 12pm–8pm
Board stipulation: Hours are within board’s recommended limits, so the applicant may keep proposed hours.

General Stipulations for All Applicants:

- **Maximum hours:** Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight, unless applicant requested fewer hours.
 - Maximum 70 hours per week, no more than 10 hours per day.
- Must comply with state regulations regarding distance from schools (500 feet) and houses of worship (200 feet).
- Delivery is permitted for some applicants but must comply with all applicable laws.
- Any applicant requesting hours beyond the board’s recommended limits will be restricted to the board’s standard hours.

Regulatory Requirements:

- Cannabis dispensaries are subject to rules similar to liquor licenses, including minimum distances from schools (500 feet) and houses of worship (200 feet).
- Legal dispensaries must comply with state regulations, while many existing smoke shops and cannabis vans are operating illegally.

Board Authority and Recommendations:

- The board can recommend hours of operation and approve or disapprove locations but does not choose which applicant receives a license.
- The board discussed setting standard hours: Sunday to Thursday until 10pm, Friday and Saturday until midnight, with a maximum of 70 hours per week and no more than 10 hours per day.
- The board also discussed the importance of reporting illegal smoke shops and vans.

Community Concerns:

- Board members and the public raised questions about delivery services, proximity to liquor stores, and the impact on residential areas.
- The board emphasized the need for community standards and input in the permitting process.

Q&A/Discussion**Proximity Rules for Cannabis Dispensaries**

Question: Jo-Ena Bennett asked if cannabis dispensaries have the same proximity regulations as liquor outlets (distance from schools and houses of worship).

Response: Tashawna Wade and Mr. Camacho confirmed that the same rules apply: 500 feet from schools and 200 feet from houses of worship.

Definition of CAURD Applicant

Question: Jo-Ena Bennett asked what a “CAURD” member is.

Response: Mr. Camacho explained that CAURD stands for Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary, initially for those previously arrested for marijuana offenses. Josh Brown clarified the city labels it as retail, and CAURD is a formal process.

Illegal Smoke Shops and Vans

Question: Tanesha asked about the vans selling cannabis in Bushwick and whether they are being addressed.

Response: Celeste and Mr. Camacho stated that these vans are illegal and should be reported to the board's office. The city is tagging and addressing them.

Delivery of Cannabis

Question: Barbara Smith asked about delivery—how will age be verified for deliveries to prevent sales to minors?

Response: Tashawna Wade responded that not all applicants may get a license, and delivery protocols would be subject to state regulations.

Board Authority and Community Standards

Question: Edward Kopp asked about the board's authority over hours and locations, and how community standards can be set.

Response: Edward Kopp (also providing information) and Celeste explained that the board can recommend hours and locations but cannot choose the licensee. The board can designate community spaces (parks, etc.) for additional restrictions.

Proximity to Liquor Stores

Question: Jessica asked if the proximity of cannabis shops to liquor stores is being considered.

Response: The board acknowledged the concern but noted that state law does not currently restrict cannabis shops based on proximity to liquor stores.

Hours of Operation and Community Impact

Question: Multiple speakers (including Tashana Wade and others) discussed concerns about late hours, gatherings, and impact on residential areas.

Response: The board decided to recommend standard hours: Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight, with a maximum of 70 hours per week and 10 hours per day.

Illegal Product Sales at Smoke Shops

Comment: Josh warned that many smoke shops sell hemp sprayed with THC, not actual cannabis, and advised consumers to use licensed dispensaries for safety.

Board's Role in Licensing

Question/Comment: Edward Kopp clarified that the board only approves the location, not the applicant, and that the state maps out distances for compliance.

Community Mapping for Restrictions

Comment: Edward Kopp suggested the board map out community spaces (parks, senior centers, etc.) to further restrict dispensary locations.

7) Recommendations

Letter of Support for New Yorkers for Parks' 1% for Parks Campaign

To issue a letter of support for the 1% for Parks campaign.

Motion: Ben Tocker

Seconded by: Raul Rubio

All in favor, so moved.

Permits and Licenses Committee – Cannabis Retail Applications (Blanket Vote)

To take a blanket vote for all 10 cannabis retail locations.

Motion: Robert Camacho

Seconded by: Mr. Kopp

Opposed: Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Elvena Davis, Zuma Novoa, Barbara Smith

Motion carried.

Recommendation for Hours of Operation

To recommend hours of operation for cannabis retail applicants:

Sunday–Thursday until 10pm, Friday–Saturday until midnight (applicants with fewer hours may keep their proposed hours).

Motion: Zach

Seconded by: Tashana Wade

Opposed: Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Zulma Novoa, Barbara Smith

Abstained: Jo-Ena Bennett, Jessica Tiburcio, and Isa Abney

Motion carried.

8) Old Business

None

9) New Business

Mr. Camacho (Board Chair)

- Raised concerns about a proposed City Council introduction (intro) to impose term limits on community board district managers.
- Explained he received calls from Manhattan and Queens about the issue and contacted Maritza Davila's office for clarification.
- Emphasized the importance of community input before such decisions are made and expressed concern about the impact on experienced, community-rooted staff.
- Voiced frustration that the proposal was not communicated to the board in advance and discussed the value of long-serving board members and managers.

Celeste (District Manager)

- Clarified that the intro was reportedly pulled and not being introduced at the next City Council meeting.
- Explained the legislative process and that any such change would likely require a charter revision and public input.
- Promised to keep the board informed as more information becomes available.

Edward Kopp (Board Member)

Provided context that the issue originated in Queens, where some district managers were reportedly unresponsive to their boards, prompting the council to consider intervention.

Tashawna Wade (Board Member, via Zoom)

- Commented that term limits for district managers should be a matter for community vote, not imposed without local input.
- Emphasized the importance of having deeply engaged, community-rooted leaders.

Anna Bessendorf (Chief of Staff for Council Member Gutierrez, via Zoom)

- Confirmed the bill was not being introduced at the upcoming session and would not move forward this calendar year.
- Stated that any future action would include opportunities for community input.

Additional comments and support were voiced by other board members, including expressions of support for the current district manager and concerns about the process.

10) Announcements

Anna Bessendorf (Chief of Staff for Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez)

- Thanked Pine Box for hosting a successful Naloxone event.
- Announced an E-waste event with the Ecology Center at Knickerbocker and Suydam.
- Mentioned a Mental Health First Aid training at Greater Ridgewood Youth Council.
- Announced a street care event at 1215 Myrtle Avenue.
- Shared details about a Halloween event at Moore Street Market.
- Noted the start of participatory budgeting and tabling at Maria Hernandez Park.
- Mentioned legislation on E-bike battery safety and a fire safety guide.

Zulma (Department of Health, via Zoom)

- Announced diabetes self-management classes starting November 9 at 518 Bushwick Avenue, with a free Fitbit for participants.

Barbara Smith (83rd Precinct Community Council, via Zoom)

- Announced the 83rd Precinct Community Council meeting will be on November 14 at 6:30pm at the precinct.
- Invited nominations for turkey giveaways for those in need.

Fran (Council Member Sandy Nurse's Office, via Zoom)

- Shared information about participatory budgeting, including a virtual assembly on October 23 and a Bushwick assembly on November 2.
- Announced a Knickerbocker Halloween festival on October 31.
- Mentioned a Haunted Highland Trail of Horrors at Highland Park on October 28.
- Announced a Narcan training on October 28 and a tree care event on October 29.

Lacey Tauber (Borough President Reynoso's Office, in person)

- Announced the release of the Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan.
- Mentioned upcoming service delivery events at Borough Hall.
- Invited the public to an adopt-a-shelter-animal event on October 28 and trick-or-treating at Borough Hall on Halloween.

Johnathan Betancourt (Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's Office, in person)

- Provided updates on the House Speaker election.
- Discussed the Congresswoman's visit to the site of an E-bike fire and her legislative efforts on pesticide bans and flood protection.

Nalisha (RiseBoro Community Partnership, in person)

- Announced the annual Calabaza Fest on October 29 at Maria Hernandez Park.
- Promoted an anti-litter design contest on Knickerbocker Avenue.
- Shared information about delivering hot holiday meals to homebound seniors on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Kweighbaye Kotee (Bushwick Film Festival, in person)

- Announced the 16th annual Bushwick Film Festival from October 25–29, with events in Bushwick, downtown Brooklyn, and Williamsburg.
- Offered free or discounted tickets to attendees.

Raul Rubio (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in person)

- Announced a Mental Health First Aid course at the DeKalb Library on October 27.
- Offered to provide free mental health first aid training to groups of 15 or more.

Christian Celeste Tate (Board Member)

- Provided participatory budgeting idea cards and encouraged specific suggestions for community improvements.

11) **Second Roll Call**

Board Members in attendance: Ben Tocker, Jessica Tiburcio, James Steward II, Annette Spellens, Dustin Sonneborn, Milagros Sandoval, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Katelin Penner, Edward Kopp, Nicolas Kaplan, Luisa Jose, Kyeshia Johnson, Barbara Jackson, Zachary Hendrickson, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Cecilia Fabian, Elvena Davis, Christian C. Tate, Robert Camacho, Rawle Brown, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Joshua Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett

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

Excused: Maria Soler, Vernedeaner Shell, Desmonde Monroe, Virgie Jones, Anne Guiney, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Freddy Fowler, Felix Ceballos, Stephanie Anderson

Absent: Acire Polight, Levi Orenstein-Wolf, Mary McClellan, Raman Mama, Kristine Malden, Tara Jones-Thomas, Jasmin De Santiago Diaz, Andrew Choi, Joshua Brown

12) Adjournment

Barbara Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Elvena Davis seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:02pm