

Brooklyn Community Board 4
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 6pm

Hope Gardens Community Center
195 Linden Street
Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho
District Manager: Celestina Leon

Meeting Start: 6:11pm

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

Public Hearing:

- 1) Alex Kipp, Director of Education & Engagement, NYC Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) – providing the training for Board Members as per City Charter Section 2603(b), which requires City employees (and officials) complete conflicts of interest training every two years.**

Alex Kipp, Director of Education & Engagement for the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, gave a presentation reviewing Chapter 68 of the City Charter, focusing on conflicts of interest for community board members. He discussed relevant case examples and emphasized the importance of disclosure, discussion, and abstaining from voting when a conflict arises. The presentation covered the definition of "benefit," "direct," and "associate," and how these terms apply to various scenarios. He also addressed gift restrictions and the use of community board titles in private matters. Finally, he clarified how conflicts of interest affect quorum and committee leadership.

Regular Meeting:

- 1) First Roll Call**

Members Present: Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Robert Camacho, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Felix Ceballos, Christian C. Tate, Elvena Davis, Cecilia Fabian, Freddy Fowler, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Jason Gers, Christopher Graham, Zachary Hendrickson, Barbara Jackson, Tara Jones-Thomas, Luisa Jose, Alex Móreno, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Jessica Tiburcio, Ben Tocker, Linda Whitfield

Members present with a remote waiver: Andrew Choi, Anne Guiney, Deborah Hicks, Tanesha Honeygan, Virgie Jones, Zulma Novoa, Barbara Smith, Jerry Valentin

Excused: Kristine Malden, Annette Spellen, James Steward

Absent: Jacqueline Becerra, Isa Abney, Kerina Dodd, Kyeshia Johnson, Freddie Mattison, Mary McClellan, Desmonde Monroe, Carlos Ortiz, Katelin Penner, Vernedeaner Shell

Resigned: Edward Kopp

22 members were present, which does not constitute quorum. 24 members were needed in-person to vote on any recommendations. A quorum was achieved later in the meeting however, the board did not go back/vote to accept the agenda (agenda item no. 2) or the previous meeting minutes (agenda item no. 3).

2) Chairperson's Report

Mr. Camacho provided an update on his activities since the last meeting. He shared that his daughter just had a baby and discussed a walkthrough of Wyckoff Avenue to address illegal vending and cleanliness issues, attendance at a Charter Revision hearing, a meeting with the 83rd Precinct Captain, and participation in various community events and meetings. He also congratulated Celeste Leon on receiving an award. For more information, please [see the EXE report](#).

Council Member Nurse provided brief remarks on the following:

- She allocated funding for: the Irving Square Park play area and \$800,000 for closing the Woodbine side of Bushwick playground, the buildout of private showers for maternity care at Wyckoff hospital, \$850,000 for PS106 and PS116.
- She congratulated The Bushwick Starr on opening their new theater.
- She announced a public community conversation for Myrtle-Wyckoff on Monday, September 23rd at 6pm. State Senator Julia Salazar, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, the 83 Precinct, and other agency partners will attend and want to hear from the public.
- City of Yes for Housing Opportunity Update: not many boards were supportive of the parking mandate.
- The board is hosting a meeting for the Irving Square Park proposed dog run project on Monday, the 23rd at 6pm.
- The Coalition for Parks asked for 1% of the city budget and the Mayor did not deliver. They really need more support. She encouraged everyone to testify, write a stronger letter, and have the committee send a letter. September 24th is the first hearing. Show up, listen.
- She announced a Flood Preparedness event with Congresswoman Velazquez on Monday, September 30th at 6pm in the Hope Gardens Multi-Service Senior Center (same location as this meeting). FEMA is confirmed.

- There's a pending \$260M sewer project that will take a long time, although it will help with flooding.
- The J and M lines are being repainted. It's taking a long time, and it is noisy. The MTA is supposed to do outreach. If you're not getting it, let her office know.
- She announced her office is about to launch the idea phase for participatory budgeting. Shoutout to Council Member Gutierrez for getting the most votes of all. There's only \$1M. Let her office know if you want to volunteer.

Elected Officials and Representatives:

Council Member Sandy Nurse

56 Pennsylvania Ave, (718) 642-8664

Juan Mayancela, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez

244 Union Ave, (718) 963-3141

Lacey Tauber, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

209 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3700

Johnathan Betancourt, Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez

266 Broadway, Suite 201, (718) 599-3658

Maria Valdez, State Senator Julia Salazar

212 Evergreen Avenue, (718) 573-1726

83rd Precinct Report – Captain David Poggioli

The Captain discussed ongoing initiatives, including Build the Block meetings, addressing smoke shops and illegal mopeds, and concerns about auto thefts and scams targeting the elderly. He also addressed park closures and vending concerns.

3) District Manager's Report

District Manager Celeste Leon gave a brief report, highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month, Labor Day, and National Preparedness Month. She mentioned meetings with agency officials regarding community needs and budget requests and encouraged community involvement. She directed attendees to the board's website and social media for further information.

4) Committee Reports

*Digital and/or hard copies are available upon request

[Joint Civic/Public Safety/Religious + Health/Human Service/Senior Citizens/Veterans - Elvena Davis](#)

Ms. Davis summarized the joint committee meeting, focusing on budget requests for NYPD, FDNY, and various health and senior services. All budget items were approved by the committee.

[Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation](#) - Christian Celeste Tate and Ben Tocker

Mr. Tate discussed the Department of Transportation's dining out applications, the MTA's capital budget, and the proposed one-way conversion of Ridgewood Place. He explained the committee's approach to reviewing dining out applications and their recommendation to prioritize ADA accessibility at the DeKalb Avenue L station.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the fall field permit schedule, noting no conflicts in the applications.

Permits and Licenses ([August](#) and [September](#)) - Melissa Carrera-Solano

Ms. Carrera-Solano summarized the August and September committee meetings, reviewing various liquor license applications, corporate changes, and cannabis retail applications. She also discussed ongoing conversations regarding nightlife issues and the new process for reviewing dining out applications.

5) Recommendations

Civic Public Safety/Religious/Health Human Services/Senior Citizens/Veterans:

Recommendation: Blanket approval of all budget items.

Motion: Elvena Davis

Second: Melissa Carrera-Solano

All in favor, so moved.

Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation:

Recommendation: Blanket vote for dining out applications for 101 Wilson Bar and The Johnsons and writing a letter to elected officials urging prioritization of the DeKalb L station elevator.

Motion: Robert Camacho

Second: Felix Ceballos

Opposed: Zachary Hendrickson

Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation:

Recommendation: Approve fall field permit schedule.

Motion: Jo-Ena Bennett

Second: Barbara Jackson

Opposed: Zachary Hendrickson

Motion carried.

Permits and Licenses:

Recommendation: Blanket vote for August and September applications.

Motion: Jo-Ena Bennett

Second: Freddy Fowler

All in favor, so moved.

Recommendation: In favor of the committee's recommendations with the Bushwick Starr's hours to be reflected on the application.

Motion: Jessica Tiburcio

Second: Stephanie Anderson

Opposed: Elvena Davis

Motion carried.

6) Old Business

None

7) New Business

- **B52 Bus Route Changes:** Deborah Hicks raised concerns about proposed MTA changes to the B52 bus route and requested community outreach. Referred to the Transportation Committee.

8) Announcements:

- Juan Mayancela (Council Member Gutierrez's Office): Recap of successful back-to-school events and ongoing mobile office hours. Mentioned the District 34 Trash Force for trash complaints and a successful event with HRA and RiseBoro to help tenants apply for one-shot deals. Announced upcoming events: a legacy walk honoring Puerto Rican pioneers on September 25th at 3pm (meeting at Borinquen and Graham) and a block party on October 5th in Williamsburg (details to follow). Raised concerns about fraud on food stamps and issues with one-shot deal applications.
- Bonita James (Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch): Thanked the community for supporting the library's budget restoration. Highlighted free online tutoring services (BrainFuse), in-person after-school programs, teen internship applications, and voter registration.
- Lacey Tauber (Brooklyn Borough President Reynoso's Office): Announced the launch of a \$50,000 Community Baby Shower Fund for Brooklyn nonprofits to support new and expecting parents. Highlighted upcoming events: Sustainable Cities Summit during NYC Climate Week (Wednesday, September 25th, 8am-5pm at Borough Hall) and a tribute concert for gun violence survivors and victims (Friday, September 27th, 3-5pm at Borough Hall). Mentioned a community input

process for the Department of Environmental Conservation's Community Air Monitoring Initiative in Brooklyn, with a meeting on October 10th from 6-8pm at Borough Hall.

- Amy Collado (Bushwick Housing Independence Project): Promoted a community meeting on Wednesday, September 25th from 6:30-8pm at El Puente (311 Central Avenue) to educate tenants about the JustFix tool for researching landlord information and organizing tenant unions. Provided information about rent increases for rent-stabilized apartments.
- Noel Allain (Bushwick Starr Theater): Announced the opening of their new play, "A Woman Among Women," starting October 15th. Directed attendees to their website: thebushwickstarr.org.
- Adam Dobrzynski (DSNY): Announced a Green and Clean police track cleanup on Saturday, September 28th at 10am at Maria Hernandez Park, in partnership with the Clean Bushwick Initiative. Reminded attendees to save the date for the 14th Annual Calabaza Fest on Sunday, October 27th.
- Jonathan Betancourt (Congresswoman Velasquez's Office): Recap of the student internship and resource fair in Cypress Hills. Announced a National Preparedness Month Town Hall with Congresswoman Velasquez on Monday, September 30th from 6-7:30pm at the community board office. Provided information about requesting assistance via the Congresswoman's website.
- Council Member Sandy Nurse: Mentioned the possibility of the Myrtle-Wyckoff community meeting being canceled due to rain. Encouraged participation in participatory budgeting, with a focus on students and older adults.
- Fran Sanhueza (Council Member Nurse's Office): Announced that the IDNYC van will be in the district on October 8th (location TBD). Requested suggestions for locations.
- Christopher Graham (Community Board Member): Encouraged the community to wear white on Friday, September 20th to honor the late musician, Frankie Beverly.
- Raul Rubio (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene): Announced upcoming community organizing events related to the Partnership for Early Diversion in Youth, aimed at providing mental health services to at-risk youth.
- Julio Madrigal (Community Dialogues, NYC): Announced availability of gift bags for expectant parents, upcoming music and reading classes, and a search for a part-time accountant. Contact information: cdnyc.org or 646-598-3254.

- Juan Colon (Community Board 5 Member): Introduced himself and extended an invitation to CB5's meetings, held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.
- Cecilia Fabian (Former CB4 Member): Invited the community to Bushwick Open Studios, September 27th-29th, from noon to 6pm at 963 Bushwick Avenue.
- Maria Valdez (State Senator Salazar's Office): Recap of successful backpack giveaway and congratulations to Bushwick Starr on their new space. Announced upcoming partnership events with HRA (November) and ACC to adopt a pet (November 2nd).

9) **Second Roll Call**

Conducted in reverse alphabetical order.

Members Present: Linda Whitfield, Ben Tocker, Jessica Tiburcio, Milagros Sandoval, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Alex Móreno, Luisa Jose, Tara Jones-Thomas, Barbara Jackson, Zachary Hendrickson, Christopher Graham, Jason Gers, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Freddy Fowler, Cecilia Fabian, Elvena Davis, Felix Ceballos, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Robert Camacho, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson

Members present with a remote waiver: Jerry Valentin, Virgie Jones, Tanesha Honeygan, Deborah Hicks, Anne Guiney, Andrew Choi

Excused: James Steward, Annette Spellin, Zulma Novoa, Kristine Malden

Absent: Vernedeaneer Shell, Katelin Penner, Carlos Ortiz, Desmonde Monroe, Mary McClellan, Freddie Mattison, Kyeshia Johnson, Kerina Dodd, Isa Abney, Jacqueline Becerra

10) **Adjournment**

Melissa Carrera-Solano made a motion to adjourn. Freddy Fowler seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:49pm