

Brooklyn Community Board 4  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 6pm

Hope Gardens Older Adult Center  
195 Linden Street  
Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celestina León

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Meeting Start: 6:07pm

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

**Public Hearing:**

- 1) **Zev Reisman, CB4/Fund for the City of NY Fellow** – presented on the board's 311 project.

Zev Reisman, Community Planning Fellow from Hunter College and placed with Brooklyn Community Board 4 by the Fund for the City of New York, presented on a project focused on 311 services within Bushwick. He began by introducing himself, mentioning his background in urban planning with a focus on the intersection of the built environment, environmental issues, and social justice. His prior experience includes working with the New York State Nurses Association and as a substitute teacher in the NYC Department of Education.

Reisman then outlined the project's core focus: evaluating 311's efficacy and usage within the context of a rapidly gentrifying Bushwick. He highlighted the importance of 311 as a vital tool for residents, especially given the potential for the service to address issues stemming from gentrification, such as construction, development, and displacement. He posed key questions driving the project:

- **Data Accuracy:** How accurately does current 311 data reflect the lived experiences and needs of Bushwick residents?
- **Awareness and Utilization:** To what extent are Bushwick residents aware of the full range of 311 services, and how often do they utilize them?
- **Promotion and Social Justice:** How can 311 be better promoted and utilized by CB4, particularly as a tool for social justice and community empowerment?

He presented data showing the majority of 311 cases are referred to NYPD, HPD, and DSNY, underscoring the need to understand these agencies' responsiveness and effectiveness in addressing community concerns. He then connected the project to the District's Statement of Needs, explaining how 311 data can be used to address downstream effects of larger issues like tenant harassment, lead paint, rodents, mold, noise complaints, community relations, respiratory issues, garbage collection, and street flooding.

Reisman detailed the resources he has already consulted, including interviews with the aforementioned, and the offices of State Senator Julia Salazar and Council Members Sandy Nurse and Jennifer Gutiérrez. He noted ongoing efforts to connect with additional agencies. Beyond interviews, he is referencing the Bushwick Community Plan, the "Future of NYC's Community Boards" report, the CB4 Statement of Needs, 311 data from 2010 to present (via Open Data), and US Census Data.

A crucial next step, Reisman emphasized, is gathering direct input from Bushwick residents through field research, surveys, and longer-form conversations. This will help understand residents' experiences with 311, identify barriers to usage, and inform recommendations for improvement. He shared the survey link ([bit.ly/311surveyCB4](https://bit.ly/311surveyCB4)) and encouraged attendees to participate.

Finally, Reisman laid out the project's timeline:

- **December/January:** Stakeholder outreach, initial research, and framing the project.
- **February:** Field research, survey distribution, and gathering community input.
- **March:** Data analysis, in-depth conversations with survey respondents, and resource development to encourage 311 usage.
- **April:** Final report delivery to CB4 and the Fund for the City of New York.

He concluded by reiterating his contact information: [reisman.zev@gmail.com](mailto:reisman.zev@gmail.com) and 917-445-6520.

**2) Public Comment (2 minutes per person or group)** – the public, Board Members, and other community representatives were invited to speak on neighborhood concerns and offer announcements.

- **Steve Miller and Sadine Lewis from CABS Home Care/CABS Health Network** introduced their home care agency and care management services, highlighting their non-profit status and coverage by Medicare and Medicaid. They encouraged residents to reach out for assistance with senior care needs. Contact: [smiller@cabshomecare.org](mailto:smiller@cabshomecare.org), 917-774-9381.
- **Joe Tanelli (Friends of Irving Square Park)** inquired about updates on the Irving Square Park Portland Loo and announced the Friends' 2025 kickoff meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7pm at St. Michelle Cafe (Jefferson and Irving).

- **Lacey Tauber (Borough President Reynoso's Office)** reminded attendees about community board applications (deadline February 14th), capital allocation applications for organizations, a Department of Buildings event on January 22nd (1-7pm at Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation) for property owners with summonses, a TLC event ("Van Halen") on January 31st (9am-2pm at Borough Hall), and a Department of Finance event on property tax reduction on February 20th (5-8pm at Borough Hall).
- **Andy Marte (RiseBoro Community Partnership)** shared a personal story about returning to RiseBoro and working with the community board and elected officials to save the GED program. He announced a new associates degree program at the RiseBoro Youth Center in partnership with Kingsborough Community College.
- **Kimberly Vega (Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez's Office)** announced free clinics and affordable housing assistance (Thursdays, 11am-4:30pm), legal immigration services (Mondays, 10am-4pm, appointment required), housing legal support (third Wednesday of each month, 1-5pm, appointment required), a Know Your Immigration Rights Town Hall (virtual, Thursday, February 6th, 7pm), funding for tree plantings in District 34, and two one-shot deal application assistance events with RiseBoro (February 7th and March 6th, appointment required). Contact: 718-963-3141.
- **Fran Sanhueza (Council Member Sandy Nurse's Office)** announced free tax preparation services starting January 31st and the Youth Civic Fellowship for high schoolers (application open through February).
- **Maria Valdez (State Senator Julia Salazar's Office)** announced a Know Your Utility Consumer Rights event (virtual, January 30th, 6-7:30pm, registration required) and tenant support unit services (first Tuesday of each month, 10am-2pm, walk-ins welcome). Contact: 718-573-1726.
- **The Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch** announced a \$1 million grant from the Carnegie Foundation to extend English and vocational classes and upcoming community health initiatives at various library branches.
- **Stockholm Family Residence** introduced the organization and thanked the community board and Mr. Camacho for Christmas toy donations. Contact: 718-391-5600.
- **Danielle Chambers (Calvary and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church)** announced a tax seminar on Sunday, January 26th and a Valentine's Day celebration on Friday, February 14th. Contact: 718-453-3764, daniellechambers@gmail.com (unconfirmed email).
- **Christopher Graham (CB4 Member)** announced the success of the Growing Forward College Tour and upcoming workshops (January 25th, February 15th, March 15th, April 15th - parent workshop) and the college tour itself (April 13th-19th). Contact: growing4ward.org.
- **Clean Bushwick Initiative** announced the next cleanup on Monday, January 20th (MLK Day) at 2:45pm in Maria Hernandez Park and invited people to follow them on Instagram (@cleanbushwickinitiative) or sign up for their newsletter.

- **NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board** introduced the agency and its work investigating police misconduct. She provided brochures with information on filing complaints and "know your rights," and offered to conduct workshops and tabling events. Contact: 917-742-4980.

### **Regular Meeting:**

#### **1) First Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Isa Abney, Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Elvena Davis, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Jason Gers, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Zachary Hendrickson, Barbara Jackson, Virgie Jones, Tara Jones-Thomas, Kristine Malden, Freddie Mattison, Alex Móreno, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Annette Spellen, James Steward, Christian C. Tate, Ben Tocker

**Members present with a remote waiver:** Deborah Hicks, Tanesha Honeygan, Zulma Novoa, Jerry Valentin

**Excused:** Cecilia Fabian, Freddy Fowler, Linda Whitfield

**Absent:** Andrew Choi, Kerina Dodd, Kyeshia Johnson, Luisa Jose

**Resigned:** Melissa Carrera-Solano

#### **2) Acceptance of the Agenda**

Motion by Elvena Davis, seconded by Zachary Hendrickson. All were in favor, so moved.

#### **3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

November 2024 minutes approved. Motion by Annette Spellen, seconded by Robert Camacho.

December 2024 minutes tabled. Motion by Elvena Davis, seconded by Annette Spellen.

[November 2024 Minutes](#)

#### **4) Chairperson's Report**

Chairman Robert Camacho began by wishing everyone a happy new year. He then detailed his activities and community engagements throughout December and early January:

- **December 19th:** Attended a CEC meeting at PS 377. He thanked Board Member Joshua Brown and a local business person for donating thirty \$50 gift cards and raffling off a PlayStation 5 to students who performed in a play. All 30 students present received a gift card. He also mentioned receiving a "Bushwick Thing You Wouldn't Understand" mug as a gift.

- **December 20th:** Attended a meeting with Celestina León and Riseboro to discuss ongoing building conditions and rent payment issues. He also attended a toy giveaway at PS 45 with Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez, followed by the Barbara Smith toy giveaway at the Xanadu skating rink on Starr Street, thanking Elvena Davis and the 83rd Precinct for their efforts. He cautioned against businesses leveraging community give-back initiatives to justify extended operating hours that might negatively impact residents' quality of life. He attended Assembly Member Maritza Davila's town hall regarding issues on the Broadway-Myrtle corridor, emphasizing the need for collaboration between multiple community boards (1, 3, and 16) and precincts (81, 83, and Transit 33) to address the area's complex challenges. He stressed the importance of securing funding to improve Broadway, particularly from Eastern Parkway down to Flushing Avenue, noting the deteriorated condition of the street and its history of neglect.
- **December 12th:** Thanked Emerald Dispensary (Myrtle and Suydam) for donating toys to three shelters (1260 Flushing, 993 Stockholm, and the Hope Gardens senior building) and for their previous turkey donations during Thanksgiving. He recounted an encounter with MTA workers taking turkeys intended for seniors, criticizing their actions and advocating for them to contribute to the community instead. He also mentioned a separate toy drive with the 83rd Precinct and Community Partners.
- **January 2nd:** Attended a meeting at the 83rd Precinct with Community Partners and new police recruits. He shared a story about an officer in the 83rd Precinct who was adopted by a fellow officer after experiencing homelessness and substance abuse within her family, highlighting the personal struggles and dedication of police officers.
- **January 6th – 8th:** Attended various meetings, including a fundraiser breakfast with Latino clergy, a CEC meeting, a Borough Board meeting, a District Service Cabinet meeting, and a Zoom interview for the new District 32 Superintendent. He expressed hope for a superintendent who will effectively represent the community. He apologized for the lack of heat at the board office due to boiler issues, explaining that staff were working remotely and that he would address the situation with the building manager.
- **Community Board Applications:** Reminded board members whose terms are expiring to submit their reappointment applications by February 14th. He specifically named Zulma Novoa, Raul Rubio, Ben Tocker, Alex Moreno, Christian Celeste Tate, and Annette Spellman as needing to reapply.

#### Elected Officials and Representatives:

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

Lacey Tauber, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
209 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3894

Kimberly Vega, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez

244 Union Avenue, (718) 963-3141

Maria Valdez, State Senator Julia Salazar  
212 Evergreen Avenue, (718) 573-1726

Community-Based Organizations:

Venus Scantlebury, Brooklyn Outreach, NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board  
917-742-4980

Joe Tanelli, Friends of Irving Square Park  
irvingsquarepark@gmail.com, 845-242-4560

Andy Marte, Associate Director for Educational Programming, Riseboro Community  
Partnership  
(718) 381-9653 ext. 3289, 1474 Gates Avenue

Juanita James, Brooklyn Public Library Washington Irving Branch  
[INSERT INFO]

Sinthia Peña Ortiz, Bushwick Community Partnership/Coalition for Hispanic Family  
Services  
718-497-6090 ext. 766 / 450, bushwickcpi@gmail.com / mgarcia@servicesny.org (FEC  
Director)

Litishia Conley, Program Director, Stockholm Family Residence  
99 Stockholm Street, 718-391-5600

Danielle Chambers, Calvary and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church  
966 Bushwick Avenue, 718-453-3764, 718-696-8831

Alec Meeker, Bushwick Daily  
alec@bushwickdaily.com

Adam Dobrzynski, Community Affairs, DSNY  
212-291-1220

Jonathan Nieves, Wyckoff Hospital  
16 Dekalb Ave, 718-508-4609

83rd Precinct Report - Captain David Poggioli, Commanding Officer

Deputy Inspector Poggioli began by expressing gratitude for the community's partnership and acknowledging the addition of eight new officers to the 83rd Precinct. He highlighted the importance of community engagement in welcoming and integrating these officers.

He then reviewed the 2024 year-end crime statistics, emphasizing the significant decrease in shooting incidents. With only eight shooting incidents in 2024, this marked the lowest number in 31 years, a substantial improvement from the 41 incidents recorded in 2013. Overall index crimes decreased by 14% in 2024, with double-digit reductions in robberies, felony assaults, burglaries, and grand larcenies. This also represented a 9% decrease over the two-year period (2023-2024). While acknowledging the progress, he emphasized the ongoing work needed, noting approximately 1800 index crimes still occurred in 2024. He reported a 63% decrease in overall index crime in the first two weeks of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. He urged continued community dialogue and reporting of quality-of-life concerns to ensure effective resource deployment. He encouraged attendance at the upcoming Community Council meeting on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 pm at the precinct.

#### **5) District Manager's Report**

District Manager Celestina León wished everyone a happy new year and acknowledged Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's birthday, encouraging the board to embody his spirit of advocacy. She noted that the holiday season allowed staff to focus on administrative tasks and announced the development of a Community Board Resource Library to provide citywide administrative and operational support. She thanked Zev Reisman, the Community Planning Fellow, for his work on the 311 project. She addressed the varying activity levels of different committees, emphasizing the community board's advisory role as defined in the City Charter. She encouraged continued advocacy and reminded members about upcoming term limits. She then summarized her recent activities:

- **December 19th:** Attended the Living City Project's final exhibition, highlighting a student's "Neighborhoods for Dummies" guide for Bushwick.
- **December 20th:** Attended a meeting with Brooklyn District Managers to review Borough President Reynoso's charter revision recommendations for community boards, with a follow-up meeting planned. Also attended a Riseboro property management update meeting, noting improved communication and resolution of major issues.
- **December 23rd:** Had a check-in call with Katerina Patouri from NYC Transit regarding JMZ rehabilitation projects. Announced Anthony Drummond as the new MTA liaison.
- **Ongoing:** Spoke with Quincy Bair (Urban Land Institute) regarding the February 13th Urban Plan Workshop. Spoke with Noel Allain (Bushwick Starr) about their successful first show in their new space. Discussed community board membership outreach with Carol-Ann Church (Borough President's Office), exploring the feasibility of a Bushwick-wide mailer to encourage applications. Participated in participatory budgeting coalition meetings with El Puento for the CEC's PB process. Attended the District 32 Superintendent candidates' town hall.
- **January 10th:** Attended a records management workshop, following up on notices received about unsubmitted charter-mandated reports. The board is awaiting clarification on reporting requirements.

- **Recent:** Met with Promesa and Hope Gardens Tenant Association to discuss Hope Gardens concerns. Attended a District Managers-only Borough Service Cabinet meeting with a presentation on the city budget and charter requirements. Checked in with Center for Urban Pedagogy regarding the community board term limit project. Is awaiting a presentation from the Civic Engagement Commission regarding potential collaboration on term limits.

## 6) Committee Reports

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

[Permits and Licenses](#) – Vacant (*Kristine Malden, a committee member, shared the report.*)

The Permits and Licenses Committee met virtually due to a heating issue in the office. The following liquor license applications were reviewed:

**Punta Cana Sports Bar Corp. (1204 Myrtle Avenue):** New liquor, wine, beer, and cider license. Intended hours of operation for alcohol sales: Sunday-Thursday 12pm-12am, Friday-Saturday 12pm-2am. The committee voted to support this application.

**Singularity Cupboard 1 LLC d/b/a Singularity (1717 Broadway):** New liquor, wine, beer, and cider license. The applicants returned after addressing previous concerns about entrance/egress paperwork. The application generated some discussion regarding the clarity of entrance/egress plans and required paperwork. The committee ultimately voted to support the application with additional security measures. This establishment is part of a comedy venue. Jose Hernandez noted the fire escape access was unobstructed.

**El Pausa Corp. d/b/a La Pausa (244 Wyckoff Avenue):** New wine, beer, and cider license. Intended hours of operation for alcohol sales: 8:30am-10pm daily. Minor discrepancies regarding live music listing were clarified and amended. The committee voted to support this application.

**Casa del Sabor LLC d/b/a Casa Del Sabor (446 Wilson Avenue):** Liquor, wine, beer, and cider license. Intended hours of operation for alcohol sales: Monday-Thursday 8am-12am, Friday-Saturday 11am-4am, Sunday 8am-12am. The applicants requested extended hours. The committee offered a compromise: Sunday-Thursday until 12am and Friday-Saturday until 2am. The applicants did *\*not\** agree to the compromise, and the committee voted to *\*not\** support the application with the requested extended hours.

**The Imperium Club (41-421 Troutman Street):** Old Business. Minor amendment regarding a storage area, which the committee supported. (Name and address confirmed from meeting notes.)



**Mi Cholulita Bella Restaurant 1 Inc. (1386 DeKalb Avenue) and Chilangos Taqueria Inc. (295 Wyckoff Avenue):** New liquor license applications. Neither applicant attended the meeting nor communicated with the board office. The committee voted to not support these applications. (Names and addresses confirmed from meeting notes.)

## 7) Recommendations

### Permits and Licenses

#### **Recommendation:**

- **to blanket vote on all committee recommendations (see below)**
- **support the applications** for Punta Cana Sports Bar Corp. (1204 Myrtle Avenue), Singularity Cupboard 1 LLC d/b/a Singularity (1717 Broadway), and El Pausa Corp. d/b/a La Pausa (244 Wyckoff Avenue), **with standard stipulations, security measures where applicable, and acknowledging the amended paperwork for La Pausa.**
- **to \*not\* support the application from Casa del Sabor LLC d/b/a Casa Del Sabor (446 Wilson Avenue) for extended hours,**
- **to \*not\* support the applications from Mi Cholulita Bella Restaurant 1 Inc. (1386 DeKalb Avenue) and Chilangos Taqueria Inc. (295 Wyckoff Avenue)** as the applicants did not submit the requested documentation to attend the meeting or otherwise notify the board of their intentions.
- **And to support the minor amendment for The Emphyrean Club (421 Troutman Street).**

Motion: Zachary Hendrickson

Seconded: Barbara Jackson

All in favor, so moved.

## 8) Old Business

None

## 9) New Business

Discussion of Melissa Carrera-Solano's resignation and the process for filling the vacancy, including the appointment of an acting chair for the Permits and Licenses committee. Discussion of the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan and its potential relevance to Bushwick's industrial spaces.

## 10) Announcements

Announcements were made during the Public Comment section, please see above. Anne Guiney and Zachary Hendrickson made additional announcements regarding the ULI workshop and Narcan training, respectively. Kristine Malden on behalf of the Bushwick Daily, announced a fundraiser for businesses affected by a recent fire. Fran

Sanhueza provided an update on the Irving Square Park Portland Loo (restroom) construction timeline.

#### **11) Second Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Ben Tocker, Christian C. Tate, James Steward, Annette Spellin, Milagros Sandoval, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Freddie Mattison, Kristine Malden, Virgie Jones, Kyeshia Johnson, Barbara Jackson, Zachary Hendrickson, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Jason Gers, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Elvena Davis, Felix Ceballos, Robert Camacho, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson, Isa Abney

**Members present with a remote waiver:** Jerry Valentin, Zulma Novoa, Tanesha Honeygan, Deborah Hicks

**Excused:** Linda Whitfield, Freddy Fowler, Cecilia Fabian

**Absent:** Alex Móreno, Luisa Jose, Tara Jones-Thomas, Kerina Dodd

#### **12) Adjournment**

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:13pm