



Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025, 6pm

Location: Hope Gardens Older Adult Center
195 Linden Street
and
Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho · **District Manager:** Celestina León

Meeting Start: 6:09pm

Public Hearing

Guest Speaker (not on agenda): Remarks from Assemblywoman

Maritza Davila

Overview: Assemblywoman Davila thanked CB4 members and residents for their community work and support.

- **State Budget:** Reported a robust budget passed despite a ~\$13B deficit; expects to return to Albany in September to continue work.
- **Bushwick's Strength:** Celebrated Bushwick's diversity and resilience as a true "melting pot."
- **Office Information:** 673 Hart Street; open-door policy; 718-443-1205.

1) Public Comment (2 minutes per person or group)

Assemblywoman Davila assisted the board leadership with addressing some of the public comment items.

- **ICE Activity:** Emphasis on Know-Your-Rights education; partnerships (e.g., Make the Road). Schools have lockdown protocols requiring proper judicial paperwork before any entry.
- **Landlord Overcharges:** Legal clinics **every second Tuesday**, 9:30 AM–4:00 PM at her office.
- **Mailbox Removal (Knickerbocker & Jefferson):** "Eddie," a disabled veteran, requested restoration; Assemblywoman to contact Assembly Member Erik Dilan

and Rep. Nydia Velázquez; CB office to forward to District Manager for USPS follow-up.

- **Bus Service & Postal Issues: Virgie Jones (CB4)** reported B24 delays/inaccurate arrivals and mail-hold failures at the post office.
- **New York for All Act: Zachary Hendrickson (CB4)** asked for support of a **special session**; Assemblywoman affirmed strong support and noted a return to Albany is under discussion.
- **Tree Pruning & Sanitation: Velma** (George St./Knoll St.) raised five-year pruning delays, rat issues tied to building trash practices, and chronic **hydrant** blocking; Parks inspection/wait-list cycle and coordinated enforcement to be pursued; rat-mitigation education (Rat Academy) offered.
- **Illegal Cannabis Dispensary: Reopening at 330 Central Ave** flagged; referral to Sheriff's Office/NYPD team response.

General Public Comment & Announcements (taken during Public Hearing):

- **Urban Forest Plan:** Residents urged to submit feedback at urbanforestplan.nyc.
- **OMNY Senior Card Issues:** Reported transfer glitches and lack of photo; others noted updated pamphlets and benefits of creating an **OMNY account** with auto-reload/alerts; CB4 to follow up with MTA on transfer concerns and reader availability.
- **Entrepreneurship & Unhoused Services (Elaine Hamilton):** Assemblywoman highlighted **MWBE** resources; addiction services via **START Program** (Jefferson/Myrtle); encouraged revitalizing **block associations**.
- **Borough President Reynoso's Office (Lacey Tauber):**
 - **Song for Life / Lay the Guns Down: Friday, June 20, 12–5 PM**, Borough Hall.
 - **Juneteenth Freedom Ride: Saturday, June 21, 10 AM**, starts at Brooklyn Museum.
 - Youth Advisory Council apps due **June 25**; Brooklyn designers open call due **July 6**; Caribbean American Heritage Month celebration **June 30**.
- **Christopher Graham (CB4): Street co-naming for Ashman Long on Eldert Street** (Wilson–Knickerbocker) set for **July 12, 1:00 PM**.
- **Matt (Original George Studios):** New community art/event space at **87 George St**.
- **Zachary Hendrickson (CB4): Know Your Rights** training re: ICE on **June 30** (in person/Zoom); encouraged using **all five ranks** in Ranked Choice Voting.
- **Calvary & St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church (Danielle Chambers):** Annual **Health Fair** on **Saturday, Sept 13, 9 AM–3 PM** at **966 Bushwick Ave**.
- **Friends of Irving Square Park (Joe Tonelli):** Free yoga/fitness series; **Bushwick Family Day July 19**; fall **community mural** project.

- **Brooklyn Public Library – DeKalb Branch (Louisa):** Garden re-opened; **Make Music NYC** performance this Saturday.
- **Pablo Rivera (CB4): T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby** at Oak Park this **Saturday, 11 AM.**
- **State Sen. Salazar Office (Maria Valdez):** Budget items for affordable housing, child care, schools; support for **New York for All** and **Dignity Not Detention; Tenant Support** first Tuesdays.
- **NYC Public Service Retirees (Lt. Jack Latore):** Requested CB4 support opposing forced switch to Aetna Medicare Advantage; urged Council override of mayor.

Regular Meeting

1) First Roll Call

Members Present: Isa Abney, Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Elvena Davis, Freddy Fowler, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Alan Gamboa, Jason Gers, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Zachary Hendrickson, Courtney Henley, Barbara Jackson, Virgie Jones, Tara Jones-Thomas, Luisa Jose, Nancy Keith, Kristine Malden, Freddie Mattison, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Zulma Novoa, Cirilo Nuñez, Laura Ranzato, Shray Richardson, Pablo Rivera, Raul Rubio, Josue Salazar, Milagros Sandoval, Annette Spellen, Bee Spiderman, James Steward II, Savannah Thais, Christian C. Tate, Ben Tocker, Jerry Valentin, Linda Whitfield

Remote Waiver: Andrew Choi, Deborah Hicks, Tanesha Honeygan

Excused: Cindy Lebron, Alex Móreno, Eliseo Ruiz

Absent: Tiany Belliard, Tevin Campbell, Yarinson Ortiz Guzman, Giovannies Justiniano, Juan Serra (notified the District Office)

38 board members were present, which constitutes quorum.

2) Acceptance of the Agenda

- **Amendment:** Remove **Announcements** from the Regular Meeting (public announcements were taken earlier).
Motion: Zachary Hendrickson · **Second:** Stephanie Anderson
All in favor, motion carried.
- **Amended Agenda Accepted: Motion:** Zachary Hendrickson · **Second:** Elvena Davis
All in favor, motion carried.

3) Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Christian Celeste Tate · **Second:** Felix A. Ceballos

All in favor, motion carried.

4) Chairperson's Report — Robert Camacho

- **Activities & Engagements:** IBZ meeting; meetings with RiseBoro and Hope Gardens TA; attendance at Economic Development, District Service Cabinet, Shape-Up Bushwick, and Permits & Licenses; CUFF ribbon cutting (Star St.); Bushwick Collective event; Borough Board (Broadway Junction revitalization, agency relocations/parking); PS 376 STEM/STREAM expo; Gotham Health gallery visit; meeting with CM Gutiérrez on affordable housing.
- **Puerto Rican Day Parade Aftermath:** Condemned disorder/violence; emphasized it does **not** reflect Puerto Rican community; called for accountability and better end-of-event management/cleanup.
- **Protest at 83rd Precinct:** Encouraged use of established processes (CCRB, community board, Council oversight) instead of actions he described as actions.
- **Juneteenth Celebration:** Attended CM Sandy Nurse's event honoring community members (incl. Anita Haynes, Rev. James Steward II).
- **City Council Testimony:** With the District Manager, testified at Council hearing on community board legislative proposals.

Elected Officials & Representatives (Introductions)

Evelyn Cruz (Office of Rep. Nydia Velázquez), 266 Broadway; 718-599-3658. Others spoke during Public Comment.

83rd Precinct Report — Deputy Inspector David Poggiali

- **Crime Statistics:** Overall index crime –24.6% YTD; –27% vs. two years; ~–3% vs. June 2020 (pre-pandemic baseline).
- **Current Pattern:** Chain snatches targeting women (Jefferson/Evergreen/Knickerbocker corridor); two suspects on a moped, royal blue, rear shock spray-painted red.
- **Cop of the Month: Officer Dawkins** — lifesaving intervention during a wellness check by pursuing a secondary address and reviving an individual.
- **Puerto Rican Day/Mood Ring Response:** Amid harsh public backlash and widely shared social-media videos alleging police brutality, the Deputy Inspector offered a defensive characterization of the police response, emphasizing crowd size, 311 call volume, and the assertion that an officer was punched. He described the operation as a “controlled dispersal” to restore traffic instead of the addressing use of force captured on video. He did not indicate whether an internal review or after-action assessment of officers' conduct—raised by the circulated videos—was underway.

- First Vice Chair Christian Celeste Tate, expressed concern about the tactics visible in the videos and about how nightlife crowds are handled to avoid future incidents that become next-day news.
- Chairman Camacho advised the public to follow established accountability processes, relaying his personal experience.

5) District Manager's Report — Celestina León

- **Observances:** Father's Day; Pride; Caribbean American Heritage Month; Men's Mental Health; Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month.
- **Council Oversight Hearing:** Proposals included: mandatory EEO trainings; publishing bylaws; DM term limits (single sponsor; not advancing); and creating a DCAS office to assist boards with office/meeting space (likely to advance). Noted knowledge gaps among some council members re: CB roles.
- **Charter Revision Commission:** Mayor's CRC exploring ULURP/land-use changes that may reduce CB advisory role and eliminate Council member deference; urged testimony at remaining hearings.

6) Committee Reports

- [Civic/Public Safety/Religious + Health/Human Service/Senior Citizens/Veterans](#) (Annette Spellén):
 - **Street Co-Namings:** Support Purcell Chance (Bushwick Ave & Lafayette St) and Barbara Smith (Decatur St & Wilson Ave).
 - **Retiree Health:** Support Intro 1096 to protect vested health insurance for NYC public service retirees.
- [District Office](#) (Celestina León): Attendance review letters sent to seven members; budget/ops updates; city audit initiated last summer terminated.
- [Economic Development + Housing & Land Use](#) (Anne Guiney):
 - **Clean+Healthy – Lead Paint Right to Know Act:** Recommend a support resolution.
 - **343 Himrod St:** Applicant **no-show**.
 - **Myrtle & Bushwick gas station site:** Preliminary discussion of a rezoning toward a ~12-story residential project; committee emphasized affordability expectations; further dialogue planned.
- [Permits & Licenses](#) (Kristine Malden):
 - **New Liquor Licenses (2); Municipal Expansions** for alcohol service (3); **1 revised app; 1 cannabis retail**.

- **Altitude Club (1302 Myrtle Ave) — Do Not Support** (process/eligibility concerns and prior enforcement issues).
- **Hours & Stipulations:** Where applicable, support is contingent on adoption of CB4 standard hours (Sun–Thu to 12 AM; Fri–Sat to 2 AM) and submission of signed stipulations and required documentation. Applications seeking 4:00 AM hours were not supported absent signed stipulations.
- **Shape-Up Bushwick Planning Committee (Rev. James Steward II):**
 - **June 5 @ Irving Square Park:** Over 50 tabling orgs; fun run; yoga; roller arts; 83rd rock wall.
 - **Honorees:** Elvena Davis; Asenhat Gomez; Paula Melendez; Rodney D’Onofrio; Pablo Rivera; Samary Trinidad.

7) Recommendations (Board Actions)

- **Civic/Public Safety block (3 items bundled):**
 - **Blanket motion to bundle** co-namings (Purcell Chance; Barbara Smith) + retiree health support.
 - **Motion:** Elvena Davis · **Second:** Anne Guiney
All in favor, motion carried.
 - **Approval of bundled recommendations.**
 - **Motion:** Christian Celeste Tate · **Second:** Stephanie Anderson
All in favor, motion carried.
- **EDC/HLU – Lead Paint Right to Know Act (support resolution):**
 - **Motion:** Annette Spellens · **Second:** Zachary Hendrickson
All in favor, motion carried.
- **Permits & Licenses:**
 - **Blanket motion** to bundle committee recommendations.
 - **Motion:** Ben Tocker · **Second:** Joanna Fuentes-Singh
Opposed: James Steward
Motion carried.
 - **Approval of bundled committee recommendations:** Support items with standard-hour stipulations and signed documentation; Do Not Support Altitude Club (1302 Myrtle Ave).
 - **Motion:** Christian Celeste Tate · **Second:** Felix Ceballos
Opposed: Elvena Davis, James Steward, Courtney Henley, Raul Rubio, Romicka Nichols-Barnes
Motion carried.

8) Old Business

- **Environmental Protection, Transportation & Sanitation (EPTS):** Committee to discuss NYPD policy on criminal summonses for bicyclists — **Monday, 6:00 PM** at the District Office.

9) New Business

None

10) Announcements

Item **removed** from the Regular Meeting agenda as announcements were taken during Public Hearing.

11) Second Roll Call

Members Present: Linda Whitfield, Jerry Valentin, Ben Tocker, Christian C. Tate, Bee Spiderman, Savannah Thais, James Steward II, Annette Spellin, Milagros Sandoval, Josue Salazar, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Laura Ranzato, Cirilo Nuñez, Zulma Novoa, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Freddie Mattison, Kristine Malden, Nancy Keith, Giovannies Justiniano, Luisa Jose, Virgie Jones, Barbara Jackson, Courtney Henley, Zachary Hendrickson, Elaine Hamilton, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Jason Gers, Alan Gamboa, Johanna Fuentes-Singh, Freddy Fowler, Elvena Davis, Felix Ceballos, Robert Camacho, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson, Isa Abney

Remote Waiver: Tanesha Honeygan, Deborah Hicks, Andrew Choi

Excused: Eliseo Ruiz, Alex Móreno, Cindy Lebron

Absent: Yarinson Ortiz Guzman

12) Adjournment

Motion: Elvena Davis · **Second:** Raul Rubio

All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:58pm