



Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026, 6pm

Hope Gardens Older Adult Center (195 Linden Street) and Zoom
Chairperson: Robert Camacho | District Manager: Celestina León

Meeting Start: 6:04pm

Public Hearing

- 1) **Kristine Malden, Permits and Licenses Committee Chairperson, Community Board 4** – presenting on the committee’s proposed Good Neighbor Policy.

Kristine confirmed the presentation would be postponed.

All presenters for the Bushwick 1000 presentation were not present when called. The district manager moved to the next hearing item as directed by the chair.

- 2) **Ron Mandel – Partner and Alaina Greene – Law Clerk, Belkin Burden Goldman, LLP** – Melrose Towers Corp. is seeking zoning amendments for a site at 132-136 Melrose Street to develop a 6-story, 18-unit mixed-use building (5 units at 60% AMI under MIH Option 1). They are proposing 1) a Zoning map amendment: Change from M1-1 to M1-2A/R6A (MX-22) and 2) a Zoning text amendment: Designate the area as a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) zone.

Location & Zoning Proposal

Site: 132–136 Melrose Street, between Evergreen Ave and Stanwix St in Bushwick.

- Current zoning: M1-1 (light manufacturing only; existing residential buildings are “non-conforming”).
- Proposal: Rezone 5 tax lots to MX (M1-2/R6A) mixed-use district to allow:
 - Residential, light manufacturing, and commercial/retail in the same area.
 - Make existing residential buildings conforming.

Project Description

6-story building (top floor set back to reduce bulk).

- About 18 apartments, with a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units, average ~800 sq ft.
- Ground-floor: 2 flexible spaces for light manufacturing or commercial (e.g., urgent care, daycare, or artist/maker spaces like ceramics, print shops).

This would be the first project in CB4 subject to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH). (It was noted that this is not accurate. Other projects have used

Affordable Housing

5–6 units would be permanently affordable under MIH.

Considering MIH Option 1 or 2:

- Option 1: 25% of floor area at avg. 60% AMI.
- Option 2: 30% of floor area at avg. 80% AMI.

Project is privately financed (no HPD subsidy), which they argue limits how far affordability can go.

Owner's Background & Rationale

Owners (Asher and Israel) have operated a local business on site for ~16 years, families in community ~24–25 years.

- Originally used the site as warehouse + office when street was largely industrial and parking was easy.
- As neighborhood densified (Rheingold across the street, more residents, narrow Melrose), they:
- Could no longer safely bring trailers/trucks onto the site.
- Moved warehouse operations to a larger site around the block (old Richie's Gym on Stanwix).
- Kept office at Melrose and now propose mixed-use with housing.

They emphasize wanting to stay and invest in Bushwick, keep jobs local, and contribute affordable housing.

Alignment with Plans

Team argues project aligns with:

- Bushwick Community Plan – encourages mixed-use mapping in manufacturing areas, and requiring affordable housing with new residential zoning.
- 2019 DCP Bushwick Neighborhood Plan – proposed R6A/M1-2A for this area; similar to what they're asking for.

Historical analysis:

- 1940s photos show block was mostly residential with some manufacturing.
- Many buildings were demolished by 1980s; lots have sat vacant/underutilized since.

Context & Design

Area currently surrounded by residential to the north, south, and west; there is little active manufacturing on Melrose itself.

- Nearby buildings: 7–9 stories (e.g., Rheingold). Their building is 6 stories to be more “contextual” mid-block.
- Sustainability features: green roof, all-electric appliances, energy-efficient lighting and fixtures.

Community Concerns & Dialogue

Board members and residents raised:

- Loss of manufacturing space: Manufacturing is a “public good”; concern about giving it up for limited affordability.
- Questioned whether 30% MIH at higher AMIs is enough public benefit.
- Strong desire for family-sized units (3-bedrooms) vs. studios/1-beds that dominate new builds.
- Concerns about congestion, parking, trucks, and narrow streets (particularly Melrose and nearby truck routes).

Applicant responses:

- Mixed-use MX keeps light manufacturing as an allowed use; project’s ground floor can host such uses.
- Heavy/truck-dependent manufacturing is better suited to larger/wider streets (like their new warehouse location).
- They adjusted unit mix after feedback: more 2- and 3-bedrooms, fewer 1-beds.
- Reiterated financial limits of a small, private 18-unit project without subsidy.

CB4 leadership and electeds:

- Acknowledged tension between policy limits and community needs.
- Some members are inclined to oppose based on affordability and family needs.
- Others felt compelled to support within current citywide policy constraints, while pushing for better policy at City/State levels (more deeply affordable, more 3-bedrooms, etc.).

- 3) **Bruno Daniel – Senior Advisor for Special Initiatives, Brooklyn Borough President's Office, Maria Viera – Chief Program Officer and Andy Collado – Director, RiseBoro Community Partnership, Evelyn Ortiz – Co-Executive Director, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, and Beatrice Brown, Deputy Director/Employment Services, St. Nick's Alliance** – presenting on the Bushwick 1000 youth jobs initiative.

What is Bushwick 1000?

A four-year workforce initiative spearheaded by Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso after a 2024 neighborhood roundtable.

Goal: Connect 1,000 Bushwick residents to jobs/training over four years, with a strong emphasis on youth and City jobs as stable union pathways.

Lead partners (funded through the BP’s office):

- St. Nicks Alliance
- RiseBoro Community Partnership
- Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)

Target Population

Bushwick residents, particularly:

- Young adults who are out of school and out of work.
- Underemployed/unemployed adults.
- English language learners.
- Court-involved youth and people facing multiple barriers (mental health, housing insecurity, etc.).

What the Three Orgs Provide

St. Nicks Alliance (Workforce Development – 92 Troop Ave)

Offers 14 training programs in 4 sectors:

- Financial services (including Bank of America partnership).
- Health care (hemodialysis, PCA, CNA, etc.).
- Technology.
- Skilled trades / building trades (construction, environmental remediation, building maintenance, plumbing, electrical).
 - Daily info sessions Monday–Friday at 1 PM.
- Wrapped services: job-readiness, resume, interview prep, computer lab access, job placement, 365-day retention follow-up.
- Also provides HSE in English & Spanish, ESOL.

RiseBoro Community Partnership (Economic Empowerment / Level Up)

Longtime Bushwick CBO with broad services (housing/legal, benefits, youth programs, SYEP, home care, senior services, Meals on Wheels, etc.).

Economic Empowerment / Level Up team:

- Financial coaching: stabilize finances, build wealth for tenants facing housing insecurity and others.
- Career coaching: individual and cohort-based “career pathways.”

Highlighted programs:

- Rising Stars: youth (16–24) exposure to sustainable construction & green jobs (hands-on weekly sessions, field visits, internships).
- Sustainable building maintenance: training for porter/handyperson roles, pathway to super, or specialization (plumbing, HVAC).
- Program for justice-involved youth with mentorship, education, and job readiness.

Focus on long-term career planning, not just first job.

Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)

Serving Brooklyn for 40+ years, with a high concentration of participants from Bushwick, East NY, Bed-Stuy, Brownsville.

Focus areas:

- Young adults are out of school/out of work.
- Unemployed/underemployed adults.
- ELL participants.

Key sectors:

- Construction & sustainable/renewable energy (including pre-apprenticeship links to unions and Con Ed-type jobs).
- Health care and tech.

Supports:

- Paid stipends + paid internships (participants paid throughout program).
- Case management + clinical team for mental health, substance use, justice involvement.

Emphasized the challenge: many youths don't know these free services exist, so heavy outreach is needed (schools, buildings, community events).

Funding & Accountability

Borough President allocated \$150K total, split \$50K per organization.

Money is used to add capacity (e.g., partial staff, data analyst time), not to replace existing funding.

- Each org already serves hundreds to thousands; Bushwick 1000 layers Bushwick-specific goals and tracking on top.
- Deliverable: aim for ~250 placements per year, hitting 1,000 over 4 years.

Data & KPIs:

- Using systems like Salesforce to track Bushwick residents specifically.
- Track outcomes through at least 6–12 months of retention.
- Mid-year and end-of-year reviews with BP's office.

Timeline & Activities

Launch event: April 7 at St. Nicks (92 Troop Ave) – hiring hall with multiple employers.

- Next big event: May 19 job fair at Hope Gardens Community Center (422 Central Ave) – goal is a Bushwick-focused hiring hall.

Summer 2026:

Ongoing outreach and recruitment at neighborhood events, schools, churches, parks, block parties.

Fall/Winter 2026:

Participants move through training, placement, and retention, followed by a winter review of progress.

Community Input & Gaps Identified

Board members/employers stressed:

- Need to engage older workers facing layoffs and age discrimination.
- Better summer outreach in parks, plazas, block parties (not just indoor events).
- More precise, age-appropriate communication with youth (TikTok, IG, influencers).
- Strong ties with schools and PTAs; use student government and school-based structures.
- Ongoing collaboration with local businesses (including developers) to hire locally.

Commitments & Invitations

All three CBOs explicitly said they want to partner with any local organization or influencers willing to help with outreach.

They encouraged:

- Invites to community events for tabling/flyering.
- Building owners to let them flyer in buildings.
- Residents to refer neighbors, youth, and older adults to their programs.

Borough President's office will:

- Coordinate data tracking,
- Host an event later in the year on SNAP/work requirements for older/low-income residents,
- Continue to support the initiative through oversight and publicity.

At the conclusion of the public hearing portion, the district manager asked if a rep from the Civic Engagement Commission was present to briefly note the ongoing collaboration with the National Civic League for their Better Public Meetings research.

NYC Civic Engagement Commission
Representative:

Name: Lula O'Donnell

Office: NYC Civic Engagement Commission

Contact info: Not provided verbally; only the QR-code survey link was shared during the meeting.

Regular Meeting

1) First Roll Call

Present: Isa Abney, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Alan Gamboa, Jason Gers, Anne Guiney, Elaine Hamilton, Zachary Hendrickson, Courtney Henley, Barbara Jackson, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Giovannies Justiniano, Nancy Keith, Cindy Lebron, Kristine Malden, Cirilo Nuñez, Pablo Rivera, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Juan Serra, Annette Spellen, James Steward II, Christian C. Tate, Ben Tocker

Present via a remote waiver: Zulma Novoa

Excused: Christopher Graham, Deborah Hicks (the 1st Vice Chair indicated Ms. Hicks requested to be excused during the meeting due to connectivity issues on Zoom), Shray Richardson, Josue Salazar

Absent: Andrew Choi, Tara Jones-Thomas, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Bee Spiderman, Savannah Thais, Linda Whitfield

Resigned: Jo-Ena Bennett

Did Not Renew: Freddy Fowler, Tanesha Honeygan, and Jerry Valentin

21 board members were in attendance, which constituted quorum.

2) Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion: Annette Spellen made a motion to accept the agenda.

Second: Raul Rubio

All in favor, motion carried.

3) Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Raul Rubio made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes.

Second: James Steward

All in favor, motion carried.

4) Annual Election Of Board Executive Officers

Positions Filled

First Vice Chairperson

Contested between Christian C. Tate and Pablo Rivera (others declined or withdrew).

Result: **Christian C. Tate elected** First Vice Chair (vote counted: 19–6).

Second Vice Chairperson

Only Milagros Sandoval ultimately accepted the nomination; others declined.

Result: **Milagros Sandoval elected** Second Vice Chair by single ballot cast by the Treasurer, per procedure for uncontested races.

Recording Secretary

Contested between Felix Ceballos, Andrew Ramos Choi, and Eliseo Ruiz.

Result: **Andrew Ramos Choi elected** Recording Secretary (final tally announced as 14–7–5).

Treasurer

Felix Ceballos was the only accepting nominee for Treasurer.

Result: James Stewart, as officer, cast one vote for **Felix, who was elected** Treasurer.

Parliamentarian

Contested between Zachary Hendrickson and James Stewart.

Result: James Stewart elected Parliamentarian (final tally announced as 17–9).

Process Notes

Former board member Melissa Carrera Solano returned to preside over the elections.

- Voting was conducted by paper ballot for contested seats; tallies were read aloud.
- For uncontested seats, a single vote was cast by the Treasurer in lieu of the Recording Secretary vacancy to formalize the election, consistent with past Board practice of an officer casting one vote.

***Guest Speaker* Council Member Sandy Nurse's Remarks**

Promoted participatory budgeting:

\$1M in capital funds; residents propose and vote on projects.

- Voting open until Sunday via QR code ballot; encouraged block/neighbors to vote.

City budget season:

May will have public hearings on the Mayor's executive budget (Parks, Transportation, Housing, Health, etc.).

- Invited residents to testify and to contact her office for help registering.

Local capital projects (coordinated with CB4 priorities):

- Irving Park: ~\$4M playground renovation funded.
- Sewer upgrades in Bushwick: \$354M city project in the pipeline to address flooding.
- Dog run: funded and moving forward (acknowledged it was contentious).

Broadway Corridor street reconstruction:

Goal is to replace the concrete section of Broadway with asphalt so it can be resurfaced regularly.

Full project cost: about \$110M; need \$12–15M just for design.

Federal wins:

- Rep. Nydia Velázquez: \$1.8M
- Rep. Hakeem Jeffries: \$1.8M

Nurse will commit \$1M, Borough President has pledged support, pushing other Council Members and the state/feds for the rest.

- Planning a rally on April 29 to pressure DOT and elevate the issue.

DSNY/DOT Town Hall follow-up:

Thanked residents for coming; ~30 cases were logged (derelict cars, barricades, etc.).

- Her office is following up individually (voicemails/emails) and wants to keep doing these agency town halls.

Job fair:

May 16 at the RiseBoro Youth Center.

Annual event with “hundreds of people”; partners include the Bushwick 1000 orgs.

5) Parliamentarian’s Note

Former parliamentarian Jo-Ena Bennett resigned for health reasons.

Board leadership:

- Asked members to keep her in their thoughts and emphasized prioritizing health.
- Noted her lasting impact: she consistently reminded everyone to state their name when speaking, making minutes and public understanding clearer.

The chair encouraged all speakers (board and public) to say their name at the mic, so people know who is speaking and to improve the record.

6) 83rd Precinct Report — Deputy Inspector Thomas Maffei, Commanding Officer

Follow-up from last meeting

Avant Gardner (large venue in CB1):

CO contacted their new head of security; plans to meet and stay updated on operations.

Package thefts:

Ran two “empty box” operations (fake packages as bait); no arrests yet but will continue.

Crime overview (since last meeting)**Gun incidents:**

3 incidents involving firearms discharged, at:

- 18 Stanhope
- 162 Covert
- 1530 Broadway

No injuries, not related to each other, and all 3 closed by arrest (disputes and road-rage).

Robberies:

Down 14% vs. same period last year (and last year was already a 10-year low).

Burglaries:

Up by 5 incidents vs. last year.

NYPD identified three key individuals:

- Two arrested and still in custody.
- One wanted on a warrant; precinct is actively looking and will work with DA to keep them in.

Retail theft:

Down for the month and year-to-date.

Grand larceny:

Main problems:

Car break-ins (reminded residents to lock cars and not leave valuables visible).

Bar/club thefts – pickpocketing or bags left unattended (5 incidents in the last month).

Scams (biggest growth area):

Scam types described

- Immigration services scam – fake help with immigration paperwork.
- Bank scam – calls saying your bank account/card is compromised.
- Car registration scam – “backdoor” registration by phone.
- Apartment scam – fake listings asking for deposits via online ads.
- Photo extortion (“sending photos” scam) – victim sends intimate photos; scammer threatens to send them to friends/family unless paid.
- Gig job / overpayment check scam:
 - Scammer “hires” you, mails a large fake check (e.g., \$6,000), then asks you to send back part of it because the event was canceled.
 - The fake check bounces after you’ve already sent real money.

Advice from the CO

For intimate photos:

If people insist on sending them, avoid including your face to reduce blackmail leverage.

For apartment listings:

Doublecheck via an independent source and never send money until you confirm it’s real.

For checks:

Wait until the check clears before treating the funds as real or sending any of it out.

For bank calls:

Hang up and call the bank back using a trusted number (not the one given by the caller).

General red flags:

- Requests for gift cards or cash are huge warning signs.
- If unsure, call the precinct’s Community Affairs or Crime Prevention officers for guidance.

Youth violence incident

On April 15 around 1:07 PM at Green Playground (1307 Greene Ave area):

Two juveniles (not from nearby schools) had a dispute; one was stabbed in the leg.

- Injury was non-life-threatening; victim is expected to fully recover.
- Incident was not school-related; one youth lives in Queens, the other in the precinct.
- Arrest was made the next morning, case now in the youth process.

7) Introduction of Elected Officials and Other Representatives

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

Representative: Madeline Enlow

Address: 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY

Phone: 718-802-3700

Extension: 3834

NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez
Representative: Kim Vega
Address: 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
Phone: 718-963-3141

NYS Senator Julia Salazar
Representative: Maria Valdez
Address: 212 Evergreen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
Phone: 718-573-1726

NYS Assembly Member Maritza Dávila
Representative: Debbie Villanueva
Address: 673 Hart Street (corner of Central), Brooklyn, NY
Phone: 718-443-1205

U.S. Representative Nydia Velázquez
Representative: Johnathan Betancourt
Address: 266 Broadway, Suite 201 (above Bank of America at Havemeyer & Broadway),
Brooklyn, NY
Phone: 718-599-3658

8) **Committee Reports**

Civic/Public Safety/Religious + Health/Human Service/Senior Citizens/Veterans – Annette Spellen

Main items:

Sentencing Reform Bills – Request for Board Support

Earned Time Act (S3424 / A1085)

- Expands opportunities for incarcerated people to earn time off sentences via education, counseling, programs, and good behavior.
- Goal: shift from “warehousing” to incentive-based rehabilitation.

Second Look Act (S158 / A1283)

- Lets people who have served at least 10 years apply for resentencing.
- Focus on people 55+ and those who committed offenses under age 25, reflecting new science on brain development, mental health, DV, substance use.

Marvin Mayfield Act (S1209 / A1297)

- Restores judicial discretion in sentencing, easing mandatory minimums / “three strikes” constraints.
- Aims to reduce coercive plea deals and allow more proportionate sentences.

Committee action: Voted to support all three bills (one abstention) and recommended a letter of support from the Board.

Coalition for Hispanic Family Services – Overview

Broad human-services provider:

- Bond’s Link Outreach Clinic
- 0–3 baby/mothers groups
- Community residences (ages 8–12)
- Children & family treatment services
- School- and community-based programs
- Benefits and community response work

Committee takeaway: encourage residents to use and connect to these programs.

Local fire incidents (noted, no detailed discussion):

- 84 Cornelia
- 59 Wilson
- 247 St. Nicholas
- 88 Menahan

Arts/Culture/Technology + Youth and Education – Virgie Jones

Report provided by Zachary Hendrickson, committee member.

Bushwick Starr update

Theater provided a regular update; key new initiatives:

- Hiring a Community Director to deepen relationships with:
- Schools, CBOs, parents, community members.
- Improve outreach and communication.

Launching Saturday theater-game classes for:

- 3rd–5th graders and 6th–8th graders.
- Sliding scale: \$0–\$20, with free slots for highest-need families.

Creating a new summer theater camp and a month-long summer arts festival.

Hope Gardens youth safety letter

Anonymous letter from a Hope Gardens resident read into the record:

- Reports drugs, gangs, guns at 121 and 416 Menahan.
- Writer’s own son is involved; pleads:
- “Please help us because something bad is going to happen soon.”

Notes: “422 Central had so much for the kids... now nothing.”

Committee response:

- Recognized this as a serious, ongoing issue.
- District Manager is coordinating a stakeholder meeting (property management, 83rd Precinct, Council office, CBOs, etc.) to re-engage around youth safety at Hope Gardens and look at intervention models (e.g., violence interruption, youth programming).

Economic Development + Housing and Land Use – Anne Guiney

Melrose Street rezoning (132–136 Melrose)

Proposal discussed in depth (you heard the public presentation earlier):

- Rezone from M1-1 to MX (M1-2/R6A) on 5 tax lots.
- 18-unit, 6-story building (top floor set back), with ground-floor commercial/light manufacturing.

- 5 affordable units (~28% under MIH), mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units.
- Owner moving larger industrial operations to old Richie's Gym site on Stanwix, keeping some light manufacturing/commercial on Melrose.

Committee posture:

- Recognized tension between preserving manufacturing and adding family-sized affordable housing.
- No final recommendation yet; project will return to committee (next meeting April 28, 6 PM, 1420 Bushwick Ave).

Emphasis: evaluate projects based on current policy framework, while continuing to fight problematic policies at the city level.

Other land use / mail items noted

- 221 Charles Street – ~99-unit project coming.
- 826 Flushing Avenue – 7-story, 47 units, with some affordability (voluntary inclusionary, 421-a type).
- 150 Knoll Street – additional project noted in mail.
- 1420 Bushwick Avenue (city-owned) – ongoing multi-year discussion; major community asset; committee wants strong community role in shaping its future.
- Started early work to improve the District Needs Statement process and be more proactive.

Permits and Licenses – Kristine Malden

New alcohol license applications (all recommended for support)

Sajhoma Restaurant – 41 Broadway & Melrose

- Dominican restaurant seeking liquor/wine/beer/cider license.
- Hours within CB4 stipulations after committee discussion.

Patricia Núñez – 274 Knickerbocker Ave (at Willoughby)

- Colombian restaurant, liquor/wine/beer/cider.
- Multiple prior missed committee appearances and repeated temporary permit letters, explained as extenuating circumstances.
- Initially slightly beyond Board's standard hours; owner agreed to scale hours back.

Committee supported both the full license and a one-day alcohol event permit (with stip and neighbor signatures).

La Gualacena – 251 Wyckoff Ave & Bleecker

- Ecuadorian restaurant, wine & beer only.
- Next to Jehovah's Witness facility.
- Within Board stipulation hours; recommended for support.

Cannabis follow-up

Bashira – 133 Wyckoff Ave, OCM retail dispensary:

OCM acknowledged CB4's request for more signature outreach; ultimately granted the license.

- Committee noted OCM is more transparent than SLA in explaining decisions.

Nightlife / quality of life

- Avant Gardner (huge CB1 venue) briefly discussed – many CB4 residents testified at CB1’s public hearing, concerned about spillover impacts (late-night crowds, transit, quality of life).

Committee wants to explore commissioning or partnering on a nightlife impact analysis for Bushwick:

- Quantify jobs and business revenue vs. noise, displacement, public safety, and loss of manufacturing.
- Plan to invite Assembly Member Davila and Council Member Gutierrez to a future P&L meeting to discuss nightlife and quality of life.

District needs

Committee began drafting P&L-related items for the District Needs Statement, including:

- Noise cameras / better tools for noise enforcement.
- Stronger DEP and NYPD enforcement support.

Shape-Up Bushwick Planning – James Steward

Event basics

Shape Up Bushwick 2026

Date: June 4

Location: Irving Square Park

Theme: “Bushwick – Get Fit Where You Live”

Planning progress

First planning meeting held:

- Brainstormed activities for the day (fitness, health, wellness).
- Discussed donations and sponsorships.
- Reviewed key logistics (layout, vendors, outreach).

Next planning meeting:

- April 30 at 12 PM (noon) on Zoom.
- Open to all board members and community partners; details via the Board Office.

9) Chairperson’s Report – Mr. Robert Camacho

Anne Guiney motioned to have the district office provide a copy of Mr. Camacho’s full report via email due to the time. The motion was seconded by Cindy Lebron. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Camacho proceeded to provide several brief highlights.

Bylaws & Code of Conduct Update

Reported that the Borough President wants all community boards to update their bylaws to:

- Add or strengthen Code of Conduct language.
- Clarify conflict of interest rules.
- Spell out enforcement when members violate conduct standards.

Asked members to read the guidance that will be distributed, mark what they agree/disagree with, and be ready for the Bylaws (ad hoc) Committee to incorporate changes.

Hope Gardens Advisory Board / Youth Use of 422 Central

Shared from the Hope Gardens Advisory Board:

- DYCD-funded programs at 422 Central Ave must include at least 38% Hope Gardens youth.
- There is a need for real outreach to tenants and young people so they actually use the center.

Emphasized:

- Many youth are hanging out in hallways, making videos or rapping; they will do this regardless.
- The Board should help create safe, supervised indoor spaces (e.g., rooms at 422 Central) where youth can record music/videos and socialize productively, instead of being pushed into the street and then criticized.

Message: Listen to what youth are asking for and design programming/space that meets those needs.

10) District Manager's Report — Celeste León

Celeste kept the report very brief due to time.

Highlighted one key item:

The Board held a youth safety meeting for Hope Gardens, bringing together multiple stakeholders to address:

- Violence, gangs, guns, and drug concerns at Hope Gardens.
- Gaps in youth programming and safe spaces.

Indicated she will find a creative way to share the rest of the month's activities (instead of reading a long report at the meeting) to respect the late hour.

11) Recommendations

Sentencing Reform Bills (Earned Time, Second Look, Marvin Mayfield)

Motion: **Blanket motion** to support all three sentencing reform bills (Earned Time Act, Second Look Act, Marvin Mayfield Act).

Made by: Zachary Hendrickson

Second: James Steward

Opposed: Robert Camacho

Abstentions: Courtney Henley

Motion carried.

Motion: **Accept the Civic/Public Safety/Religious + Health/Human Services/Seniors/Veterans Committee recommendation in favor** of the three sentencing reform bills.

Made by: Ben Tocker

Second: Christian C. Tate

Opposed: Robert Camacho, Courtney Henley, Zulma Novoa

Motion carried – committee recommendation formally adopted.

Permits & Licenses – New Alcohol Licenses (Sajhoma, Patricia Núñez, La Gualacena) & P&L Items

(Includes support for the three license applications and related P&L actions like letters and district-needs asks.)

Motion: **Blanket motion** to approve what was referenced in the Permits & Licenses Committee report (excluding the separate one-day event permit).

Made by: Ben Tocker

Seconded by: Felix Ceballos

Abstentions: Raul Rubio

Motion carried.

Motion: **Accept the P&L Committee’s recommendations** as reported.

Made by: Cindy LeBron

Second: Courtney Henley

Abstentions: Raul Rubio, Robert Camacho, Zulma Novoa

Motion carried – P&L recommendations formally adopted.

Motion: **Support the one-day event permit for Patricia Núñez (Colombian restaurant, 274 Knickerbocker), with stipulations and neighbor signatures.**

Made by: Kristine Malden (PLC Chair)

Seconded by: Eliseo Ruiz

Abstentions: Raul Rubio

Motion carried – Board supports the one-day event.

Hiring of Assistant District Manager (Luis Munive)

Motion: Approve/support the hiring of Luis Munive as Assistant District Manager and clarify that bylaws will be updated to reflect the Board’s preferred procedure going forward.

Made by: Zachary Hendrickson

Second: Anne Guiney

Unanimous (no opposition or abstentions recorded).

Motion carried – hiring of the ADM is formally supported by the Board.

Executive Board / Citywide Policy Letters (Mayor & Baseline Budget)

Letters: Convene Community Boards & Baseline CB Budgets

(Executive Board recommendations brought to full Board.)

- Letter to Mayor Mamdani (as referenced) to convene community boards to address shared challenges/concerns.
- Letter to the Mayor/City officials requesting baseline budget increases for community boards.

Motion: **Blanket motion** to support the Executive Board’s recommendations for sending both letters.

Made by: Courtney Henley

Seconded by: Nancy Keith

Unanimous (no opposition or abstentions recorded).

Motion carried.

Motion: **Accept the Executive Board’s recommendations.**

Made by: Cindy Lebron

Second: Courtney Henley

Unanimous (no opposition or abstentions recorded).
Motion carried – recommendations fully adopted.

12) Old Business

None

13) New Business

None

14) Announcements

James Steward motioned suspending announcements due to the time. There was not a second and the motion failed. Anne Guiney motioned to limit announcements to thirty seconds. Ben Tocker seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

City & Borough-wide

Brooklyn Borough President's Office

- State of the Borough at Brooklyn Museum.
- Graduation Awards nominations open (Pre-K–12; deadline June 1).
- Preparing resources on new SNAP work requirements; summary and updates available at Brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

City Budget & Hearings (noted earlier in Council Member remarks, reinforced in tone during announcements):

- Residents encouraged to engage in budget hearings and advocacy on priorities like parks, housing, transportation, and youth programs.
- Local Elected Officials' Programs

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez's Office

- Street tree care event outside Big Reuse (Sunday before Earth Day).
- Food pantry with Farm to People on May 7.
- Participatory budgeting voting reminders.

Senator Julia Salazar's Office

- Housing counseling & financial education clinics with Cypress Hills; monthly at 212 Evergreen Ave.
- Ongoing tenant support hours (first Tuesday monthly, 10:30–12).
- CUFF assistance in office Tuesdays, 11–5 PM.

Assembly Member Maritza Dávila's Office

- Free legal clinics: first and third Tuesdays, 1–4 PM, at 673 Hart St.
- Knickerbocker Ave Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sunday, June 14 – registration open for groups to participate.

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez's Office

- Shared concerns about the Trump administration's proposed 2027 federal budget (large defense spending increase, cuts to broadband, schools, FEMA, LIHEAP, senior jobs, etc.).

- Stated the Congresswoman will not support a budget that prioritizes war over domestic needs.
- Offered assistance with federal agency issues (Social Security, immigration, etc.).

Health & Screening

- NYC Dept. of Health / Bushwick Health Center
- Free mammogram screening on May 7, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM at 335 Central Ave for women 40–75 who have not had a test in 12 months.
- Community Organizations & Events

RiseBoro Community Partnership

- Reminded residents of broad services (housing legal aid, benefits, youth programs, SYEP, adult ed, home care, senior centers, Meals on Wheels).
- Directed people to www.riseboro.org rather than phone numbers alone.

Motherhood Collective (CB Member Announcement)

- Story time & book fair on Sunday at Secret Riso Club, 122 Central Ave, 3:30–5:00 PM.
- Books donated by Brooklyn Book Bodega, free for all ages.

North Brooklyn DSA (CB Member Announcement)

- Monthly meeting on April 18, 3:30–5:30 PM, 100 Hinsdale St (East NY) + virtual option.
- Agenda: war in Iran, May Day labor actions, East New York Community Land Trust update.

East New York Community Land Trust / East Brooklyn Liberation Center

- Fundraiser at nowadays on April 23 at 8 PM to support a community-owned organizing space in East New York.
- Supported by local electeds including Council Member Gutiérrez and Senator Salazar.

Common Justice Listening Session

Event on April 30, 6–8 PM with multiple community boards (3,4,5,9,16,17) to share community-based violence intervention practices.

Office of Cannabis Management – Art Call

Youth art call (under 18) for health & wellness educational materials; submissions need not include cannabis imagery.

Civic Engagement Commission

QR-code survey about public meetings (Better Public Meetings Scorecard).

- In-person help offered for those without smartphones.

CBO Workforce/Jobs Reminders

- Bushwick 1000: ongoing job and training opportunities through St. Nicks, RiseBoro, OBT, plus upcoming job fair May 19 at Hope Gardens.
- Separate job fair from Council Member Gutiérrez on May 16 at RiseBoro Youth Center.

CB4 Events

- Shape Up Bushwick confirmed for June 4 at Irving Square Park, theme: “Bushwick – Get Fit Where You Live”; planning meeting April 30 at noon (Zoom).

15)Second Roll Call

Present: Linda Whitfield, Ben Tocker, Christian C. Tate, James Steward II, Annette Spellen, Milagros Sandoval, Josue Salazar, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Pablo Rivera, Cirilo Nuñez, Kristine Malden, Cindy Lebron, Nancy Keith, Giovannies Justiniano, Luisa Jose, Barbara Jackson, Courtney Henley, Zachary Hendrickson, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Alan Gamboa, Felix Ceballos, Robert Camacho, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson

Present via a remote waiver: Zulma Novoa

Excused: Josue Salazar, Shray Richardson, Christopher Graham

Absent: Savannah Thais, Bee Spiderman, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Tara Jones-Thomas
Andrew Choi

Resigned: Jo-Ena Bennett

Did Not Renew: Jerry Valentin, Tanesha Honeygan, Freddy Fowler

16)Adjournment

Ben Tocker motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Courtney Henley. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:31pm