



Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026, 6pm

Hope Gardens Older Adult Center (195 Linden Street) and Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho | District Manager: Celestina León

Meeting Start: 6:10pm

Public Hearing

- 1) **Megan Flynn and Kana Ervin, MTA and Carlos Lopez and Kritika Sethu - Project Managers, Forte** - presenting on the Gates Avenue Accessibility Project (J Line).

Project scope

- ADA upgrade at Gates Avenue (J) as part of Accessibility Bundle 9 (2 other stations in Queens).
- Two new elevators: “Post Office side” and “Walgreens side,” each running street-to-platform (no mezzanine).
- New stairs on both corners; platform reconstruction, new platform edges, and state-of-good-repair work.
- Sidewalk extensions, new pedestrian refuge island, curb ramps, and adjusted traffic patterns to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow.

Timeline

- Early work (surveys, test pits, utility marking) is underway now.
- Construction starts: End of June / early July 2026.
- Duration: Roughly 2 years.
- Target completion / elevators in service: Q1–Q2 2028 (they referenced “April 2028” and “Q2 2028”).

Service & traffic impacts

Station operations:

- Gates Ave station will remain open for the vast majority of the project.
- Some night/weekend GOs, partial platform closures, occasional temporary bypasses/closures, with 2 weeks’ notice to CB4 and elected officials.

Bus impacts:

- B52 eastbound stop near Walgreens to be relocated one block up on Broadway, merged with an existing stop near the station entrance, July 2026–December 2027.

- Westbound bus service unaffected.

Traffic changes:

- One lane closure on Gates Ave northbound; detours via Ralph Ave / Linden / Madison, etc.
- DOT coordinating signal timing / possible new control devices at affected intersections (e.g., Broadway/Linden) based on traffic studies.

Construction conditions

- Typical hours: Monday–Friday, 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
- Weekend work only as needed for track work; limited overnight noise per regulations.
- Pedestrian access: All crosswalks remain open except the unsafe USPS-side sidewalk segment, which will be closed and detoured with a temporary crossing.
- Noise, dust, and safety: MTA/Forte Construction will follow standard mitigation (barriers, monitoring, no work during off-hours).

Outreach & follow-ups promised

- MTA has met with Walgreens and USPS management and will notify nearby school/others as needed.
- On-site signage will include:
 - Project info (scope, duration).
 - 24/7 project hotline number posted in multiple locations.

Committed follow-ups to CB4:

1. Traffic study / volume data for detour routes (esp. Linden, Broadway, etc.).
2. Station-level cost breakdown for Gates Ave within the bundle.
3. Update on DeKalb Av (L) station ADA prioritization from MTA's chief engineer.
4. Project presentation deck + hotline number to be emailed to CB4.
5. Offer of a site walkthrough for board members and community, if CB4 is interested.

- 2) **Edward Lee, MD - Stroke Director, Rajvee Vora, MD - Chief of Behavioral Health and Eva Sanders LCSW - Associate Executive Director, Behavioral Health, NYC Health + Hospitals Woodhull** - presenting on stroke and mental health awareness.

Stroke Awareness Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Edward Lee, Stroke Director, Woodhull Hospital

Key message

Stroke = “brain attack” (blocked or burst brain artery) → brain cells die quickly → time-critical emergency.

Stroke burden (local & citywide)

- Stroke is common nationally; rates significantly higher in parts of North Brooklyn, including the CB4 area (shown on a NYC heat map).
- Only about 10% of Woodhull stroke patients receive clot-busting medication; ~70% arrive too late.

Prevention

- Major risk factors: high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, poor diet, low physical activity, poor sleep, inconsistent primary care.
- Every \$1 spent on prevention yields about \$10 in saved healthcare costs/productivity.

Recognition – “BE FAST” mnemonic

- B – Balance: sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of coordination.
- E – Eyes: sudden vision loss or double vision.
- F – Face: facial droop on one side.
- A – Arm: sudden weakness or numbness in arm/leg (often one side).
- S – Speech: slurred speech, difficulty speaking or understanding.
- T – Time: call 911 immediately.

Even ONE sudden symptom is enough—do not wait for more signs or “sleep on it.”

Treatment and time window

- Clot-busting drug: Tenecteplase (TNK), given via IV.
- Time window: up to 4.5 hours from when the person was last known well; earlier is better (millions of neurons die each minute).
- Woodhull has significantly improved time-to-treatment; goal is within 60 minutes of arrival.

Disparities & outreach

- Only ~two-thirds of U.S. adults know stroke warning signs; among Hispanic adults, ~58%.
- Stroke knowledge and outcomes are affected by language access, structural inequities, and historic patterns (e.g., redlining, food deserts, wealth gaps).

- Woodhull provides Spanish-language stroke materials and uses both BE FAST and Spanish mnemonics like RÁPIDO; they committed to share translated materials with CB4.
- ER protocol: Whether walk-in or via EMS, any suspected stroke triggers an immediate “stroke code” with ED physicians, neurology, imaging, labs, and nursing.

Mental Health & Substance Use Presentation

Presenter: Eva Sanders, Associate Executive Director for Behavioral Health, Woodhull

Core framing

- Mental health = normal range of human thoughts/feelings (sadness, anxiety, joy, confusion, etc.).
- Mental illness = when those thoughts/feelings/behaviors interfere with daily functioning (work, relationships, self-care).
- Emphasis on ending stigma: many people experience mental illness; people can and do recover.

Service continuum at Woodhull

- Outpatient clinics (adults, children, adolescents) on the 5th floor.
- School-based clinicians in five local schools (with a 6th planned), providing on-site mental health services.

Crisis services:

- Psychiatric ER
- Inpatient psychiatric units
- Mobile Crisis Team – can visit people at home, stabilize, and link to continuing care when hospitalization is not required.

Integrated behavioral health across hospital services:

- OB-GYN/perinatal mental health
- Pride clinic
- Other specialty clinics are conducting routine mental health screening.

Growth in substance use treatment

- Very sharp increase in substance use recovery volume from 2024 to 2025.
- Reason: not a spike in addiction rates alone, but expansion of access:
 - Over 250 new behavioral health hires in ~18 months.
 - More clinicians seeing more patients; improved scheduling and throughput.
 - Net result: more people getting care, not just more people in crisis.

Treatment approach

- Recovery-oriented: People can recover from mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Person-centered: Services driven by what matters to the individual (e.g., “I want to work,” “I want my family back,” not “I want to be a good patient.”)
- Trauma-informed: Shift from “What’s wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?” and “How can we support you?”
- Strength-based: Focus on individuals’ internal strengths and resilience, not just symptoms.
- Modalities include:
 - Medications,
 - Individual therapy,
 - Group and family therapy,
 - Wrap-around supports (vocational/educational assistance, wellness activities like pet therapy, etc.).

Bridge to Home – new supportive housing initiative

- Opening September (Woodhull site): “Bridge to Home” transitional housing.
- 47 units, all-gender, for adults with serious mental illness who are homeless.
- Residents can stay up to 12 months in a hotel-style, home-like setting, with:
 - On-site outpatient clinic,
 - Intensive supports to stabilize, connect to benefits, and transition to longer-term housing.
 - Builds on a similar model launched at Bellevue (first site) for men; Woodhull is second site and open to all genders.

Regular Meeting

1) First Roll Call

Present: Isa Abney, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Esteban Duran, Alan Gamboa, Jason Gers, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Naeema Haque, Virgie Jones, Tara Jones-Thomas, RED Kadetsky, Nancy Keith, Cindy Lebron, Kristine Malden, Cirilo Nuñez, Shray Richardson, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Josue Salazar, Eunice Santiago, Juan Serraty, Annette Spellin, Bee Spiderman, John Stanesco, James Steward II, Christian C. Tate, Ben Tocker, Crystal Vargas, Michael Varley, Yefim Vedernikoff, Linda Whitfield

Did not sign-in: George Benjamin, Giovannies Justiniano, Joanne Wu

Present via a remote waiver: Andrew Choi, Frederice Latchman, Zulma Novoa, Pablo Rivera

Excused: Thomas Green, Courtney Henley, Milagros Sandoval

Absent: Paula Almanzar, Deborah Hicks (tech issues), Latif Bunting, Kimberly Colclough, Luisa Jose,

Resigned: Juan Serra

34 board members were in attendance, which constituted quorum.

2) **Acceptance of the Agenda**

Motion: Christian C. Tate made a motion to accept the agenda.

Second: Raul Rubio

All in favor, motion carried.

3) **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Annette Spellman made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes.

Second: Zachary Hendrickson

All in favor, motion carried.

4) **83rd Precinct Report — Deputy Inspector Thomas Maffei, Commanding Officer**

Operations & Enforcement

- Conducted 2 truck route enforcement operations (Bushwick Ave, Wilson, Knickerbocker, Wyckoff): 48 summonses, including 28 off-route truck summonses, plus 1 arrest (suspended license).
- Package theft operation: 1 arrest.
- Noise meter recalibrated and back in service (since May 1); 7 nightlife locations referred to the City's Cure (non-police nightlife engagement) program.

Major Incidents (since last meeting)

- Shooting: Male shot on Cooper St (Broadway–Bushwick), April 28 ~3:20 a.m. – expected to recover; investigation ongoing.
- Shots fired: 369 Broadway area, May 4 ~2:30 p.m. (83rd side firing toward 81st side); investigation ongoing.
- Stabbings:
 - April 26 at 1071 Broadway ~1:40 a.m.: bouncer slashed; later, unrelated bystander fatally stabbed; suspect arrested on scene; weapon recovered.
 - May 17 at 276 Cooper St ~8:15 a.m.: domestic dispute inside apartment; one female fatally stabbed; suspect arrested on scene.

ICE/Wyckoff Hospital Incident (May 2)

- 200–300 people outside Wyckoff; streets and sidewalks blocked while ICE had a person in custody at the hospital.
- NYPD focus: re-open streets for emergency and general traffic (ambulances, buses, all vehicles), not to assist ICE operations.
- Incident under Internal Affairs review; community members encouraged to share any footage with IAB.

Summer Deployment

- More officers on foot, especially during weekends (parks, nightlife, Hope Gardens corridor).
- Midnight Conditions Team active on overnights; catalytic converter thefts significantly reduced in Sector A.

Crime Trends

- Down/flat: robbery, burglary, grand larceny, grand larceny auto.
- Up: felony assaults, primarily domestic violence–related; DV officers following up with victims and services.

Scams & Events

- Elderly necklace scam warning: strangers approach, hug/kiss hands, surreptitiously remove jewelry and replace with cheap chain.
- Bushwick Collective Block Party (May 30): road closures near St. Nicholas, Wyckoff, Jefferson, Starr.
- Puerto Rican Parade (Knickerbocker):
 - Expect large crowds (~40,000) and significant street closures.
 - No vending or barbecues on Knickerbocker itself; dedicated ambulance route to Wyckoff; added elevated observation posts and planned senior viewing area.
 - Emphasis on a family-friendly event and earlier enforcement as Sunday night progresses.

5) Introduction of Elected Officials and Other Representatives

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (NY-7) – Bushwick Office
 Representative: Johnathan Betancourt
 Office Address: 266 Broadway, Suite 201, Brooklyn, NY 11211
 Phone: 718-599-3658

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
 Representative: Madeline Enlow
 Office Address: 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
 Phone: 718-802-3700

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez (District includes parts of Bushwick/Williamsburg)

Representative: Kim Vega
Office Address: 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211
Phone: 718-963-3141

New York State Assembly
Assembly Member Maritza Dávila
Representative: Debbie Villanueva
Office Address: 673 Hart Street, corner of Central Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
Phone: 718-443-1205

Other Organizations / Representatives
OYE Group
Representative: Julia Jimenez, Community Coordinator
Website: oyegroup.org

Calvary – St. Cyprian Episcopal Church
Representative: Danielle Chambers
(Introduced as a neighbor; no phone/email given during the meeting.)

Saint Michel Café
Representative / Owner: Benny Emery
Business: Saint Michel Café, Urban Avenue (Bushwick)
(No phone/email given during the meeting.)

Brooklyn Public Library – Washington Irving Branch
Representative: Juanita James
(No direct contact read into the record; flyers and her card were stated to be on the back table.)

6) **Committee Reports**

Economic Development + Housing and Land Use – Anne Guiney

132–136 Melrose St Rezoning (M1 → Mixed Use)

- Existing: 2-story warehouse/light manufacturing.
- Proposal: 6-story mixed-use building: ground-floor light manufacturing, 18 residential units above with Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH).
- Motivation: Business relocating to Stanwix/Bushwick corner to better accommodate trucks; current Melrose site is difficult for truck access.

Committee Concerns & Negotiations

- Preservation of industrial use: Avoid conversion to nightlife; maintain true light manufacturing at grade.
- Unit mix: CB4 preference for more 2- and 3-bedroom units, fewer studios.

- Affordability: MIH at ~33% of units (6/18), above 25% minimum; committee pushed for lower AMI option (in line with Bushwick Community Plan), understanding small-building constraints.

Committee Recommendation

- Support the rezoning with stipulations:
- Legally binding ground-floor restriction to light manufacturing (no bar/club), with Council support.
- Strong preference for more family-size units and deeper affordability.

Other Items

- Early discussion on retooling the “Statement of Community District Needs” to be more strategic and outcome oriented.
- 150 Noll St: Informational request re: adding a commercial overlay for existing ground-floor use (no vote yet).

Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation – Ben Tocker

Statement of District Needs – Key Priorities

- Keep Maria Hernandez Park comfort station as a top capital priority.
- For Broadway Reconstruction:
 - Emphasize starting with design funding (~\$12M) rather than treating it as an all-or-nothing \$100M project.
 - Request interim safety improvements now (daylighting, curb extensions, turn bans, lighting, etc.) so DOT does not defer improvements while waiting for full reconstruction.

Myrtle–Broadway (J/M/Z) ADA Project

- Melrose St (between Broadway and Bushwick) closure to traffic for ~16 days for elevator work; pedestrian access constrained.
- Long-term ADA work through ~2027; board members raised concerns about impact and communication.

Sammy’s Law – Speed Limit Changes

- City now empowered to lower speeds on selected streets.
- DOT sent CB4 a list of proposed 15 mph streets; board has 60 days to comment.

Palmetto St & Ridgewood PI (Bus Conflict Zone)

- DOT walk-through with Mr. Camacho, Celeste, and Jason Gers, a committee member, present; observed missing stop sign, knocked-down accessible signal, no-turn sign issues, and severe bus backups where livery cars self-create a taxi zone.
- DOT to review; a committee member will help engage livery drivers in future outreach.

Troutman Open Streets

- Operating Saturdays & Sundays, 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Troutman St from Irving to St. Nicholas.
- Welcomes nonprofit and free programming; no vending allowed.
- Committee strongly supports; encourages community use.

Interborough Express (IBX) Briefing (Second May Meeting)

Light-rail connection between Brooklyn and Queens, with key CB4 interfaces at Myrtle Av and Wilson Av (L).

CB4 priorities:

- Noise and vibration mitigation for adjacent residents.
- Transparency around property acquisition along the right-of-way.
- Ensure Wilson Av L station becomes fully ADA accessible before/with IBX opening (currently only one side is accessible; station is on MTA's 2025–29 capital list).

Parks Permits & FIFA

- Parks, NYPD, and DOT anticipate severe resource constraints during FIFA events; permits will be harder to obtain.
- Applicants urged to plan early for summer/early fall events.

Permits and Licenses – Kristine Malden

Supported

1. Visit LLC – 1196 Myrtle Ave at Willoughby
 - Art-first bar/gallery; agreed to match CB4 hours.
2. Diego's Eros – 178 Irving Ave
 - Greek restaurant; hours within CB4 stipulations.
3. Fun Ramen House – 313 Knickerbocker Ave at Hart
 - Japanese restaurant; hours within stipulations.
4. 101 Wilson Bar (alteration) – 101 Wilson Ave
 - Expanding indoor & backyard areas; existing 4 a.m. license but voluntarily closes per CB4 hours; 311 noise record significantly improved.
5. Esquina del Sabor – 446 Wilson Ave
 - New Latin restaurant; closes nightly at midnight; school nearby but >200 ft and prior license at site.
6. Mum's Brooklyn (La Dock) – Wyckoff Ave between Troutman & Starr
 - Ownership transfer; same hours, menu, staff; within stipulations.

Not Supported

1. Danger Danger / "Danger, Danger, Whoopsie" – 236 Knickerbocker Ave
 - Nightlife venue seeking 2 a.m. (Sun–Wed) and 4 a.m. (Thu–Sat) indoors & outdoors; refused to scale back to CB4 hours → NOT SUPPORT.

2. SV Cathedral LLC (former Brooklyn Made) – 428 & 430 Troutman St
 - Large music venue + café; extremely saturated area; history of severe noise/quality-of-life issues.
 - Sought 4 a.m. nightly; amended outdoor to midnight but kept 4 a.m. inside; residents from Starr St strongly opposed.

NOT SUPPORTED for both licenses.

1. Bushwick Rostiseria – Wyckoff & Suydam
 - No-show and no communication with office → NOT SUPPORTED.

No Final Recommendation / Deferred

1. Bar 29 Holdings – 29 Locust at Beaver; will return for method-of-operation change after renewal.
2. The Sampler – 234 Starr St; wrong paperwork; to return (likely June).
3. Cannabis Retail, 1009 Broadway – Willoughby; requested June agenda.
4. Pacha (formerly Avant Gardner) – No consensus; committee issued no advisory recommendation.

Shape-Up Bushwick Planning – James Steward

Event: Shape-Up Bushwick

Date/Time: June 4, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Location: Irving Square Park

Planning status:

- 3 planning meetings were held; 4th and final on May 28.
- Approximately 95% planned; final details being locked in.

Goal: “Best Shape-Up Bushwick ever” – broad community turnout, health/wellness focus, service providers, and youth/family activities.

7) Chairperson’s Report – Mr. Robert Camacho

Attended/participated in:

- Borough President events recognizing term-limited board members and celebrating community board service.
- Borough Board and district needs discussions (e.g., Broadway, Hope Gardens, affordable housing).
- Environmental Protection & Sanitation Committee meetings.
- Hope Gardens community meeting (violence interruption, youth programs, mental health).
- Street co-naming for Pinal Chambers on Grove St (rainy day ceremony).
- Bushwick 1000 job fair at St. Nicholas Alliance:
 - ~250 youth (18–30) attended in professional attire.
 - Use of QR/barcode check-in, on-site interviews, and resume reviews.

- Additional workforce events with Council Member Nurse; strong youth job interest and employer presence.

Personal note:

Taking vacation starting Friday; office and board leadership remain in place.

On fires & public safety:

Reiterated worry that Bushwick is “starting to burn again” (multiple recent fires); urged vigilance and adherence to FDNY guidance.

Assemblywoman Maritza Davila’s Remarks:

Nightlife / Liquor License Oversaturation

- Acknowledged long-term nightlife growth on Wyckoff Ave (15–20 years).
- Noted prior SLA leadership “was giving out licenses like crazy,” contributing to current over-saturation.
- Recently met with the new SLA Commissioner Fen and Deputy Commissioner; they are committed to slowing down new licenses in heavily impacted areas.
- Emphasized that the community must stay vigilant and work with the CB4 Permits & Licenses Committee to push back where appropriate.

Upcoming SLA / Nightlife Coordination Meeting

Organizing a joint meeting with:

- SLA Commissioner and staff,
- Community Boards 1 and 4,
- CB4 Permits & Licenses Committee,
- Local nightlife operators.

Goal: Address oversaturation, noise, and enforcement expectations, especially around Wyckoff/Myrtle/Broadway.

Puerto Rican Day Parade

Clarified the cultural and political importance of the parade:

- Originated after years when Puerto Ricans were effectively barred from celebrating their culture in Bushwick.
- Stressed that the organizing committee (led by Debbie Villanueva) is actively addressing issues seen last year (open drinking, public smoking, etc.).

Measures include:

- More volunteers along the route and staging blocks,
- Close coordination with NYPD and violence interrupters,
- Stronger behavioral expectations and follow-up for participants.

Invited anyone with concerns to speak directly with her office and the parade committee rather than assume nothing is being done.

State Budget & Policy Priorities

Speaking from Albany, noted the state budget is significantly delayed (was due April 1) because:

- They are “holding the line” on issues like taxing the rich, New York for All, and other equity measures.
- Committed to returning to CB4 after budget passage to outline key wins and impacts for the district.

Support for CB4

- Expressed strong appreciation for CB4 committee chairs and members, praising their work and presentations.
- Reiterated: “I’m here if you need help with anything,” particularly on nightlife regulation, parade planning, and park/permit issues.

8) District Manager’s Report — Celeste León

Staffing

Welcomed Luis Munive as the new Assistant District Manager.

Board Composition

16 new board members appointed in April; introduced at meeting.

External Engagements

- Ongoing work with National Civic League on civic participation & better public meetings (survey via QR code; best-practices research to follow).
- Participation in two Broadway press events with elected officials regarding capital investments and reconstruction.
- Meeting with Assistant Chief Vasquez (Patrol Borough Brooklyn North) with CB4 stakeholders (Camacho, Spellen, Haynes, Bishop Clark, A. Davis) to discuss precinct coordination and safety.
- Conversations with Open Plans (future of local democracy; role of community boards).
- Coordination with NYC Council’s Planning & Land Use Division on 132–136 Melrose and broader industrial land questions.
- Hosted SYEP / PAL site visit; CB4 office will again host a summer youth intern.

Community & Partners

Acknowledged:

- Denise Rosario (Coalition for Hispanic Family Services) honored as a City & State Nonprofit Trailblazer.
- Brooklyn Co-op’s 25th anniversary and new location at 1308 Myrtle Ave.

Weather / Safety during meeting

- Noted significant flooding outside Wilson Ave & building leaks during the meeting.
- Clarified that the board can always move to adjourn early if conditions warrant; chair will flag conditions, but final call rests with the board via motion.

9) Recommendations

Economic Development, Housing & Land Use (EDHL) – 132–136 Melrose Rezoning

Support rezoning at 132–136 Melrose St (M1 → mixed-use with MIH) with stipulations:

- Legally binding ground-floor light manufacturing (no bar/club);
- Strong preference for more family-sized units and deeper affordability.

Motion: Annette Spellen

Seconded by: Felix Ceballos

All in favor, motion carried.

Permits & Licenses – Blanket Vote on All PLC Items

This motion was procedural (to take all PLC items together).

Take a blanket vote on all Permits & Licenses committee recommendations.

Motion: Anne Guiney

Seconded by: Cindy Lebron

Abstentions: 1 – Z. Novoa

Motion carried.

Permits & Licenses – Substantive Vote to Accept PLC Recommendations

Content of recommendations (in brief):

- **Support:** Visit LLC; Diego's Eros; Fun Ramen House; 101 Wilson Bar alteration; Esquina del Sabor; Mum's Brooklyn (La Dock).
- **Not Support:** Danger Danger (236 Knickerbocker); Cathedral LLC (428 & 430 Troutman); Bushwick Rostiseria (no-show).
- **Deferred / No recommendation:** Bar 29 Holdings; The Sampler; Cannabis at 1009 Broadway; Pacha/Avant Gardner (no consensus).

Accept the Permits & Licenses Committee recommendations as presented.

Motion: Anne Guiney

Seconded by: Virgie Jones

Abstentions: 2 - Raul Rubio, Z. Novoa

Motion carried.

10) Old Business

Proposed Legislation – District Managers

- City Council is considering legislation that would:

- Require formal performance review every 4 years for District Managers.
- Mandate a board decision at that time on whether to retain or dismiss the DM.
- Give the Borough President the authority to remove a District Manager (this portion particularly concerning to CB4).

Current language (as understood):

- Not a hard “term limit,” but a mandatory periodic review and up-or-down decision.
- No clear HR framework or support attached.

Board Concerns (expressed by Chair and members)

- Risk of politicizing a community-driven hire, undermining local autonomy.
- Inconsistency: City not holding CEOs of publicly funded nonprofits to similar statutory review mandates.
- Potential for DMs to be removed despite strong community support, and for boards to lose control of their own staff leadership.

Next Steps

Council hearing expected in June (date TBD).

CB4 will circulate:

- Bill details when confirmed,
- Guidance for individual and collective testimony,
- Possible board position and written comments.

Members encouraged to contact their Council Members in the interim.

11) New Business

Fire Safety (Civic & Public Safety Chair, Annette Spellman)

- Noted three recent fires, including one involving four houses on a single block.
- FDNY emphasis: If a fire occurs in your home, CLOSE THE DOOR when exiting:
 - Slows fire spread,
 - Protects other residents,
 - Preserves more property.

12) Announcements

Motion: Limit announcements to one minute per person for this meeting.

Made by: Christian Celeste Tate

Seconded by: Raul Rubio

All in favor, motion carried.

Brooklyn Public Library – Washington Irving Branch (Juanita James)

Flyers available; programs include live soccer / fútbol viewing and other community offerings.

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez's Office (Kim Vega)

Community Health Fair:

- Date: Friday, May 29
- Time: 2–5 p.m.
- Location: Ellery St between Broadway & Beaver.

HPD Day at the District Office:

- Date: June 18
- Time: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Housing assistance and info.

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso's Office (Madeline Enlow)

- Pre-K–12 Graduation Awards:
 - School administrators may nominate students until Mon, June 1, 5 p.m.
- All ULURP hearings are now on the second Wednesday of each month.
- Constituents struggling with SNAP changes were encouraged to contact constituent services.

Good Good Collective (Rizzo Torres)

Teen Bushwick Summer Arts Camp (music, theater, dance, visual arts).

Goal: Fund 60 tuition-free spots for local youth (each ~\$750/week).

Seeking:

- Full scholarship sponsors,
- Any amount donations,
- Local businesses host donation jars or events.

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez's Office (Johnathan Betancourt)

Broadway repaving:

- Presented \$1.85M check to DOT (with Leader Jeffries) for resurfacing.
- FY27 federal submissions include \$5M request for Wilson Ave (L) station ADA upgrades (elevators and accessibility).

Office available for help with federal agencies (e.g., USCIS, SSA, VA).

Early Voting & Civic Participation (??)

- Early voting for upcoming elections begins Saturday, June 13 (date referenced; board urged residents to confirm exact calendar).
- Emphasis on importance of turnout for Congressional and other races.

Parks & Permits (Assembly Member Davila)

Maria Hernandez Park is a “hot ticket”; Parks often expects applications a year in advance for events.

AM Davila will work with Council and Parks to:

- Clarify when applications open,
- Advocate for better transparency and fairness (including local priority).

13) **Second Roll Call**

Present: Linda Whitfield, Yefim Vedernikoff, Michael Varley, Crystal Vargas, Ben Tocker, Christian C. Tate, James Steward II, John Stanesco, Bee Spiderman, Annette Spellen, Juan Serraty, Eunice Santiago, Josue Salazar, Raul Rubio, Shray Richardson, Cirilo Nuñez, Kristine Malden, Cindy Lebron, Nancy Keith, Tara Jones-Thomas Virgie Jones, Zachary Hendrickson, Naeema Haque, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Jason Gers, Alan Gamboa, Felix Ceballos, Robert Camacho

Did not sign in: Joanne Wu, Giovannies Justiniano, George Benjamin

Present via a remote waiver: Zulma Novoa

Excused: Milagros Sandoval, Courtney Henley, Thomas Green

Absent: Eliseo Ruiz, RED Kadetsky, Luisa Jose, Esteban Duran, Latif Bunting, Paula Almanzar, Isa Abney

Resigned: Juan Serra

14) **Adjournment**

Zulma Novoa motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Raul Rubio. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:21pm