

## Community Board No. 4

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020 6pm

Via Webex

Chairperson: Mr. Robert Camacho

District Manager: Ms. Celeste Leon

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Meeting Start: 6:07pm

The District Manager, Ms. Celeste Leon, welcomes all participants to the meeting. There is a public hearing item on the agenda and the District Manager welcomes Ms. Barbara Williams, who is here to present to the Board information regarding the Census 2020 Outreach program.

**Board members in attendance:** Chairperson Robert Camacho, Rev. Grace Aytes, Rawle Brown, Joshua Brown, Felix Ceballos, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Daniela Davi, Elvena Davis, Victoria Fernandez, Anne Guiney, Jose R. Guzman, Tanesha Honeygan, Barbara Jackson, Mary McClellan, Desmonde Monroe, Samy Nemir, Zulma Novoa, Acire Polight, Raul Rubio, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jerry Valentin, James Wiseman, Julio Salinas, Louisa Chan, Luisa Jose, Anne Guiney, Kristen Jock, Cheryl Jones, Freddy Fowler, James Fitzgerald, Egaudy Gomez, Carlotta Williams, Andrew Choi, Virgie Jones, Vernedeaner Shell, Julio Salinas and Odolph Wright

**Excused:** Rev. Migdalia Gutierrez

### Public Hearing Item

Ms. Williams, who is from the Mayor's Census Outreach Office, expresses thanks to the Board for allowing her to present this information to the Community regarding the upcoming Census. She is here to give an update with the census numbers. In the 2010 census, the numbers were at 57.2%. Ms. Williams added that the last date for the census is September 30, 2020. There are lawsuits filed in the Federal District Court to extend the dates through October 5, 2020. In this regard, outreach members are trying to work with the notion that if the lawsuit does not go through, we have to work with the September 30<sup>th</sup> date. The outreach is aimed at communities that have not been active in responding to the Census requests for filling out and returning their census 2020 information.

Further, the public must try to respond to the mail-in forms and/or send in the e-mail responses. We are currently at 56.5% responsive but we would like to get to at least the amount of responses from the 2010 census which was 57.2% of responses. That would be a win, but not a win that we would really want. In Bushwick, last time we were at a 51% self-response rate, which is still not great as that means we lost 29% of our money. This is not money that the government is giving to us, it is money that the taxpayers have given to the system and not received back due to the census. So, currently, we are at 53%. We have surpassed that by 2%. I

know that Bushwick can do so much better. We are passionate people and I am here to say that there are a lot of ways that the community can help, and we are going to be doing a number of things in the community where you can help. So, I am going to be running around like a crazy person for the next two weeks and there are instances where you can be of help. We are having something called the “Brooklyn Blitz”, which takes place on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We are going to be in different areas of Brooklyn, and if you want to come outside of your neighborhood, that is fine, but if you want to do something on your own like giving out flyers, and talking to people and tell them why this is so important and in different languages, in Spanish or otherwise, speak to people and tell them they can go on their smartphones and give a response. Tomorrow, which is 9/17/20, there will be a Phone Bank session, and call-in to low-income areas to get people to do the census and we talk to them about why it is important for them to volunteer and to be involved. This weekend, we will be in South Brooklyn and at Maria Hernandez Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and in Greenpoint and Williamsburg on the 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We also will be doing back to school giveaways so if you are aware of someone who is doing back to school, please let them know about the census. We are going to have a caravan in South Brooklyn. If you know someone who is interested let them know and we are going to have a Phone Bank coming up with a huge party and a DJ and we will be phone banking from 12:00pm until 8:00 p.m. in the evening. We are not expecting you to make 8 hours of phone calls. This is going to be a big deal for us, and this is the last time we will be phone banking and, hopefully, we will be able to get those numbers up. Are there any questions?

#### Q & A

**Ms. McClellan** questioned where do we go for this stuff? **Response:** You can go online; we will put the link for it in the chat box and you can join me, and it is done through a predictive tower. I don't know if you have used a predictive tower before, but it is a lot of fun. And, we tend to have a good time, it is the last one for 2020, so we need to get those numbers up.

Another question from **Mr. Choi** asks to have information about the lawsuit filed? **Response:** a few months ago, the President decided that it was not necessary to keep the census going until October 31. Thus, he wanted to cut the response time as well as the door-knocking. He used his Executive Power to cut the census by thirty (30) days. Some of the States decided to file a lawsuit in the Federal Court to see if we can extend the Census. We do not know if it is possible and it will be until next Tuesday when we find out if anything is possible. What is going to happen is that we are going to lose representation, federal tax dollars, and we are slated to lose two congressional seats, and Texas is going to gain, so that is important to get those days in so that we can bring the numbers up, so that we do not lose two seats.

Another question for **Barbara Williams** and the response is that I work for the City. The federal government would have the answer to the question.

Another **question** was asked Jo-Ena Bennett, do you know how many people who live in Bushwick that were hired to work on the census? **Answer:** That is a federal agency and I work for the City of New York. They're two different entities. I work for the Mayor of New York. **response** is that they have been coming to the Community Board for months and I ended up going online this week.

Another **question** was does Ms. Williams know how many people from Bushwick were hired to do the census? **Response:** Is that a lot of people did not want to go door-to-door knocking

due to the COVID virus. They are also trying to put people in communities that they know and where they live. Also, it is not been easy to get people to take the census. Ms. Williams indicates that she is passionate about the census and she can talk about it all day.

Another **question**: Are domestic violence victims afraid to do the census? Ms. Williams **response** was that when she speaks to domestic violence victims, she speaks to them from the perspective of a domestic violence survivor herself and to be safe when filling out the census.

Further discussion regarding the Census 2020 continued regarding what is at stake if we are undercounted with this census. We will lose school funding, federal funding, roads and bridges, infrastructure funding, transportation funding, specifically Amtrak, and the number of seats for our congressional representatives. Also discussed was the notion that a lot of people did not get census jobs. **Barbara Jackson** countered that if people did not get census jobs that was on them as she worked for the census, her neighbors, Christopher, and others worked for the census and they got jobs with the census. Further, that people who lived in Bushwick actually worked for the census and that she is working for the census and she is from Bushwick. Phone banking is brought up and Ms. Williams states that that information is put in the chat box and you can sign up in the chat box for any upcoming events. It is the same link and you can share it on your social media, and she has a tool kit that she can send back to the board and it can be shared with your friends and acquaintances. It is really awesome that she was invited to speak. A **question** was brought up that a daughter worked for the census for 3 weeks and she has nothing else left to do and now she is at home. A lot of these issues are Federal and anything regarding door knockers have nothing to do with the City and a lot of these issues have to do with COVID and a lot of people are not wanting to work with the census due to the COVID virus. Ms. Williams said that for herself, she is considered high-risk and she just started coming out into the field work. She intimates that it took her a while to come out into the field, but at least they were very understanding about the fact that she is considered high-risk. A lot of problems are due to COVID, but hopefully we can get those numbers up. We cannot focus on things that are happening in areas that we cannot control, but we can focus on how we get the numbers right. The District Manager thanked Ms. Williams for sharing all the valuable information. The question of City furloughs came up and the response was that if there were further questions please submit them to the Chat Panel section in the web meeting and she will be looking at those questions quite extensively and will respond. The Public Hearing is now concluded.

### **Regular Meeting**

1. **Acceptance of the Agenda as Presented**

Motion – C. Jones

Second – E. Davis

All in favor, so moved.

2. **Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion to Table – R. Camacho

Second – M. McClellan

All in favor, so moved

### 3. **ELECTIONS**

Instructions were given regarding how to conduct the election process via Webex. The District Manager gave instructions on how to conduct the elections. **Mr. Camacho** asks how is the election going to be conducted? Advice is given to the nominated individuals. They are to give a brief synopsis as to why they would like to be elected to the position to which they were nominated. Suggestions were taken as to how to proceed. Dustin Sonneborn suggests showing the form at the end of the proceeding. The form is self-explanatory. Dustin advises how he is going to conduct and emcee the election process via Webex. Each nominee will be given a chance to accept or decline:

These results: **Elections conducted for the 2020 and 2021 Term as follows and below is the new Executive Board.**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – Joshua Brown  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson – Raul Rubio  
Recording Secretary - James Fitzgerald  
Financial Secretary – Acire Polight  
Treasurer – Gardea Caphart  
Correspondence Secretary – Elvena Davis  
Parliamentarian – Odolph Wright

The Chair, Mr. Camacho, thanked all who participated in the election of the executive officers. We all have a lot of work to do. It has been a crazy year and that he hopes everyone is safe. I miss the hugs and kisses, but we all have to remain safe during this time of pandemic. He mentioned that he has not had a vacation and he has been locked at home on his computer speaking to the District Manager.

### 4. **Chairperson's Report:**

The Chairperson Mr. Camacho advises the Board of the meetings attended and the work he did over the summer recess. He advised that he had no summer vacation due to the COVID virus and his attendance at several community activities were relative to this community as follows:

June 18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday): Attended at PS 145 distributing food. I would like to thank the Borough President, Hon. Eric Adams, who introduced him to a gentleman who would like to give out food to the community and I myself and a couple of people went and we gave 5 Tuesdays in July; 1 Tuesday in August and 2 Tuesdays in June. We gave out 9,800 boxes of food to the senior citizens and other Bushwick residents. It was an awesome occasion.

June 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., I joined the CEC meeting regarding transferring PD to School Safety to DOE. It was a little crazy, but I was in that Panel.

That same day, I had to switch off my computer to log into another panel at 6:00 p.m., I had a conference livestreamed with Congresswoman Velasquez regarding the defunding of the police, and defunding from the Federal Government relative to the COVID pandemic. As you are aware, when it comes to defunding, it is mostly the Latinos and Blacks, and people like us, because we have been there before. So, we have to make sure that if it is defunded, it is the people who have the money and the people who don't have the money continue to stay here.

Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., I attended a Town Hall meeting set up by the Brooklyn District Attorney, Eric Gonzalez.

Friday, June 26, 2020, I attended the Knickerbocker Avenue Task force (I know that you should have received the email because they were sent out) regarding the Plaza being dirty. They have been feeding pigeons, and in dealing with that we went around Knickerbocker, (myself and Celeste), and advised the stores and restaurants that they will have to clean the streets from the front of their businesses to 18" from the curb because the Department of Sanitation is going to commence giving out summonses again.

Tuesday, July 7, 2020: I testified at defunding the Police Officers at the Precinct.

Thursday, July 9, 2020: I attended a meeting with a new organization in Bushwick, Clean Bushwick Initiative, who is doing a good job, helping to clean up of many of the dirty areas in the community. They had an activity. It is in my report. It is lengthy,

Wednesday, July 15, 2020: Wednesday: Celeste and I attended Community Board Needs Assessment meeting.

Thursday, July 16, 2020: Attended the Knickerbocker Task Force meeting again.

Friday, July 17, 2020: Me and Celeste attended at a RAD meeting at Hope Gardens Development, regarding the work being conducted at the Hope Gardens Housing. They came back and they are fixing up the Hope Gardens development and they are working out there.

Friday, July 17, 2020: The Bushwick sidewalk extensions project on Wyckoff is dead. The DOT is not continuing the work there. It is dead on arrival. I guess someone made a phone call and they decided to cancel it.

Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, visited the District Office regarding setting up the Board Committee assignments.

Friday, July 3, 2020: I attended an event from Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez office regarding the PPE cash for the small businesses in Bushwick that are closing due to the virus and trying to obtain cash forgiveness loans to keep them from closing down.

Thursday, August 6, 2020: the Bushwick Task Force met again to make sure that businesses in our community Knickerbocker Avenue keep the fronts and sidewalks clean during the pandemic.

Thursday, August 6, attended a walk-through visit to Hope Gardens Buildings with, Nydia Velasquez, Julio, Sen. Salazar's assistant, and Paula. We did a surprise visit and walked through the building and some of the stuff was horrendously done. The doors were pinned open, the floors were not mopped and cleaned. and the basement boiler rooms were un-locked, and anyone could tamper with the boilers and cause a fire, and the doors were not closed. It is going to be a touchy situation with the RAD.

At 7:00 p.m., met with the NAB regarding funding because of the epidemic. Some of the funding possibly may still be coming through.

August 6, 2020, met with Sen. Maritza Davila regarding 900 Wyckoff Avenue property for the creation of 200 units of housing. We intend to set up a meeting with the Owner and the Housing and Land Use Committee. (HLU).

Tuesday, August 18, 2020: We met with the Permits and Licensing Committee regarding what they had been working on and for an update of the status of the applicants. That information will be presented in the Licensing Committee's report. Further, we now especially have to make sure that the community has the services they need because of food being taken out and not being able to eat in restaurants. We also have to make sure that we are supporting our local businesses.

Tuesday, August 18, 2020: We also had a telephone conference meeting with the District Manager. No committee chairs were present at that call. We are advised that we have to voluntarily lay people off and we advised that we are not planning to let anyone go.

Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. we met with an owner who wants to build affordable housing and would like to meet with HLU committee. The proposed builder wants to build deeply affordable housing. The area is zoned for M-1 and he wants approval. Of course, if it is for housing, the area will have to be rezoned to R (Residential). He will have to go through the HLU committee for their review and approval.

Mr. Camacho also indicated that he fought very hard to get the 37<sup>th</sup> District Board Members reinstated to the Board, and he also attended a 37<sup>th</sup> District community panel in Cypress Hills /East New York. The meeting was very intense regarding the lack of representation for the community at this time. He spoke regarding the absence and how everything is frozen at this time due to the lack of a councilperson representing the district. Several district gardens are over there, and food was being delivered from Maryland to the residents during this pandemic. The truck drivers who drove the food up from Maryland indicated that they had not been paid therefore, they would not be delivering any further food donations.

We are still trying to co-name Menahan Street and Knickerbocker in memory of Det Joseph D. Taylor deceased of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. I am trying to get the new Commanding Officer, Inspector Casazza, on board with the co-naming and bring him up to date on this project before the late Detective's family relocates. We are trying for October 10<sup>th</sup> and hopefully we can get all Board Members there to support the co-naming. We need to support this as we support Black Lives Matter. This Detective gave up his life protecting the Bushwick Community 43 years ago.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020: Attended the Precinct Council affair where gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, bookbags, photo ID's were taken, and ID's given the neighborhood students before their attendance back at school for the Fall Term.

On August 21, 2020: Met with our new Deputy Inspector Casazza of the 83d Pct. He advised that he will meet with the Executive Board. He is now familiarizing himself with the Bushwick Community and will meet with the Executive Board and the Community Board in the near future.

Sunday, 8/30/20. Out all day on community business.

Sunday, 9/6/20: Attendance at Community Fundraiser for Bushwick Initiative on St. Nicholas Avenue. Purchased a tee shirt and helped clean the block. It was a very nice affair. The truck was on St. Nicholas Ave. side and I did not attend church that day. Right Ms. Davis.?

Tuesday, 9/8/20: Telephone conference with Council Speaker Corey Johnson with regards to matters in the 37<sup>th</sup> District. Also, further we are still continuing our fight to have our 7 members of 37<sup>th</sup> reinstated. The absence of those members leaves the community out of balance as far as Board matters are concerned.

**Mr. Desmonde Monroe** asked if Mr. Camacho represented the Community Board members when he attended the hearing regarding police funding or represent himself?

In **response** to the question as to my testifying at a Police Dept. conference, I testified in my own behalf as a citizen and homeowner, and Bushwick resident, regarding funding for our Police Department. I testified and attended this hearing under my own volition and not as a Chair of the CB. Also, everyone who testified at the conference did so on their behalf of themselves and using their own name and clarification was made as to why they were there and who they are.

On 9/09/2020: We went to Brooklyn Borough North to give out hand sanitizers, masks, and other items for the youth children to take home and back to school. Celeste and I have been busy with all the activities going on in this community.

On 9/10/2020: Met with the Comptroller's Office Staff. We advised them what we needed in the community and plan meetings for the near future.

Continuing with our meeting. There was a **question** as to what services does the police provide as relates to the 83d Pct.? In response to that question, the best answer would come from the Captain or Commanding Officer or representative from the precinct, who tonight are not present here and, therefore, we will set up a meeting with representatives from the 83d Pct. in the near future.

Requesting responses through Zoom:

Coalition for Hispanic Family Services: Ms. Butler, are you there? No reps from the 83d Pct. are present.

## 5. District Manager's Report

I will be brief this evening as Mr. Camacho went over what we worked on over the summer and through this meeting. Good evening everyone. I hope you all had a good healthy summer this year, a Happy Labor Day and I welcome all of you back after the summer. I hope you have been able to navigate life with COVID. It is important to assess the importance of the virus on our mental health and our community. It is important to check in with one another. The elders in our community may tell us that it is history repeating itself but one thing that is different is that we all have witnessed mobilizations all across the country and we have seen the people come together to provide when the government has not been able to do so.

I want to thank you all for coming together this evening and thank you all for helping out Bushwick and thank you all for caring and keeping the neighborhood clean and safe. I also would like to note that this is such a busy time of the year and we have the Borough Board Consultations and the Community District Needs statement coming up as well. It is crucial for us and all New Yorkers to understand the impact that this pandemic has had on the City's budget. If you have seen or heard the news, Mr. Camacho and I have been in touch with the Comptroller's Budget Office regarding these concerns and we are in the process of coordinating a public hearing presentation sometime in October for them to provide an overview of the impact that the pandemic as well as the impact that the pandemic has to the city's budget.

Below are some events that may be of special interest:

Before I continue, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has joined us this evening and has taken part in mutual aid efforts and thank you for playing a part in making it a safer place to live. I also would like to thank Ms. Blanche Romey, who is one of our Community Members from the Pilling Street Block Association. If you google National Geographic and put in Blanche Romey you will find out how older Americans survive the isolation and loneliness of the Pandemic. I also just want to add that Ms. Romy is someone who calls me on a regular basis and

tells me what is going on at her end of the community and she is truly an inspiration. She has lived in Bushwick for many decades and is committed to amplifying this community's presence and making sure we have what we need. And I am so delighted that she shared the article with me and that she was able to be featured in National Geographic.

Moving on to the meetings that I attended, Mr. Camacho has already discussed the Sanitation Working Group as it is an ongoing effort. Anyone that is interested in getting involved, please reach out to us. I want to also give a special shoutout to RiseBoro and thank them along with the Clean Bushwick Initiative, Tony's Pizza, and all our agency partners, especially the Department of Sanitation and Councilmember Reynoso's office. They continue to support all our efforts as well.

On Friday, I attended a meeting with the Brooklyn District Managers where we discussed many of our common, shared concerns. Regarding returning to work, for those of you who do not know, all Community Board staff continue to work from home as our building remains closed. The building is owned by the City (HRA), and we await additional guidance for when it will reopen. We will certainly post information online as well as send out a note to the community once we reopen. I was on many calls and many events during this time and attending meetings. At this juncture, I will not go through all of them. I will summarize. The NYC Civic Engagement Commission shared their needs assessment presentation where they engaged with the Boards during the Spring and essentially provided us with a summary of their findings. Their work is largely tailored towards what was included in their creation, which is focused on language access, land use, and other support and engagement.

There was also an overview provided to the Community Boards in Brooklyn for contact tracing and the work being done citywide. They addressed questions about the initiative. Similarly, if you have questions about contact tracing and testing for COVID, please feel free to reach out to us.

The sidewalk expansion initiative is no longer moving forward based upon our last conversation with DOT.

We have also conducted a walkthrough of Stanwix and Melrose and continue to file complaints regarding the dangerous intersections and speeding vehicles. Please let us know where you come across dangerous intersections so we can provide this information to the proper city agency. The Department Transportation and DOITT also provided an overview on the rollout of 5G. Board members should have received the notices to provide comments over the summer.

Moving along, there were many calls with Con Edison and NYC Emergency Management, regarding any weather-related events. Those agencies were making sure that we had up to date information and how to better prepare the community for the hurricane related problems and for recovery. I do not believe that Bushwick was hit particularly hard by the tropical storm.

I, also, once again volunteered to be the Borough Consultation Coordinator. I will be working with all my colleagues and District Managers across Brooklyn to set up the agendas for this year's Budget Consultations, make sure that the agencies have moderators for our discussions as Mr. Camacho mentioned previously. We had our first day of consultations this Monday. It was well attended and we continue to engage the agencies on how we can prepare for the future especially in light of the pandemic and all of the challenges that are ahead of us and how the community can continue to adapt to get through these times.

I have also been invited to participate in a strategic planning process RiseBoro. The Bushwick Community Partnership sponsored by the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services are also going through a strategic planning process. I have been participating in both providing feedback on the planning process as they look toward the future and continue to adapt their services to an evolving community.

I also want to acknowledge, briefly, one of our Board members, Chris Graham, who is one of the seven board members who is temporarily off the board. We did receive the news that your mother passed, and we like to acknowledge Chris. We know you are on the call this evening, and of course, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We care about all our Board Members and thank you to all of the Board Members who sent and offered words of support.

Moving along, there were a few other calls and events. I am not trying to repeat anything that Mr. Camacho mentioned and while I am at it, each staff person assists with different committees. I assist Housing and Land Use, the Executive Board, and the District Office Committee; Sharon assists the Youth and Education Committee, Health/Human Services/Senior Citizens and Veterans Committee, Civic/Public Safety/Religious Committee. Willie Morales assists Arts, Culture and Technology, Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation and Permits and Licenses. If you have any questions related to those committees, please feel free to call and ask me or ask Willie or Sharon. Thanks to them for their continued assistance. I must add thanks to them for adapting to the virtual meetings, as well. A lot of the responsibilities are changing as we continue to navigate a new way during this time. That is the conclusion of my report.

## **6. Committee Reports**

**Permits and Licenses Committee:** Melissa Carrera, Chairperson

I would like to thank the committee for meeting during the summer. I know it was not easy, so I appreciate everyone for showing up. We met on August 18th at 6:00 p.m. We had a total of 5 license applications.

I. **Taqueria Iguana, a Mexican Restaurant, located at 146 Knickerbocker Ave.** It is all in the report that I sent out. I do want to give a quick overview of the establishments and who they are, and hours of operation. So, they want to stay open until 4:00 am, which hours are quite excessive. The committee's response was negative, and we wanted to have them update their business hours to reflect our recommendations and stipulations after speaking with them.

II. **Sajhoma, which is located at 941 Broadway,** is a family-owned restaurant serving Dominican food and has been in existence before COVID-19. They were looking for additional revenue through the liquor license. They have no outdoor space. They just going to do drinks and taking out.

III. **Ven, 555 Knickerbocker Avenue** located across from Irving Square Park. It is currently an office space that will be converted to a coffee shop. Hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

IV. **Sopa de Caracol, located at 186 Knickerbocker Avenue,** a Honduran Restaurant, family owned, and they are hoping to get outdoor seating before the winter rolls around. Original hours are Monday to Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., and we were able to work with them on the hours of operation and have them agree to a stipulation.

V. **P.K. Riders, located at 31 Wyckoff Avenue** is a Korean Restaurant with three existing locations; New Jersey, Greenpoint and now Bushwick. They have non-controversial hours: Monday to Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

These 5 new applications came through the committee. We did discuss old business regarding Carmelo's, which is located at 1544 DeKalb Ave., Celeste spoke with Mr. Matthew Webber, one of the Owners, as they have been having an on-going conflict with the neighbors regarding 311 calls. There is more information in the report. We have shown interest in what is actually going on here and it seems that the complaints are from one specific person who just does not like the business. So, they have been doing everything to be compliant and work with the community.

Under new business we did share some updates on some new establishments that have come across the committee in the past few months. Namely, Cantina located at 140 St, Nicholas Avenue, they basically needed a formal Letter of Support from the committee. We were able to provide that over the summer. A special thank you to Celeste for helping us out with that and we are making sure that we can help our people right now and help them in the current conditions. We also spoke about the Bushwick Hall of Music located on Troutman Street, where in the SLA issued hours of operation and the applicant contested them and wants the Board to support a change. We discussed this and were only to give an update on the current hours.

Gem Bar on Broadway & Halsey is discussed here where the Bar just seemed to pop up. Ms. Jackson advises that it had hundreds of people out there. Discussion was made as to when they received a liquor license.

**Environmental, Protection and Parks & Recreation Committees:** Raul Rubio, Chairperson

Most of the report is informational. He did not have a quorum and he is not going line by line.

(i) Mr. Rubio gave updates regarding **Revel** about the fatalities that had occurred with the Revel Scooters. There are a few key points that he wants to point out. If anyone else wants to dig deeper, we can pull out the report and go over it a later date. The people from Revel wanted to come and give updates because of Revel being shut down by the City. Currently, they have reopened again. They came to talk about some of the safety features that are put into place, which is they are trying to maintain new their standards of thinking. Anyone in the future will have to take a quiz before rental. They have to make sure they have helmets on before they ride, and they are endeavoring to make sure that the people are riding the right way. The committee asked them to bring in graphics and data because they know about the fatalities, but they did not know about the complete number of accidents. The suggestions from the committee was that they should put better signage on the scooters so that people can report when they are being misused by the riders. Phone numbers should be on the front and visible on the back of the scooter. Other suggestions include they should put cameras on the scooters. They also recommend training sessions and hands on training on how to use the scooters better.

(ii) **Stockholm St. Community Garden:** Information provided by Steven Tripari and John McGrath, our community gardeners who have the garden that is backed up by the Green Thumb Program. They are looking to take over a lot at 139 and 143 Stockholm Street, formerly used by the NYPD. They want to take it over and stop illegal dumping, make it a community space, and have community volunteers to man the garden certain hours of the day. They want it to be used for the community Green Thumb and supposedly they will help financially with materials and

other items that they need to flourish the garden lots. They came to use for a letter of recommendation.

We are going to recommend the letter. The biggest thing was that it is only going to be for 2 years because they will be signing a separate lease with the City. After the two years, it will revert to the NYPD. We do not know what plans NYPD has for it at that point. That is pretty much my report.

Mr. Rubio further advised that he has received a lot of reports about rat activity particularly around the Hope Gardens area. We recommend as well that we just need to get the rat incidents reported to 311. Mr. Camacho has been talking to RAD, which is the entity that manages Hope Gardens. Mr. Rubio continuing by stating that if Willie can track what is going on in Bushwick with the rodent problems, then we might be able to work to figure out a strategy. Ultimately, the biggest thing that does help is that if people are reporting these issues then it is something that we can keep track of. If we are keeping track of it, we can put in a case for more resources or we need to make another survey and another Rat Academy Program. That is the bulk of it and the other thing is the recommendation that we give the Stockholm Garden the Letter of Recommendation and I think they will do a really good job. It looks like a win for us and they have the support from GreenThumb, and it is a win-win situation.

Continuing regarding Sanitation: Mr. Camacho indicates that we will make inspections with Zuma and other elected officials, look at the rat burrows. The rats have the food and water and then the area becomes overrun by rodents. They said they are going to take care of it. The garbage needs to be picked up by Sanitation more expediently. The owner said he would take care of everything. Mr. Rubio report ends.

**Housing and Land Use Committee:** Anne Guiney, Chairperson

Good evening everyone. Just a shout-out to Martha Brown who led this committee for so many years with capability knowledge and we cannot wait until the situation in the 37th District gets straightened out and then she is back and continuing to add her knowledge and experience to the HLUC.

My report is informational. On June 30th, we met at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Rubio made an introduction regarding the Bushwick Brownfield opportunity area. Mr. Rubio and Mr. Halili gave an update on this program and Raul walked us through the work they had been going. Mr. Rubio really has much more of the essence of what is going on, so, if we have any questions, we can direct them to Mr. Rubio. This was an update and there is no vote.

The next item of business is the Church Needs Survey that Celeste gave and letting us know what is going forward with that. There is an update as to what is going on with the Pilling Street development at Pilling and Evergreen Ave. The response is that there has been little information received thus far. Further, the project for 900 Wyckoff Ave., which Mr. Camacho advised previously in his report is: we do not know what is going on as of now but we are absolutely look closely at any and all developments pertaining to these areas. There were no votes taken and this report is informational only.

**Health—Committee Report:** Ms. Cheryl Jones, Chairperson

I would like to thank Celeste and the Committee for my Chair appointment. To briefly summarize, our meeting was Thursday, September 10, 6:00 p.m. We had a full committee. The presentation was given by Mr. Johnson, Chief Compliance Officer and CEO of NYPCC regarding an application to OASES to provide for persons with substance abuse problems in the existing facility known as 102 Pilling Street, Bushwick, Brooklyn. The committee recommended that as we did not get information and input from the community as to how this will impact us, we are tabling this matter for future discussion.

The other item we discussed is for getting information out that everyone must and should get a flu shot this season. We also recommend that you get a COVID 19 testing and we will provide all the help that is needed for the general public to get these shots.

**7. Recommendations:**

**Permits and Licenses:**

- a. The Committee recommended that Iguana at 146 Knickerbocker Ave., we approve the application with the proposed stipulations that the hours be changed from Monday - Thursday 11:00 am to 1:00 a.m.; Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.,; and Sundays: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. with no alcohol be sold until 12:00 noon on Sundays. Mr. Camacho approves; Dustin Sanborn seconded. All in favor. Approved.
- b. Second recommendation: Houma, 941 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY: We want to approve as is with the business hours Monday through Sunday, from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. and the establishment is easily with total compliance with no selling of liquor after 12:00 on Sundays.

(The DM suggests that the Board consider that we combine all these together, so we do not have to go through each establishment one by one. We will take a motion from the

Board to have all establishment put together). Is there a motion from the Board? Motion approved and Ms. Carrera can just summarize the recommendations. Mr. Sanborn motions to accept the Licensing Committee recommendations. All in Favor. Recommendations approved.

**EPTS/PRC Recommendations:**

Mr. Rubio: Stockholm Street Garden: Is there a recommendation from the Stockholm Street Garden proposal and their request for a Letter of Support? I recommend that they are supported with the Garden. Cheryl Jones and Lisa Chan motions that approve. All are in favor, so moved.

**Executive Board Recommendation:**

Regarding the Executive Boards recommendation for CB4 staff member, Sharon Fludd's merit increase. The DM prefaces this by saying that they did receive guidance from the City's OMB. Unfortunately, due to the City's finances, they are not moving toward merit increases at this time. However, they will be revisiting the conversation made in January 2020, where I recommended the Board consider passing this or voting this evening. I have already advised the Executive Board. I feel that the raise is deserved, and this has been a pending matter. If someone would like to make a motion based on that recommendation in the committee.

Chairperson, Mr. Camacho stated, I think we should wait until January. We do not want to create any loopholes with regard to this matter. The District Manager respectfully responds to Mr. Camacho noting this raise is deserved by Ms. Fludd, and this has been a pending matter for quite some time and the Board has been clear regarding this. So far as the City's circumstances are concerned, that does not have anything to do with Ms. Fludd. I recommend the Board make a motion to make a merit increase of 9%. The recommendation from the Executive Board was 9%. So, it would not be effective until January. There is a motion on the floor by Ms. Jackson to make the increase retroactive. There is a second to this recommendation. Ms. Polight seconded the recommendation. All members in favor say aye. Motion carried. Raise recommended at 9% retroactive.

8. **No Old Business**

9. **No New Business**

10. **Announcements**

Marcus Harris from the Borough President's Office noting that Brooklyn has a low response rate to the Census. Please make sure that as many people respond as possible. Also, if anyone needs PPE's go to our website brooklyn-usa.org and we will accommodate you on the supplies that they have.

Announcement made earlier that DC 37 Office is up and running. If no one answers the phone, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Census information will be out in Irving Square Park Saturday at 2:00 p.m. giving out information to D37 residents and signing people up for the census. Call John Blasco at D37 offices, 718-642-8664

Barbara Jackson: Voting will be taking place at 405 Bushwick Avenue

**11. SECOND ROLL CALL**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Dustin Sanborn and second by Zulma Novoa

Meeting Adjourned: 8:37PM