

**Brooklyn Community Board 9**  
**890 Nostrand Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**Economic Development Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10, 2025**

**Attendance (Board Members):** Vanessa Raptopoulos; Rohaan Menon

**Attendance (Community Resident Members):** Willa Thompson; Joyce Williams

**Absent (Board Members):** Volney Joseph

**Absent (Committee Resident Members):** Bruce Kirton

**Guests:** Lisa Etienne; Elyse Merro

**CB9 Staff:** Dante B. Arwine, District Manager

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1. Welcome everyone but especially new members.
  - a. We lightly reviewed how the community board works, and the number of meetings per month. We discussed the difference between committee meetings, executive meetings and general board meetings. We also talked about resident members and what their responsibilities are vs board members. We also did a quick introduction to what brought us all to Economic Development. People discussed hoping for a mixer or some sort where new members could meet each other.
    - i. To Do: Ask the board about an event to welcome board members old and new.
2. Review of last year's work
  - a. Discussed the shop small guide and the introduction last year before the holiday season. What we accomplished and touched on ramping it up to a better version. Rohaan displayed and discussed interest in helping the Canva side of the project.
    - i. We decided that we needed Ethan to come to the meeting to show us the finished maps so we can take over from where he has finished.
      1. To Do: Invite Ethan to the next meeting to show us the map progress.
3. Discussed the happy hour we hosted for business owners last year. The event was in the spring at Miss Barbs with a good turnout in late April. We discussed learning that there was also a need from business owners who work from home who want to connect with other business owners. In the past we had focused more on brick and mortar but we learned that these work from home businesses also wanted more community events for b2b. The event was a success while we recognized a few areas that we needed to work on

before the next event. We also felt that an activity/ice breaking game would be great for another event like this.

- a. To Do: Decide a fall event that we want to host for business owners.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Some ideas floated around
  - i. Having a dedicated WhatsApp channel for Economic Development where we can post resources for business owners who subscribe. We think it may be an easier way for people who need business specific help to go.
    1. To Do: Ask the Exec Board how we go about getting a WhatsApp channel and how do we manage it?
- b. Teaming up with someone to put up a new mural in the neighborhood. Could it be a way to get kids involved, how do we get a wall? Who pays for it? We had a lot of questions about how this happens but we liked the idea of murals being a beautification project that helps with how people feel about their surroundings. Not sure if this would be another committee's work more than ours but worth discussing further.
- c. Scavenger hunt was an idea we came up with last year but logistically we didn't know how to go about doing it. This year we realize we probably cannot do it alone and we wanted to invite The Flatbush Merchants Association and I am Caribbean to join us for a meeting where we could discuss partnering up and pulling off a project like this together.
  - i. To do - Invite I am Caribbean and Flatbush Merchants to our meeting to discuss teaming up.

#### 5. To do list/ beginning ideas for Agenda for October:

- a. Shop small map presentation - Ethan?
- b. Whats app status – Ethan
- c. Discuss location/time/activity/name for fall business mingle event.
- d. Continue scavenger hunt convo for logistical ideas and partnerships.

#### 6. Adjournment

- a. Meeting ended - 8:20pm.