

**ESCR CAG Meeting -- May 28, 2026**  
(via Zoom)

**CAG members present**

|                                                                                          |
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| Wendy Brawer<br>Christine Datz-Romero<br>Ayo Harrington<br>Dianne Lake<br>Michael Marino |
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[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

**ESCR Presentation**

*Ethan Kraft, HNTB-LiRo*

1. Employment and Training Fair
  - a. Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:00pm to 6:00pm
  - b. St. Mary's Church garden/courtyard 440 Grand Street
  - c. Hosted by ESCR team, Grand Street Guild, Catholic Charities, Church of Saint Mary
  - d. Connect with workforce organizations, unions, and public agencies to learn more about skills, certifications, and local training programs
2. PA1 Construction Activities (*see map on slide 10*)
  - a. Floodwall construction. Parks maintenance area construction. Soil excavation.
  - b. Construction of Parks maintenance & tennis buildings.
  - c. E. Houston Street retaining wall activities.
  - d. Deep sewer work, floodwall construction. Esplanade reconstruction.
  - e. Utility work. **Preparation for E. 10th Street bridge construction. Preparation for E. 13th Street floodwall construction.**
  - f. Phase 1 amenities OPEN. Spring planting.
  - g. Ongoing partial FDR lane closures at various locations for bridge & floodwall work, including median work from E. 10th Street to E. 14th Street.
3. PA1 E. 10th St. Bridge Construction (*see map on slides 11-12*)
  - a. Awaiting completion of Con Edison work on E. 10th St in order to have a more definitive timeline.
  - b. Work and staging area expected to be in place in early- to mid-June, pending DOT, NYPD/FDNY, and NYCHA coordination
  - c. Construction phasing (approx. 12-14 months total):
    - i. Work and staging area established (1-2 weeks)
    - ii. Installation of ramp and abutment piles (2-3 months)
      1. This will be a **noisy and disruptive** daytime operation
    - iii. Assembly of bridge on E. 10th Street (2 months)
    - iv. Bridge placement (1 night)

- v. Construction of ramps (6-7 months)
  - d. **Building access will be maintained at all times**
  - e. Access to FDR Drive Service Road will be limited during the day to ensure safety of public and workers during certain operations
  - f. **Parking at E. 10th Street and FDR Drive Service Road will be limited to ensure safe passage of emergency vehicles**
4. PA1 E. 13th St. Flood Protection Construction (*see map on slides 13-14*)
- a. **Water main work awaiting completion of Con Edison fiber wrapping work**
    - i. **Water main work will require a brief water shutdown**, with water restored at the end of the day
    - ii. CCLs will provide 72-hour notice before shutdown in English, Spanish, and Chinese
  - b. Underground floodwall infrastructure will be drilled into the ground east of FDR (in East River Park) and west of FDR (near Riis)
  - c. Underground infrastructure needed for floodgates crossing the FDR Drive will be driven, **which is a noisy and disruptive operation**
    - i. Noise monitors in place and additional mitigation opportunities being explored
  - d. Unfortunately, **this work is required by DOT to be performed at night (roughly 10pm to 6am)**
  - e. Anticipated to begin in early- to mid-June
  - f. When dates are confirmed, we will provide as much advance notice as possible via formal advisories and at [nyc.gov/escr/nightwork](https://nyc.gov/escr/nightwork)
5. PA1 Construction Photos (*see slides 15-18*)
- a. Installation of formwork for Houston St. retaining wall
  - b. Parks Maintenance and Operations building near Field 7
  - c. Irrigation and planting installation near Tennis Courts
  - d. Tree installation near Tennis Courts
  - e. Esplanade paver base installation near Fields 3 & 4
  - f. Installation of Combi-Wall and Cutoff Wall near Track – May 2026
  - g. Tree installation near Amphitheater & Corlears Hook Ferry
  - h. Construction of sewer outfall near Track and Field
  - i. Branch interceptor sewer installation
6. PA1 What We've Heard
- a. Public restroom building being installed near fields 1 & 2
    - i. ESCR Community Engagement team hasn't received inquiries
    - ii. Per PRB team, construction began earlier this month and is anticipated to complete by end of year
  - b. Tree growth rates
    - i. Transplant transition can take approx. 1-2 years
    - ii. After that, all species have a growth rate of 1'-3' per year
    - iii. Many factors contribute to growth rate, so high level of variation
  - c. July 4<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Multi-agency coordination ongoing, led by Mayor's office (No firm answer if it will be open, but we'll share that info. as soon as we have it.)
  - d. Soil testing and results
    - i. Extensive soil testing has been performed in multiple areas on multiple dates in the areas around these work sites

- ii. Samples are collected by a City-approved subconsultant and tests are performed by City-approved, state-certified environmental labs following strict federal and state requirements and industry standards
    - iii. CM Epstein office has previously requested and received results through FOIL process
    - iv. ESCR Community Engagement team shared information with Riis TA to initiate FOIL process; we are here to support when that request is made.
  - e. Nightwork
    - i. DOT OCMC's nightwork policy: "due to high traffic volume in both direction of the FDR, lane closures will only be permitted in the overnight hours. This applies to everyone including our in-house crews except for an emergency that jeopardize the safety of the travelling public."
7. PA1 Targeted outreach for upcoming work
- a. Summary of engagement efforts since March:
    - i. 3/17/26 – Riis Construction Updates Presentation (Virtual)
    - ii. 3/24/26 – Riis Construction Updates Presentation (Virtual)
    - iii. 4/14/26 – Riis Tenant Association Meeting
    - iv. 4/15/26 – CCL Flyering at Riis Pantry
    - v. 4/23/26 –Community Advisory Group Presentation / Meeting
    - vi. 4/29/26 – CCL Flyering at Riis Pantry
    - vii. 5/4/26 – CCL Flyering at Riis
    - viii. 5/5/26 – Riis Construction Updates Presentation (Virtual)
    - ix. 5/6/26 – CCL Flyering at NYCHA Riis
    - x. 5/7/26 – Riis Construction Updates Presentation (Virtual)
    - xi. 5/12/26 – Riis Tenant Association Meeting
    - xii. 5/13/26 – CCL Flyering at Riis Pantry
    - xiii. 5/19/26 – PSA4 Construction Updates Presentation
    - xiv. 5/20/26 – Tabling at Jobs Plus Community Resource Fair
    - xv. 5/28/26 – Community Advisory Group Presentation / Meeting
  - b. Engagement team attending all Riis TA meetings**
  - c. Will schedule virtual meeting(s) as schedule is finalized
  - d. **Updates related to nightwork to be provided on dedicated web page:**  
[nyc.gov/escr/nightwork](https://nyc.gov/escr/nightwork)
  - e. Ongoing coordination with NYCHA re: email blasts to residents.
  - f. We appreciate any support elected officials and CAG members are able to provide in communicating project updates to residents.**
8. Call for Art 2026
- a. Invitation for community members to submit visual artwork to be printed on construction fencing, **with an emphasis towards residents of NYCHA Riis.**
  - b. Themes:
    - i. What stories, cultures, and identities make NYC's waterfront unique?
    - ii. What does climate resiliency mean to you?
  - c. **Email <mailto:ESCRCL1@ddccr.com> to make digital submission or arrange a pick-up; or submit at a drop-off location at the Riis management office or the Tompkins Square Library.**
  - d. **Flyers available in English, Spanish, and Chinese**
  - e. **Deadline for submissions: October 16, 2026**
  - f. Call for Art website: [on.nyc.gov/4eqUBPI](https://on.nyc.gov/4eqUBPI)

9. Environmental and Air Quality Monitoring (AQM)

- a. PA1 AQM Locations – same spots as in the last few months (*see map on page 31*)
- b. April 2026 AQM Update
  - i. There were quite a few alerts that were below 30 minutes; a few were of longer duration. In those instances, we applied dust suppression techniques.
  - ii. Given summer's increase in wind and dust, we've reminded the contractor to apply the necessary mitigation techniques to keep the dust down.

10. PC Construction Activities

- a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Corlears Hook Park (Water St. and South St. complete)
  - i. Sewer installation
- b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St. S
  - i. Sewer installation complete
- c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St. N
  - i. Sewer installation
- d. Location 4 – E. Houston St. & Columbia St.
  - i. Sewer installation
- e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18th
  - i. Utility relocation
  - ii. Water main
  - iii. Sewer installation
- f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23<sup>rd</sup> – work here expected to increase this summer
  - i. Utility relocation
  - ii. Test pits

11. PC Work in Corlears Hook Park

- a. Completed
  - i. Test pits and subsurface investigations
- b. Coordination ongoing, to be scheduled
  - i. Utility work
  - ii. PC sewer installation
  - iii. Water main installation
- c. Anticipated to begin by end of year
  - i. Final restoration (including playground and turf area)

12. PC Work in Vicinity of Williamsburg Bridge

- a. Test pits and subsurface investigations
  - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (&Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
- b. Utility work
  - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (&Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
- c. Water main installation
  - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (&Lewis St.); to be schedule at a future date for Delancey St. N (& Baruch Dr.)
- d. PC sewer installation

- i. Completed at Delancey St. S (&Lewis St.); in progress at Delancey St. N (& Baruch Dr.) - completion anticipated mid-July
  - e. Final restoration
    - i. To be scheduled at a future date for Completed at Delancey St. S (&Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
13. PC Work at E. Houston and Columbia Streets
- a. Test pit and subsurface investigations – complete
  - b. Utility work – complete
  - c. PC sewer installation – in progress
  - d. Final restoration – to be scheduled at a future date
14. PC Construction Photos (*see slide 35*)
- a. Construction of deep drop manhole at Delancey St. N and Baruch Drive
  - b. Installation of precast riser into deep drop manhole at Delancey St. N and Baruch Drive
  - c. Construction of deep drop manhole around live sewer at Delancey St. N and Baruch Drive
15. Upcoming meetings
- a. NYCHA Riis Tenant Association Meeting - Tuesday, June 9
  - b. CB3 Parks Committee - Thursday, June 11
  - c. Next CAG - Thursday, June 25

## Q and A

Michael: Following up on the ponding due to the elevated areas. Your last email said that you're assessing whether or not this falls into the scope of the ESCR contract. How does this not fall into the ESCR scope?

Ethan: The reason is because it's happening in multiple areas; they need to make sure it wasn't a pre-existing condition before the construction began. They're working on engineering solutions where possible to alleviate this issue.

Michael: What is the latest on the sewer grate replacements?

Ethan: The last update I heard was at the end of this month, and since that's where we are, I will get back to you to see if that's still accurate.

Wendy: You're planting trees now, but I thought this happened during cool weather. How will planting them in the hot season affect their viability and growth?

Ethan: There are stipulations for the temperature and time of year they can be planted, so given that the contractor has to replace any plants that don't survive, I think they'd be unlikely to plant knowing that they'd die. Our landscape architects are involved and making sure everything is going where it needs to be and also following the planting schedule.

Wendy: Are there contingency plans if the park isn't open on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?

Ethan: Not that I'm aware of. From our construction perspective, we're going to go through extra efforts to make sure our site is secure, but I can't speak to what Parks' contingencies are though I know it's on their radar.

Wendy: Is the entire turf field in Corlears being replaced again? Wasn't it just replaced a couple years ago?

Ethan: I'll have to find out if the whole turf is being replaced or just the area that we've taken.

Michael: I think I know the answer. When you guys took the turf field is when you put in the new turf for the field that was left open. It was always my understanding that you would be adding new turf to what you've closed. I could be wrong.

Ethan: I'll take that back and double-check.

Michael: If you are going to be replacing the whole turf, I think the community would prefer real grass over Astro turf.

Ethan: Understood; thank you.

### **CAG-only portion**

Michael: I wanted to get Ethan on record about the ponding issues we're having in Corlears because of the raised structure and the fact that they didn't put sewers where they should have put them. The rain pours down the hill from the flagpole area and pools where the hill meets the flat land, and it stays there for days until we do something about it. It blocks the entryway to the dog run and the other path on the other side.

Marty Zack, CM Maloney: A constituent raised concerns about graffiti on the project and a lack of maintenance, but I don't know the location. Do you know of any remediation efforts?

Dianne: If it's one of your constituents, they're probably talking about the floodwall in Stuy Cove Park. I think the answer is that someone would have to check in with Solar One and Ethan to find out who's currently responsible for removing graffiti from that area. That's my best guess.

Michael: It's our understanding that graffiti maintenance in open areas became the responsibility for whatever city department is responsible for that issue. As Dianne said, they're probably talking about the floodwall in Stuy Cove Park. It's been an issue in the past and was covered with plastic for a long time.

Dianne: I'm not sure if Solar One has maintenance responsibility; it might be EDC. I suggest talking to Solar One who will likely know who it is even if it's not them. Let us know if you're having trouble getting answers.

Wendy: The park is full of canvases, and I don't want to see a young person end up in jail for graffiti. Let's not make it punitive. To me, it was created for graffiti.

Dianne: The only caveat to that is that we were told the floodwalls have to be free of any kind of murals or graffiti because then it's hard to tell if the walls are in good condition.

Wendy: There was testing this month that shows that they may not be working that well with or without graffiti.

Ayo: The CAG shouldn't say it's OK with graffiti in the park. A lot of effort and time has been devoted to getting this done. The CAG doesn't have blanket opinion of how the City should

respond to people defacing the park. I do understand why you were saying that (about being punitive those spraying graffiti), Wendy.

Wendy: Are there any updates on shade?

Dianne: We won't know if we got the money for the shade umbrellas until the budget is finalized, so we won't know until the end of June/early July. I talked to Paula, and she'll send out a new Doodle poll to find a time to walk through the park and figure out where we should put those shade umbrellas if we get them.

Dianne: Wendy, do you know if Councilmember Marte's Participatory Budget item for a \$1M shade sail at Pier 42 won?

Paula: I emailed Councilmember Marte's office but haven't heard back yet.

Ayo: The winning project for District 1 was a project for Gouverneur Hospital and Battery Park School playground and track field.

*Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:59 pm*