

Brooklyn Community Board 4  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 6pm

Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celestina Leon

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Meeting Start: 6:08pm

Celeste called the meeting to order and announced the first public hearing item.

**Public Hearing:**

1) **Joseph Rivera, Director of Outreach and Engagement, NYC Racial Justice Commission**  
- providing an overview of the three ballot questions that will appear on the back of the ballot on Election Day.

**ABOUT THE COMMISSION**

**MISSION AND MANDATE**

During his State of the City address on January 28, 2021, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the intention to form a charter revision commission to focus on racial justice and reconciliation, with a two-year mandate to identify and root out structural racism. In March 2021, Mayor de Blasio announced the formation of the Racial Justice Commission and appointed 11 Commissioners, including Chair Jennifer Jones Austin and Vice Chair Henry Garrido.

The Racial Justice Commission (RJC) has the formal powers of a charter revision commission, including the ability to propose changes to the NYC Charter.

**MISSION**

The Racial Justice Commission, empowered with the legal authority of a Charter Revision Commission, will seize the transformative potential of this moment in history to identify and propose structural changes and significant policy reforms that will advance racial justice and equity and begin to dismantle structural racism for all New Yorkers. This work is necessary because systemic racism has shaped and continues to shape our reality. **VISION FOR RACIAL**

**EQUITY**

The worth, talents, and contributions of all people in society are valued and recognized. Race is not a determinant of economic, political, social, or psychological outcomes, as it neither confers privilege nor denies opportunities.

## **ABOUT THE CHARTER REVISION PROCESS**

### **THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER**

The NYC Charter is like the City's constitution. The Charter defines the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of the City government. It lays out the fundamental structures (e.g., elected officials, mayor's offices, agencies, boards, and commissions), establishes how decisions are made (such as land use and siting), guides many aspects of government services, and details the budgeting process for City services and capital projects in all areas, from housing and education to human rights and emergency services.

### **MAKING CHANGES TO THE CHARTER**

Pursuant to state law, the Charter can be changed by state or city legislation; initiative and referendum (a proposed law supported by signatures that is voted on by the public during an election); or by the creation of a charter revision commission.<sup>1</sup> The Charter and the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law set out subject areas that can be changed through referendum (a vote by the public) and other areas that can be changed by council legislation.

### **CHARTER REVISION COMMISSIONS**

A charter revision commission is a temporary appointed government body that is tasked with reviewing the entire City Charter and proposing amendments (changes) that are voted upon by the public in a general election.<sup>3</sup> The commission can make proposals that change the entire charter or a specific section.<sup>4</sup> Charter revision commissions can be created by the mayor, city council, voter initiative, or by the state legislature. Commissions can be made up of 9 to 15 people and are supported by a staff.

### **RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION TIMELINE**

- MARCH 23, 2021 NYC RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION FORMED
- APRIL 15, 2021 COMMISSION BEGINS MEETING
- MAY 3, 2021 ADOPTION OF RJC FRAMEWORK
- JULY—EARLY SEPTEMBER 2021 FIRST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PERIOD
- EARLY OCTOBER 2021 RELEASE OF NYC FOR RACIAL JUSTICE INTERIM REPORT
- OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2021 SECOND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PERIOD
- DECEMBER 2021 FINAL REPORT, PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURES AND RACIAL JUSTICE ROADMAP
- OCTOBER 7, 2022 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER 2022 GENERAL ELECTION
- OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 8, 2022 EARLY VOTING BEGINS AND ELECTION DAY!

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER**

### **PROPOSAL 1: ADD A STATEMENT OF VALUES TO GUIDE GOVERNMENT**

The Commission's first proposal is to add a preamble to the NYC Charter. The New York City Charter does not currently have a preamble. Adding a preamble would allow New Yorkers to

adopt a vision and statement of foundational values intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties.

- Recognizing New Yorkers as the Source of Power and Legitimacy
- Acknowledging the Historical Inequities that Shaped New York City
- A Recognition of our Legacy of Resistance and Struggle for Justice
- An Intention and Vision to Create a More Equitable Future

Identifying foundational values uniting new yorkers

## **LEGAL EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED PREAMBLE**

For example, in 2007, the City of Seattle added a preamble to its charter, the most recent version of which had been enacted in 1946. The Seattle City Council passed Resolution 30992 to add the preamble as a ballot question, and the resolution expressed that the purpose of adding a preamble was to “establish a general set of principles for the purposes, organization, and affairs of the City of Seattle.”<sup>33</sup> The resolution observed that the United States Constitution and Washington State Constitution both had preambles, and “the City of Seattle, like any other municipality or organization, can benefit from recognizing a common set of principles and values.”<sup>34</sup>

Likewise, here, proposed Charter section 1151-a, which would be enacted alongside the proposed preamble, carefully delineates the preamble’s intended effect. While it would not create a right of action, direct or indirect, to enforce the preamble or related laws, the proposed preamble articulates fundamental values and a vision for a more equitable New York City to guide City officials as they carry out their duties.

## **PROPOSAL 2: ESTABLISH A RACIAL EQUITY OFFICE, PLAN AND COMMISSION**

**The Commission’s second proposal is to create an Office of Racial Equity, require Racial Equity Plans, and form a Commission on Racial Equity.**

The establishment of the Office of Racial Equity would create the framework and foundation to allow the City’s equity work to evolve, adapt, and grow out over time. The work of reimagining a racially just city is not a one-time event. Rather, it is a constant process that requires a continual recommitment to our values. Equity work would no longer be siloed, but rather developed holistically across all agencies. And, importantly, it centers on relationship and capacity building to ensure that agencies are brought along as partners in the process.

### Mission

The Office of Racial Equity would put racial justice at the heart of City government by working with every City agency to train, develop shared vocabulary, build capacity, and collaboratively strategize on racial equity. The purpose of the Office of Racial Equity is to embed racial equity and justice into everything the City does. The Office of Racial Equity would work to reorient all City agencies towards a vision of racial justice through coordination of a biennial Citywide Racial Equity Plan.

### Role in Citywide Racial Equity Plan

The Office of Racial Equity's key role would be putting together the Mayor's Citywide Racial Equity Plan, which includes a variety of equity outcome indicators across the city and by neighborhood (see Citywide Racial Equity Plan section below). Every City agency would be responsible for creating their own agency-specific equity plan which would roll up into a biennial Citywide Racial Equity Plan delivered by the Mayor. The Office of Racial Equity would work with agencies to identify appropriate outcome indicators that they could gather and report in order to show the state of wellbeing among New York communities and neighborhoods.

#### Other Responsibilities

- serve as a centralized hub for racial equity work and may create trainings, provide technical assistance beyond the equity planning process, and advocate for changes in policy and law that advance racial and social justice.
- In addition to coordinating every agency's equity plan and compiling the Citywide Equity Plan, the Office of Racial Equity would have other explicit responsibilities: establishing a Citywide Access Design Program, working with other City agencies to develop strategies that would further equity in the workplace, and reorienting City agencies towards anti-marginalization.

#### **CITYWIDE RACIAL EQUITY PLAN**

While the City has a yearly Budget Process that requires the City to present its spending priorities and the state of City funds, there is no similar citywide process requiring the City to show the state of wellbeing or fairness of outcomes among New York communities or how the City intends to improve them.

For this reason, the Commission proposes the creation of a biennial Citywide Racial Equity Plan.

- These plans would serve as a space for the Mayor and agencies to set forth the strategies they would use to improve outcomes and fairness for the most underserved or ill-served communities.
- The proposal also requires the Mayor to present the data that enables New Yorkers to gauge whether outcomes are becoming more or less equitable over time, whether on account of race, gender, neighborhood, or other facets of New Yorkers' lives.
- The citywide racial equity planning process would sync with the Citywide Budget Process to help bring our City's spending priorities in line with what communities need most.

#### Agencies Covered by Racial Equity Plan Requirement

Every institution in the City has a role to play in improving racial equity in New York City.

#### Racial Equity Strategies

The Citywide Racial Equity Plan must contain both short-term and long-term strategies for advancing racial equity in New York City.

- Short-term strategies are the planned policies and actions for the next two fiscal years.
  - These strategies should provide immediate improvement in identified disparities, which will be demonstrated in the racial equity outcome indicators reporting.

- Long-term strategies may not create as large an impact in the racial equity outcome indicators reporting but may be more impactful at addressing the root causes of structural racism.
  - This proposal requires that agencies also publish such strategies and the relevant outcome indicators even though the success may not be immediately apparent.

### Outcome Indicators

In addition, every agency must report at least one data indicator measuring outcomes that are relevant to their jurisdiction, because every agency's mission should include the improvement of outcomes for New Yorkers.

### Neighborhood Indicators

The Commission has identified that government cannot solve racial disparities only by focusing on services for individuals but also must examine neighborhood-level disparities, because many racial disparities are driven or exacerbated by neighborhood segregation.

### Timelines and Budget Alignment

Because of the importance of budgeting and resource prioritization to the racial justice process, the Commission intends the Racial Equity Plan to intersect with the City's Budget process. The executive branch, i.e., the Mayor and agencies, will develop Racial Equity Plans simultaneously with its development of the Citywide Budget, before the budget is submitted to the City Council.

- Every two years, a Commission on Racial Equity (see below) will submit community priorities for the Racial Equity Plans in the Fall, which is also while agencies are developing their new budget needs.
- Then, Preliminary Racial Equity Plans will be released alongside the Preliminary Budget in January.
- Final versions of the Racial Equity Plans will be released alongside the Executive budget in April.

Afterward, the City Council will be able to review the Citywide Racial Equity Plan while the Mayor and Council negotiate a budget to adopt in June. Because these steps are public, they give Community Boards and Borough Presidents a chance to comment and advocate on the Racial Equity Plans, similar to their opportunities to comment on the budget now.

## **COMMISSION ON RACIAL EQUITY**

This proposal establishes a Commission on Racial Equity, enabling community members with equity expertise and lived experience to influence City governance by formally proposing priorities for racial equity in City decision-making and policy and assessing performance towards those priorities.

- The Commission on Racial Equity (the "CORE") would be a commission comprising 15 diverse New Yorkers passionate about racial equity and social justice.

- They would be given powers and responsibilities to work to ensure that community-relevant priorities are considered and included in the Citywide Racial Equity Plan.

#### Composition

- To help establish independence for the CORE, the Chair would be jointly appointed by the Mayor and the Speaker of the City Council.
- To further create independence for the CORE, the appointments of fourteen other commissioners would be split among different elected officials.
- Seven would be appointed by the Mayor, five appointed by City Council Speaker (with one appointment from each borough), one appointed by the Comptroller, and one by the Public Advocate.

#### Role in Citywide Racial Equity Plan

The Commission on Racial Equity would represent the community voice and play an accountability role in the Citywide Racial Equity Plan process, by identifying community priorities and outcome indicators for the Citywide Racial Equity Plan.

- The proposal tasks the Commission with submitting the Community Racial Equity Priorities, a formal letter detailing proposed racial equity priorities and racial equity indicators that the Commission believes should be incorporated into the agency and citywide Racial Equity Plans.
- The Mayor's Office must formally respond to the CORE's submission through a statement in the Preliminary Racial Equity Plan.

#### Compensation and Commitment

- The Chair will be full-time.
- Commissioners will serve part-time and be paid on a per diem basis, compensated for their time spent on the CORE's work.
- They will also be reimbursed for the costs of childcare, elder care, or home health care for their dependents while they are engaged in the CORE's work.
- The purpose of this compensation to Commissioners is to make the roles more accessible to everyday New Yorkers who may not have the resources to balance unpaid commission work with potential loss of income and caretaker obligations.
- The CORE will be supported by full-time staff who will provide administrative support as well as additional technical and subject matter expertise.

#### Terms, Term Limits, and Removal

Commissioners will have staggered terms for the CORE's inaugural term. Thereafter, all terms will be three years and Commissioners will have a three-term limit.

### **PROPOSAL 3: MEASURE THE TRUE COST OF LIVING**

**This proposal would amend the City Charter to require the City to create a True Cost of Living measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs.**

## **ADDRESSING INEQUITIES IN WORK, ADVANCEMENT, AND WEALTH BUILDING**

- Many members of the public and representatives of community-based organizations expressed concern over the unaffordability of housing, transportation, food and other essential needs.
- The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these affordability issues, which have had outsized consequences on BIPOC communities for generations.
- Lack of affordability presents significant barriers to work, advancement and wealth-building in BIPOC communities, vulnerable groups, and younger New Yorkers who have entered the workforce during one or various times of economic crisis.
- Moreover, BIPOC New Yorkers, especially immigrants and women of color, tend to be concentrated in low wage jobs with fewer protections or pathways to advance.
- The high cost of living in New York City and the proportionately lower wages of many exacerbate the generations' long racial wealth gap, which structurally disadvantages BIPOC individuals from gaining economic security.

## **THE PROBLEM WITH CURRENT POVERTY MEASURES**

- Currently, ways in which we measure how much it costs to live in this city paint a false narrative. Eligibility for many public benefits and programs is based on the federal government's poverty measure, called the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG, also known as the Federal Poverty Line).
- The FPG was established in the 1960s, when living costs were roughly three times the average costs of a minimum food diet.
- Its criteria have remained unchanged, as it continues to assume that if a household's income (adjusted for size) is above three times the cost of a minimum food diet, they are considered to live above poverty.
- Apart from using an outdated baseline, it also does not take into account regional cost differences.
- The FPG sets the same amount for all 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

## **THE TRUE COST OF LIVING MEASURE**

The True Cost of Living would provide a clearer picture of the racial wealth gap, pay inequity, and guide the City's decisions as it develops and administers programs and services, and as it sets wages for both its own employees and its contractors' employees.

- The True Cost of Living refocuses the conversation away from poverty, or the poorest of life's conditions, towards an emphasis on dignity.
- The proposed True Cost of Living measure would be based on actual household income required to meet the essential needs of people living in New York City.
- The proposed measure would be based on household size, and include costs to cover essential needs at an adequate level, including, but not limited to, related to housing, childcare, child and dependent costs, food, transportation, healthcare, clothing and shoes, menstrual products, general hygiene products, diapers, cleaning products, household items, telephone service, internet service, and other necessary costs.
- The True Cost of Living could account for tax obligations, depending on the methodology used.

- It would not count public or private benefits received as part of household income. The City would be required to produce this calculation and report on it annually.

Read the [NYC Racial Justice: Final Report of the NYC Racial Justice Commission](#)

### **Q & A/Discussion:**

Cassandra Leveille (board member) asked a question in the chat. The second part of her question was in reference to every agency developing a plan. Joe responded it is a way to measure against the baseline.

Joanna Fuentes (board member) asked if the report requirement is only for city agencies or does it include non-profits? Will they outsource funding to other organizations? Joseph wasn't sure about future opportunities for nonprofits.

Robert Camacho (Board Chairperson) asked about the expiration date or if the commission is permanent. Joseph responded that the Commission ends on November 8th. They only last two years.

Celeste Leon (District Manager) noted that community boards are the smallest, independent city agencies. Will there be support for the boards? Joseph confirmed that all city agencies will be supported with guidance on the plans.

Melissa Carrera (board member) asked about working in partnership with all agencies. Joseph noted that all agencies have to follow the law.

Mr. Camacho asked about the budget and salary. Joseph noted the budget allocation is public info and he is not privy to the salary as it has not not been voted on yet. Mr. Camacho commented that this is reinventing the wheel. This is something the Community Boards have done. People know disenfranchisement. More commissions, big dollars. They're not bringing money to the Community Boards.

Joseph noted that in regards to reinventing the wheel, the Mayor's Office of Equity will likely absorb the office.

Anne Guiney (board member) disclosed her participation in the Racial Impact Analysis coalition. The Area Median Income (AMI) as Mr. Camacho said differently. Equity around money and how it's distributed. Housing is out of reach for the majority. Would AMIs be a part of this? Joseph responded that the true cost of living will include collecting data points and forming a plan from there.

## **2) CB4 Annual Budget Meeting Overview**



The district manager provided an overview of the board's budget process and the top 5 capital budget requests.

1. Provide more housing for extremely low and low income households
2. Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless
3. Reconstruct streets - Broadway
4. Other street trees and forestry services requests (moved to expense)
5. Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park - Maria Hernandez comfort station (restroom)
6. Repair or provide new street lights - throughout the district, especially under the New York City Transit Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Elevated Structures.

### **Q & A/Discussion:**

A public attendee asked about opening the entrances along the J/Z subway line. Mr. Camacho responded that the board had previously requested opening them while organizing on Broadway (Ref. Brighten Broadway project with EBC High School). The district manager added that the MTA informed those involved that the entrances need to be upgraded and ADA accessible before they are reopened. She referenced the MTA's Capital Plan which only includes several stations within or nearby Bushwick including Broadway Junction and Jefferson Street.

Stephanie Anderson (board member) mentioned an issue with a tree near the Gates Avenue station on Linden and Broadway. Mr. Camacho responded that the board has received complaints about trees that pose a tripping hazard. Celeste added that the Parks department has a [Trees and Sidewalks program](#) and encouraged homeowners to look up the information online or contact the board's office for assistance.

Renesha Westbrook (Community Education Council 32 Rep) shared that she didn't make the town hall, although she would like to see investment in PS/IS 45. She specified needs for renovating Evergreen Playground as well as wanting to see other improvements such as a green rooftop, hydroponic, STEAM, and athletic space. She hoped that CB4 would support the school improvements.

Stephanie Anderson referenced Bushwick Avenue being resurfaced four of five years ago via former council member, Antonio Reynoso. She noted there are new potholes and sinkholes. The district manager encouraged her and anyone else that notices one to inform 311 and the board's office for additional support.

Gillian (public attendee) shared that it was her first meeting. She lives on Covert Street and the rats are out of control. Property owners have received tickets and fines however, you still can't walk down the street without seeing rats dead or alive. She added that she saw the recent DSNY press blitz announcing new measures. She is not confident that they will be effective.

Ben Tocker (board member) mentioned that composting is important. Bushwick still does not have curbside organics collection. Felix Ceballos (Recording Secretary) mentioned the mandatory schedule to put out garbage is going to help a lot. Joanna Fuentes noted funding is needed for new trash cans. Barbara Jackson (Sanitation–Committee Chairperson) mentioned that her neighbors are more cautious about how they put out their garbage.

Noel Allain (The Bushwick Starr) asked about tree pruning alternatives. The district manager referenced the recent Citizen Pruner course sponsored by Council Member Sandy Nurse. Those that attend and pass the test will be certified city street tree pruners.

Mr. Camacho responded that they're building. There are more people and garbage. Some use the same mop and broom in different buildings. They aren't sweeping when it falls out.

Felix Ceballos referenced the buildings in his area. They inspect every building and see better management. He also mentioned issues with owners not being able to fix the sidewalks.

Renesha Westbrook mentioned a fire on Evergreen and Covert a few years ago. Next to the old deli there is a dumping ground piled by the tree. It's a scary place to walk through. She also noted dumping by Myrtle and Gates in front of Planet Fitness, CVS, Dunkin', and Starbucks. It impacts access to the train station.

The district manager announced the end of the public hearing portion and moved into the regular meeting.

### **Regular Meeting:**

#### **1) First Roll Call**

**Board members in attendance:** Isa Abney, Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Felix Ceballos, James Fitzgerald, Joanna Fuentes, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Tanesha Honeygan, Barbara Jackson, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose-Olea, Cassandra Leveille, Imini Mitchell, Zulma Novoa, Kyle O'Rourke, Acire Polight, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellman, James Steward, Benjamin Tocker, Jerry Valentin, Tashawna Wade, Carlotta Williams

**Excused:** Joshua Brown, Andrew Choi, Elvena Davis, Jose Guzman, Mary McClellan, Gladys Puglla, Milagros Sandoval,

**Absent:** Grace Aytes, Freddy Fowler, Hadiyah Harrison, Cheryl Jones, Nicolas Kaplan, Kweighbaye Kotee, Desmonde Monroe, Samy Nemir, Maria Soler, Leo Tineo

33 board members present. That constitutes a quorum. Thank you, everyone.

## 2) Acceptance of the Agenda

Annette Spellen made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Robert Camacho. All were in favor, so moved.

## 3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Barbara Jackson made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Zulma Novoa. All were in favor, so moved.

## 4) Chairperson's Report

Mr. Camacho noted it's been a rough year in Bushwick and gave blessings to everyone before providing an overview of meetings he attended in the past month.

9/22

Hope Gardens Tenant Association Meeting  
6pm ULURP Training  
1pm CB4 Staff Check-in

9/26

2pm DCP Commissioner Meeting  
6pm Annual Budget Meeting

9/28

Borough Budget Consultation

9/29

District Office Committee Meeting

10/4

3pm Meeting with RiseBoro - they are looking for employees

10/5

6pm Executive Board Meeting

10/6

Roundtable Senior Center Party  
5:30pm Patrol Borough Brooklyn North  
Community CompStat Forum

10/12

Coffee with a Cop at the 83rd Precinct  
CB4 District Needs Town Hall

10/13

Joint Civic/Public Safety/Religious,  
Health/Human Service/Senior  
Citizens/Veterans, and Youth and Education  
Committee Meeting

10/14

5pm Halloween Costume Giveaway at the  
83rd Precinct  
A shooting happened at the same time.  
They caught the guy.  
He was also informed that someone jumped  
off of Anne Guiney's building. He was 30,40  
years old. She filled him in. We have to look  
out for each other.

10/17

Evergreen 40 Years Party

10/18

422 Central Ave Neighborhood Advisory  
Board Meeting  
83rd Precinct Community Council

10/19 Clergy Council Meeting

Mr. Camacho also shared a memo from the Brooklyn Borough President's office noting the following:

- The borough president has asked the board to provide board member meeting attendance with either a '1' indicating they are present or '0' indicating they are absent. They no longer acknowledge excused absences, even though the board still does as per the bylaws.

Board Member Attendance - 13 letters were sent to board members. 6 haven't improved and 7 have improved. He emphasized that board members need to come to their assigned meetings. There are 48 members. He has tried to double up the meetings to make it easier. If someone is unable to attend, don't apply to join the board.

There were no questions for Mr. Camacho's report.

#### **Introduction of elected officials and representatives:**

Lacey Tauber, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
209 Joralemon Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 802 – 3700 | Monday – Friday  
**Hours:** 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Angelica Colon, Office of Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez  
District Office  
244 Union Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
Phone: 718-963-3141

Tony Herbert, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit  
DEP came out. Mr. Camacho and Iris (RAD Hope Gardens property manager) gave him a list of catch basins to clean. Thank you!

Evette Lopez, Office of Assemblywoman Maritza Davila  
District Office  
249 Wilson Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11237  
718-443-1205

Jonathan Pomboza, Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez  
DA's Action Center 718-250-2340

83 Precinct Commanding Officer's Report - Deputy Inspector Alexandra Sarubbi

The DI asked how many people were participating on Zoom before beginning her report. 45 people were in attendance remotely.

The DI noted it's been five weeks since she became the CO. She was the CO at the 26 Precinct for two years. She's honored and blessed to join the Bushwick community. She's proud to join the family. When tragedy happens everyone comes together. She noted the recent fire and families displaced. Clothing was collected for all ages and donated along with household supplies.

There are a lot of events, including the Halloween costume giveaway for almost 1,000 kids. The officers interacted with the families and kids. Coffee with a Cop was a beautiful day. Music was playing. Precinct personnel were able to get to know community members.

She joined the NYPD to protect and serve. During a community walkthrough she noticed poorly lit areas and overgrown trees. It's not just one agency. DOT is responsible for the lamppost.

NYPD is speaking with the agency.

Officers were directed to increase patrols or add light towers in these areas.

She wants to see more people at the meetings. There isn't proper representation. They need to hear more and not just about crime—voicing concerns and strategizing together. Team work makes the dream work. She referenced PO Lopez and PO Altadonna.

#### **Q & A:**

Amy Willard (Non-board Committee Member) asked about the increased police presence on Knickerbocker Avenue. The DI responded that it's for field training. The FTOs are assigned foot posts for extra visibility.

Felix Ceballos commented that after the pandemic it's very hard. Before the police were there to take care of the community. The DI responded that there are checkpoints at least 4 times a week in accident prone locations.

Renesha Westbrook commented that young adults are using drugs in the parks. Are there patrols in the parks? A presence is needed. She was recently in a park with her son and notice youth rolling paraphernalia.

The DI responded that she has directed patrols in the park. The Youth Coordination Officer (YCO) adopts two parks. They spend 2 hours in the park, although there is no set time frame. It's between all calls.

The DI added that if someone sees a crime, dial 911. It's the best course of action. On Knickerbocker and Willoughby the flares are used as checkpoints. When there is a police activity they are put on the floor to direct vehicles to a safe spot.

Cassandra Leveille noted that there are more motor vehicles racing with a liberal interpretation of stop signs and red lights, although they slow down in NYPD presence. This was seconded by Noel Allain.

The DI responded that over the summer a lot of motorcycles were confiscated. It was taken very seriously, although they are not allowed to chase anyone as it would risk injury.

Joanna Fuentes mentioned the presence of drug use and asked about coming up with some kind of intervention. People shooting up remind her of the 80s after the community worked so hard to not see the same issues with drugs.

The DI responded that there are code response teams that include experts that know how to handle those that are emotionally disturbed. It takes a community to help out. They have to find other ways.

Mr. Camacho thanked Deputy Inspector Sarubbi for attending and answering everyone's questions. That concluded his report.

#### 5) District Manager's Report

Good evening, everyone, and Happy belated Indigenous Peoples Day. It is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Book Month, and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month along with other notable celebrations and festivities. I hope you've been able to take advantage of related services and are generally enjoying the transition to fall by their activities. I'd also like to thank the following for volunteering at last week's district needs town hall. Our volunteer list included Jo-Ena Bennett, Virgie Jones, Stephanie Anderson, Carlotta Williams, Annette Spellman, Tashawna Wade. And if I missed you, it was not intentional. I know we had other board members in attendance. Board members that passed out flyers on their blog. We appreciate and thank you so much. You made the setup and the breakdown of the event as it happened possible. And I'm also happy to share that we had 94 people in attendance. So we weren't really sure what to expect as we come back or continue to come back from the pandemic but thank you to everyone who made it out and how to participate. We look forward to sharing the information. And I'd be remiss if I didn't also shout out Kim and Shannon from the board's office for that.

All right, so what to expect this fall:

- We're in the middle of district needs season
  - You can complete the survey by October 28.
- Some upcoming events, we're going to have another series of housing and land use workshops.
  - Thursday, October 27 6pm affordable housing workshop. All of these workshops are in partnership with the Center for Urban pedagogy.
  - On Thursday, November 3 6pm, a Zoning FAR workshop. All will take place at 1349 Gates in the community room. Thank you to RiseBoro for hosting us again.
  - And the last one will be Thursday, December 1 6pm. It'll be a ULURP also known as the uniform land use review procedure workshop

- On Wednesday, November 30 the public safety townhall in partnership with State Senator Julia Salazar's office.
- And we have tentatively scheduled a nonprofit roundtable for early December 2022
- And tomorrow from 11am to 2pm you can see CB4 along with several different agencies. There are some fliers in the back for the NYC Business Best event. This is co hosted in partnership with RiseBoro and NYC Small Business Services. Local small businesses are encouraged to pass by to get information from the various city agencies that will be there.

And a reminder, the board's office assists primarily with city related issues and concerns. I've shared our contact information earlier. This evening's meeting is an overview of the various committees and other meetings, events and activities within the past month. To discuss specific concerns in further detail, please contact the board's office for more information. Most detailed discussions take place on the committee level.

The district manager proceeded to provide an overview of the meetings and events she attended in the past month.

[Read the full report](#)

## 6) **Committee Reports\***

\*The full committee reports are available via the links below or upon request. For the latter, contact the board's office.

### Joint Civic/Public Safety/Religious, Health/Human Service/Senior Citizens/Veterans, and Youth and Education

Annette Spellman (CPSR Chair) reported that there was a joint committee meeting on October 13th. Within the past month there were also four fires in Bushwick. She attended the NYPD CompStat meeting, Faith in Blue event, the District Needs Town Hall, and the Clergy Council Meeting.

[Read the full report](#)

### Economic Development + Permits and Licenses

Melissa Carrera (PLC Chair) provided an overview of the following State Liquor Authority applications reviewed by the committee.

#### New York State Liquor License Application Review

##### New Applications:

- Loveless Coffee LLC d/b/a Loveless Coffees – 86 Central Avenue – New WBC
- A Touch of Lagos, Inc. – 911 Broadway – New WBC
- The Mad Mandarin LLC – 1332 Halsey Street – New LWBC

- Cevicheros Inc. – 1443 Myrtle Avenue – New LWBC
- Osito Tavern LLC d/b/a Ocelot – 259 St. Nicholas Avenue – New LWBC
- Filthy Diamond – 679 Knickerbocker Avenue – New LWBC

[Read the full report](#)

Zulma Novoa asked for clarification about the first establishment. Felix Ceballos lives in the area and is attentive to what happens in the area.

Kate Steinmetz, one of the business owners, expected their attorney to provide the documentation with the amended hours. She cleared up the miscommunication.

Stephanie Anderson asked where the African restaurant was located. Melissa confirmed it is on Broadway.

#### Housing and Land Use

Anne Guiney reported that there was one item on the recent meeting agenda—the NYCHA Seniors First Linden Grove Development. It will be 13 stories with 152 units. 70% for seniors in the community (106) and 25% preexisting, current NYCHA tenants (27). A portion will also be set aside for the formerly homeless.

[Read the full report](#)

### **7) Recommendations**

#### Economic Development + Permits and Licenses

Tanesha Honeygan made a motion for a blanket vote on the committee's recommendations. It was seconded by Anne Guiney. All were in favor, so moved.

Mr. Camacho made a motion in favor of the committee's recommendations. It was seconded by Felix Ceballos. All were in favor, so moved.

### **8) Old Business**

None

### **9) New Business**

None

### **10) Announcements**

Lacey Tauber (Brooklyn Borough President's office) announced the upcoming Adopt a Pet event, Brooklyn Book Festival, and Latino Heritage event. A Polish Heritage event is on 10/22. On the legislative side, the BP introduced three bills:

- Truck traffic air quality monitoring



- Feasibility GPS with truck routes
- Resdesigning truck route networks

Weekly constituent service walk-ins are available. There is also a new email newsletter.

Fran Sanhueza (Council Member Sandy Nurse's office) announced the Member's upcoming events:

- Emergency Storm Preparedness Town Hall at 422 Central Ave
  - Give away storm barrier protection
- Resource Event for Asylum Seekers
- Housing Rights Festival
- Movie Night
- Haunted Highland

Angelica Colon (Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez's office) announced the Member's upcoming events:

- Cleanup on 10/22 Knickerbocker and Starr
  - DSNY is joining
- E-waste event 10/29
- Town Hall 11/29 at St. Paul's in Williamsburg
- Halloween Event Spectacular at the Moore Street Market

The office is still collecting ideas for the participatory budget process.

Diana Romero (CUNY School of Public Health) announced their collaboration with the Department of Health on the Health Equity and Access project. She posted info and a link in the chat. Focus groups included New Yorkers across the city and are in reference to accessing healthcare. Participants will receive \$40 after the project and possibly up to \$100. Focus groups inform the recommendations around policy for city and private hospitals. Help spread the word.

Danielle Chambers (Resident) announced the 15th Annual Bushwick Film Festival will take place from November 1 to the 7 at Williamsburg Cinema. Kweighbaye Kotee, a board member, is bringing the festival back again to celebrate more diverse voices and representation in the media.

As a representative of Calgary and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, she also announced on Friday, October 28th from 9pm to 2am there will be an Oldies, Goodies Night. The tickets are \$45 dollars and include live music/a DJ, food, and drinks. Bring family and friends.

## **11) Second Roll Call**

**Board members in attendance:** Tashawna Wade, Jerry Valentin, Benjamin Tocker, James Steward, Annette Spellman, Dustin Sonneborn, Barbara Smith, Vernedeane Shell, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Acire Polight, Kyle O'Rourke, Zulma Novoa, Imini Mitchell, Cassandra Leveille, Luisa Jose Olea, Virgie Jones, Barbara Jackson, Tanesha Honeygan, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Joanna Fuentes, James Fitzgerald, Felix Ceballos, Melissa Carrera, Robert Camacho, Rawle Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson, Isa Abney

**Excused:** Carlotta Williams, Milagros Sandoval, Gladys Puglla, Mary McClellan, Nicolas Kaplan, Jose Guzman, Elvena Davis, Andrew Choi, Joshua Brown

**Absent:** Leo Tineo, Maria Soler, Samy Nemir, Desmonde Monroe, Kweighbaye Kotee, Cheryl Jones, Hadiyah Harrison, Freddy Fowler, Grace Aytes

## **12) Adjournment**

Raul Rubio made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Barbara Jackson. All were in favor, so moved.

Have a good night.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:52pm