

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday May 20, 2020
WebEx – Via Virtual Meeting
6:00PM

Chairperson: Mr. Robert Camacho; District Manager: Ms. Celestina Leon

Public Hearing Item

Jacalyn Goldzweig Panitz & Abby Cook-Mack, the Employment Law Unit, The Legal Aid Society: providing a webinar about the current status of employment law.

Ms. Abby Cook-Mack: She is a paralegal case handler at legally society and deals primarily with unemployment insurance and we've just been reaching out to community boards and elected officials as well as organizations across the city to try to spread the word and make sure that people are aware of the various laws that are in place that protect people, employees in particular during the current crisis.

Normally we give a one to two hour training, which we're happy to do to the extent that there are community organizations that you work with or offices or groups of people that you think would benefit from some training about what their rights are in these circumstances, but we'll just give a very quick overview today of some of what people are entitled to and we are happy to answer questions.

I'm not going to get into great depth, because there's not enough time. I'm happy to answer questions offline or offer a full training.

We just want people to be aware. I know that you are all leaders in the community. And to the extent that you are reaching out to people, we want you to be aware as advocates. Since this has all started, there's been a number of laws that have passed both at the state level, and the federal level that provide protections to employees.

There are several laws that are also currently being contemplated primarily at the city level and state level, that hopefully will offer some additional protections to employees, primarily those who work currently working, or will soon be working as essential workers.

Especially, what is considered as an essential worker will expanded as the state starts to open. So, we just to give a very quick overview.

There are laws that provide leave for people to take time off if they themselves are sick or if their family members are sick.

And then, there's laws that are provided for people to take off, if they're home taking care of a child because they are home due to the child's schools or daycare is closed. Also, time off could be given if their caregivers are unavailable. There are all sorts of different laws.

What law applies to an employee really depends very much on the number of employees that their employer has. Also, how long the employee have been working there. How much they'll get, will depend on what they're taking leave for.

We just want people to be aware that there is federal paid sick leave and federal medical leave available to take care of family members. There is also state paid sick leave to take if you yourself are sick, or somebody in your family like a minor child is sick, there is also a city law that provides leave.

The benefits vary across laws, and I'm happy to give further detail to the extent that's helpful.

We also wanted to make sure people know that there are laws that provide some protections for those who are currently working as essential workers.

The executive order, that Governor Cuomo put out in April, does say that employers should provide employees with PPE item for those in public facing.

So, people who are working with the public, those employees should wear a mask. There's also a series of laws that provide some directions, to the extent that a worker is eligible to take time off, if they get hurt on the job.

So, whether you're a nurse who's working and you get COVID-19, and it's a direct result of the work that you're doing, or you're a grocery worker, and you get COVID-19 and you believe that it's a result of having been at the grocery store, you may be entitled to workers compensation.

There are also anti-discrimination laws. So, if you are somebody who has an underlying condition and reporting to work and it is particularly dangerous for you, you can request a reasonable accommodation under the New York City law.

There are provisions in place that states what employers need to provide reasonable accommodations, and that can include unpaid time off so that your job would be protected, and you could return.

I mentioned earlier that provide protections to those who are sick or those who have childcare responsibilities, those also provide job protection.

So, if you take leave, you will be able to return to your job. There are a few small exceptions and you can't be retaliated against for asking for that time.

Essential workers also get some protections from the National Labor Relations Act and from OSHA. (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) OSHA is the federal agency that provides guidance and regulations regarding health and safety for workers.

They have done the bare minimum at this point. They've issued some guidelines.

They're not enforceable in any way as to how employers should be dealing with their employees right now, but they do provide those guidelines, to the extent that workers feel they're not being protected in the workplace. They can organize together and refuse to go to work and that would be a protected activity. I'm happy to talk offline about any and all of this if you like.

And then, finally, of course, the normal wage an hour rules apply. So, to the extent that people are working, are going to work, they should be receiving, minimum wage, at least and overtime pay.

I'll turn it over to Jackie who can talk about what happens if you're not an essential worker or if you are an essential worker, or if you're laid off. Essentially, she'll talk about unemployment.

Ms. Jacalyn Goldzweig Panitz: I'm going to talk about unemployment insurance, and I will add to the chat some of the resources that we like to provide to with.

There are several new rights workers in the city have but, every single person on this panel, I'm sure know someone or a family member or friend or neighbor who's become unemployed over the last two months.

We have millions of people who are on unemployment insurance right now, and hundreds of thousands who are trying to get unemployment insurance. And so over the last few months legal aid, since the beginning of the pandemic, one of the things that legally aid society has been doing is informing communities, who is eligible for unemployment? When and how to apply for unemployment?

I'm going to talk about ten minutes, and then I'm going to go into question and answer.

And, as I said, we are happy to speak offline to answer questions that are unique to individuals. Or if you just feel more comfortable speaking offline.

So, generally, unemployment insurance is for folks who've worked in New York State over the last eighteen months. They're basic income requirements.

Folks need to work for at least two calendar quarters, and at least two calendar quarters, and they need to or within the last eighteen months. They have earned at least \$2400.00 in their high quarter, at least 1 ½ times the amount they're totally just wants to be at least one and a half times their high quarter wages.

If people do not have the necessary income to qualify for unemployment insurance, the state will let them know, and they should instead apply for a pandemic unemployment assistance.

For anybody right now, who is out of work, if you're receiving unemployment insurance, there were some changes to the law recently. There is a new program called pandemic unemployment, which was passed in the cares act, which is very similar to disaster unemployment. If you remember that program was implemented after Sandy. It is for folks who are out of a job due to COVID-19, and it is expanding eligibility to folks who would not have previously been eligible for unemployment. That includes self-employed workers, independent contractors, folks who had to quit their jobs because suddenly they had kids at home, or God forbid they are themselves or a family member was sick.

The restrictions for unemployment are, if you do not have, if you're an immigrant and you don't have work authorization. Neither of these programs are, unfortunately, you're not eligible for either of these programs and, you know, there are some instances where the Department of Labor looks at how someone lost their job.

The important thing that we want to get out there is, is that folks should be applying for unemployment insurance. They should be reaching out to us, to their state senators, to the state representatives, and the assembly person, if they're having problems in trying to apply for unemployment. Right now, they're there, to help.

If there are problems, then they should be letting the Department of labor make those determinations and following up and unfortunately, being very persistent in order to get benefits. Benefits right now are at the normal weekly rates.

Starting April 5th and it goes through July 31, everyone is getting an \$600.00 per week and that's from the federal government. And that money is retroactive.

If you haven't been able to claim benefits until now, if you're only able to submit your claim now, if you are unemployed, if you were unemployed back in March and you're still trying, the really important thing is there's a lot of money on the line.

District Manager: Thank you. Okay, so the way that questions can work today. So, if the board members, you're welcome to chime in. Now, if you have questions for the public, we encourage you to please. Just right either in the Q and A section. I will see that.

We're in the chat, so everyone will generally see the questions in the chat. If you put them there. I did see someone put a question. I think he may have addressed it Jacqueline, but someone asked for information to chat.

They also had specifically about the mandates for employers to provide PPE for employees.

Abby Cook-Mack: With respect to the PPE, they are required to provide mask for public safety and employees, whether that's fabric masks or medical masks. I can share with you the executive order that that comes from in the chat.

I've also just shared our contact information and the hotline for legal aid. Great.

Ms. Jo-Ena Bennett: My question was, I heard that if one has been laid off or furlough or whatever, and the employer offers them their job back, that they must take it. Is that true? Suppose the employee decides that the conditions are not safe enough. Will that disqualify them from unemployment?

Ms. Jacalyn Goldzweig Panitz: Jo-Ena that is a great question. And it's a question that I think a lot of people are thinking about and a lot of people are going to have to ask themselves as New York City reopens.

So, there's not a simple answer, and it will depend on each individual circumstance. However, the short answer is no, you do not necessarily need to take your job back if it's offered to you.

Every week when folks certify for unemployment insurance benefits, they are asked, did you, refuse a job offer last week. You must be truthful with the Department of Labor.

I'm going to take this question in, in parts.

The first thing is, if your old employer text you and says, hey, can you come back to work?

That's not a job offer. You do not have to report this as a job offer to the Department of Labor.

A job offer includes, a written offer that includes your location, your schedule and pay information. It's really important that people know what a job offer is from their previous employer.

The second part of your question, if your employers said, hey, come back, but we can't, offer you full time. You're going to come back, Monday through Wednesday, instead of Monday through Friday. It could be that you are getting more money on unemployment than if you were to come back part time.

If they that job offer is not willing to pay them at least half percent of what they were making at their job and it is within the first half of the first thirteen weeks of their benefits, and if they started receiving in March, they would, then they do not have to accept that job offer.

Now, the second point, which is, they don't feel safe, because of this crisis. If they are a medically vulnerable person, if they are over the age of 60 years old or if they have a condition that makes them at high risk for COVID-19.

If they must get on a train to go to their job, and if they are still worried, they can go and get a doctor's note, saying that this person is a person at high risk for COVID-19.

If they are worried about going back to work, and they have received a job offer and they're, going to go back to work and they have been offered their old position back at the same exact same wages, but they feel, that they are a medically vulnerable person to the extent that they have diagnosed condition, or are over the age of sixty and if they can get a doctor's note for their employer that says, excuse me, from their doctor which they can share with the Department of Labor that says, this person is at a heightened risk, we believe that, that might be enough to, allow them to keep their unemployment. However, those issues are depended on individual circumstances.

I would recommend anybody facing that kind of decision, to reach out to legal aid, or another organization that does this sort of work.

Desmond Monroe: If somebody returns to work, and they happen to get COVID due to something happening on the job, is the employer held responsible in any sort of legal way?

Abby Cook-Mack: It depends, unfortunately. There may be the ability to get workers compensation for a situation like that. There are two different kinds of workers compensation and I am not a worker's comp attorney, but I have attended several trainings, so I will tell you what I have heard. My understanding is that you can either get workers compensation if you have an accident on the job, which could include potentially contracting COVID-19, it's sort of like occupational hazard. The question is, and it's an issue of first impression so we just don't know the answer at this point, because it's going to have to make its way through the Workers Compensation Board for us to, be able to provide better guidance on it. We think it's fair, it's likely that a person who is a nurse, for example, working in a hospital that is treating COVID-19 patients will be able to argue that it's an occupational hazard. They will be able to get workers compensation, because they won't have to prove, causation. For those who are, for example, a janitor who works at a hospital it's less clear, or a grocery worker, it's less clear whether worker's compensation would consider it like an occupational hazard or an accident. If it's an accident, then you would have to prove causation. You would have to say I have COVID 19 because of an accident on the job. Of course, employers are likely to push back on that and say well, you got it from the train, or you got it from a family member. We just don't know at this point what that's going to look like, once it's being looked at more carefully by the Workers Compensation Board.

Jamie Wiseman: As an employer you must take all the necessary steps. You must take every necessary precaution that you can. If face masks are required, do masks, and you are going to do gloves as well. Anywhere where you're having customer facing, you are going to want to show that you're not negligent and that you're doing everything within your power to keep people safe, based on the available direction from the appropriate authorities. Failing to do that will put an employer in a bad position and put all their employees in a bad position. So, the guidance is to read as much as you can and do all of those things because the, actual cost of those PPE items, if you can get your hands on them, is minimal compared to the exposure the employer would have, by being negligent in not doing that work.

Abby Cook-Mack: OSHA, the federal agency that's responsible for employee safety has issued guidelines that recommend what employers need to be doing. They're not, requirements at this point. There's no legal force behind the guidelines but, you know, the guidelines are useful to look at in terms of what are the best practices, the CDC has done the same as well to provide some useful guidance. One other thing to note is that there is a lot of advocacy right now to figure out, what best for our employers and employees to have better guidance as they return to work.

If you are forced to go back to and you are not an essential worker than you can report this to the Department of Labor.

District Manager: Thank you, Abby and Jacalyn for taking the time to join us this evening.

Abby Cook-Mack: Thank you for having us.

District Manager: So, with that being said, we can now move on to the next portion of our meeting, which is the regular meeting portion.

I do just want to go over a little bit of a background information on the meeting, and how the meeting will run this evening for those that have joined us. Right now, we have the board members as panelists. So, they're the ones that can control whether they can mute or unmute themselves.

I also want to note that I did manage to find board members that have called in. I just want to share that. Those who have joined us, I have Martha Brown, Mary McClellan, Barbara Smith, I have Virgie Jones have joined us.

I may have missed someone, so I have to cross reference the phone numbers with your name on my phone. So, it may take me a little bit of time, but I am, paying attention. I just want you to know that we see you. If anyone has a question, please feel free to send me a chat message. I will be taking a look while we go throughout the meeting.

First Roll Call:

29 Board members Present, that constitutes a quorum.

Acceptance of Agenda:

Motioned by Ms. Elvena Davis and second by Grace Aytes. Any opposed or abstentions?
Motioned carried.

Acceptance of the previous month's minutes:

I asked the board to consider tabling April's minutes because we're still working on them in the office. We just received the transitions and digital meeting.

Is there a motion from the board?

Ms. Jo-Ena Bennett made a motion to table the April minutes. The motion was second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members present were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report - Mr. Robert Camacho:

Well, guys before I start my report.

As, you know, we have been having a lot of tragedies in the community. We have lost friends and families of board members.

I give my condolences to Raul Rubio. If ever you need anything, or if we can do anything for you, we are here for you. I know you'll be strong, and everything will be alright. God is going to work on it. I'm not a religious person, but I know he will. We want to be strong during these hard times. I just wanted everyone a be safe.

Friday, May 1st: I informed Willie, Sharon and Celeste to call all the board members to make sure they are alright. Letting them know that we are concerned about them and their families. Letting them know that our prayers are with them and that we are here for them.

We don't want them to work at home and get a paycheck and not do what they have to do.

I want to be strong and firm and make sure that they're working for the community.

I requested them to do a list of storefronts, as you know, we are going back to the 70's and a lot of these stores are not going to be back open.

A lot of jobs and stores are going to be closed and we're going to go back to the seventy's, we want to make sure we know all the store and who they are.

We want to know if they are getting any money of subsidize to try to help them in any way. We want to make sure that we can bring them back.

If they lose their businesses we lose out, we want them to know that we are here and that we know what is going on, we are still here, and we are not sleeping.

Tuesday, May 5: I attended a Zoom Conference, a Borough Board meeting with all the boards. On the agenda was the Department of Civilian Complain Revue Board, "The Right to Know". They indicated that now there's no longer 13 board members on the board, there will be 15.

The gentleman that did the presentation is supposed to be a big shot now, and I hear he got promoted. Hopefully, when everything gets done, maybe he'll come back and give us a presentation on what is going on.

We have a lot of people walking around with no face masks and other police department are enforcing it and they are getting the bad apple with the deal.

We need to wear a mask. Wear the masks, if you can, and if you can't, get a doctor's note.

There was also a resolution on the real property tax exemption for the Cold War Veterans. We have a lot of veterans that are in their 80s and 90s. A lot of them live in the Bed-sty community, so they fought to bring about a resolution to try to get them taxed exempt.

Tuesday, May 5: Building Cleaning...

Tuesday, May 12: The Knickerbocker Puerto Rican Day Parade is no longer, they are trying to do it virtually.

I had a meeting was with D. Y. C. D, the Neighborhood Advisory Board.

DYCD are going to experience cuts, they are not going to have a summer youth program.

Education is being cut. There's no money, no jobs.

There is a lot of problems and we are trying to fight to see if we can get these kids a grant.

Sometimes, some of these kids brought their own school supplies and clothes for school.

We must see if they could get grants or something so that they could have what they need to go back to school.

Friday, May 15: License and Permit Committee Meeting.

Attended Bushwick Wellness Alliance meeting. They let us know that you should only wear masks for 5 hours. When you get in your cars take them off and put them on the dashboard so that the sunlight can kill the bacteria.

Senior homes will need to be checked twice a day. They will make sure that they are taken care of and are safe.

There was an advisory memorandum stating that community board must meet once a month except in July and August. The Executive Order, stating that the City Charter requires that all board members meet once a month except July and August. We also must have an open-door meeting.

We went through executive board and the full board committee; elections must be held in April or May. We must prepare for the election. We can have it in June or table it until September, but we must have it. The only ones that will be on it are from the 1st Vice Chair on down, because I have 2 years, everyone else has 1 year.

So that is my meeting report.

I will be going through the Executive Board. I'm going to be giving a letter to Celeste and Sharon. There's been a lot of issues and we need to work things out. There is too much problems.

I shouldn't be getting emails. Celeste is someone's boss and they are not respecting, and she has to respect her, so it's been a conflict and they will be getting a letter and I will be reading it to the full board and letting them know that this is a team effort and that I want them to start working together.

Celeste is your boss and you should respect your boss and she should respect you as an employee, but to disrespect her, and to send her and me emails like a child. I am not playing

that. There are too many issues, they are grown, and I told both of them that I am going to send them a letter. We must nip this in the butt, and we are going to have to start working together. It is not about who you like, what you like, it is about getting the job done. If you don't want to be with me, guess what, you need a job, everybody needs a job, she is your boss and we have to respect each other. That is the bottom line. I told Celeste and I will sit down with Sharon, and I am going to let her know. This phone tag stuff and your job and her job, what is she doing and what did she do, I am not playing that. I'm not doing that. I am not doing that. I am not happy at all. I want to make sure this community get what it deserves. We want to make sure that we stay here.

There's a lot of pain, and there's a lot of sorrow and it always happens to the people that are always down. It is always like that. I would say, we always have to be fighting for something just a little and every time we take two steps forward, we go back down. But we're strong and we're going to make it. I know we will, and we're going to be stronger and better, and we all must get together with each other and we all got to go the same way. We got to work together.

I've been trying to get it done. I'm trying to do the best that I can. I do not get paid for what I do. I do it because I loved my community, so we all got to work and help each other out. We know, it's hard. This thing here, I'm not used to this. I am used to seeing people. I am used to touching people, it takes a toll on you...
I guess that's my meeting. That's my report.

District Manager: Are there any questions for Mr. Camacho before we move on?

Elected Officials and / or their Representatives

- 1) Fatima, Representing Council Member, Antonio Reynoso: We are working from home. We can be reached at 718-963-3141 if you need to give us a call. Thank you.
- 2) Jennifer Gutierrez from the Council Member Reynoso's office: Hi, everyone, I missed everyone. And I'm so, glad to see everyone. And I'll be here for the remainder of the meeting. If you need me, but I'm so happy to see everyone's face.
- 3) Jonathan Pomboza Representing the DA's office. We are still working from home. We can be reached at 718-250-2340. Thank you.
- 4) Julio Salazar, Representing Congresswoman Velasquez's office. Two quick updates: I believed I shared this with Celeste, if not I can report it to you and the general board. One item that I wanted to highlight, was under the Cares Act. There were two hospitals that received funding that I wanted to share with you. Woodhull Hospital received 39 million dollars under the Cares Act and Wyckoff Hospital received 59 million dollars under the Cares Act. That was directly targeted for those hospitals because of their locations and because of the population that they serve. They serve some of the hardest impacted areas such as ours, Bushwick and Williamsburg and the general area. This is something that the member was proud to have worked on with some of her colleagues.
Secondly, there were a few conversations with several city agencies that I would love to loop you in, unless you can let me know who is the best board member that you think would be best to join on these discussions.
In regard to the Wyckoff Avenue reconstruction project, I have received a number of federal funding and of course, city funding which I believe was first proposed and 2013, but again correct me if I am wrong it might have been earlier, but the official city record has it as 2013. There however, has been no movement.

Mr. Camacho stop Julio to let him know that he will be given more time during announcement to say more on this matter.

- 5) Karen Cherry, Representing Assembly member Erik M. Dilan's office: We are working from home. Our phone number is 718-386-4576, email is CherryK@nyassembly.gov. Jackelynn Reyes is handling unemployment. That is very important. She is handling all unemployment cases. You can email her at reyesi@nyassembly.gov
- 6) Marcus Harris Representing Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President.
- 7) Martha Bayona, CEC District 32 President; we are open 718-574-1203 or via email at CEC@schools.nyc.gov.
- 8) Alplente, Louise – We are running our program remotely, for any youth grades 1 through 12. Our information is listed in the Community Board's bulletin. I will put my email information in the chat box.
- 9) Rob Solana, we are still working, and we are going to be rolling out cash assistance for our documented families that are not able to collect cash from the stimulus and unemployment. The first wave will take place next week. It will be 150 families in our neighbors and then we will do another 300 families.

District Manager, Ms. Leon: How do we get in contact with this?

Chairperson, Mr. Camacho: Yes, please. Let us know. Please.

Mr. Solana: So, if anybody wants to get on that list, they can just call the main number, 718-360-2906.

- 10) Cynthia Ortiz, Bushwick Community Partnership under the Coalition for Hispanic family services. We're still working. People could contact us at the community partnership at our helpline, 718-497-6090. We're also doing food distribution, so send people over.

83rd Precinct Report: Deputy Inspector Daniel Dooley:

It is good to see everybody.

I don't want to keep everybody because it is getting late.

Crime: Is going down in Bushwick, at the 83rd Precinct. Great news! But like everything else we struggle with certain types of crime. Commercial burglaries, being number one.

Restaurants, delis and some bars that are serving up food are being hit. The good news is that we are making a lot of arrest.

It's really the same people doing it over and over...again. He really is. But we're getting to them and arresting them.

The second big thing that we're seeing is vehicle break ins. People are leaving valuables in their car. People are smashing car windows and taking whatever, they can grab their hands on. Again, we've identified several people through our NCO retrieving video.

We made several good arrests, but the way things are right now they're back out and we just keep arresting the same people repeatedly.

The third thing Grand larceny of the automobiles including mopeds and electric bikes.

We're starting to see the same thing that happened last year the exact same time. We must make sure that if people have Mopeds and E-bikes that they must lock them up.

This is something that I speak about at every single meeting, is don't leave your car running, don't double park and run into the store. You come out and your car is gone. Just turn your car off and take the keys. That is the bad news.

The good news is, you see a lot of precincts on the news about domestic violence and how some precincts are struggling. We are doing very well in Bushwick. After a 20-day period from the last month, we have cut domestic violence down about 55%, in half. We are doing well from day to date as well. I thank everybody, the message is getting out, we have a great

domestic violence program with the Sargent. They are truly aggressive, and they are reaching out to people, and it is working.

One of our big worries was that we were going to see a lot of robberies of people that deliver food. That was our big concern. We put some plans in place, we reached out to the local delivery people and we did well. Robberies are down tremendously, and I really have not seen any robberies in deliveries. That is great news. Our plan worked. We are also down in transit crime.

Crime is down at Hope Gardens from year to date, down to 13% from 18%. That is 13 crimes in Hope Gardens the whole year. Great news!

Where I could use help is along commercial strips. All along Broadway, Myrtle Avenue right up to Knickerbocker Avenue and Wyckoff Avenue. A lot of the commercial burglaries has taken place along that strip. We caught a career burglar last night, trying to break into a dentist office along knickerbocker. We got him and his screwdriver on Wyckoff Avenue.

We receive a lot of 311 calls. We are the highest in the borough. So, any help you can give us by talking to some of the restaurant owners, the deli owners about social distancing, that would help with a lot of the 311 calls.

Since the pandemic, more people are home and more people are calling about loud music, loud noise, parties, social distancing, etc. We designate one or two cars, usually two cars on the weekends, one car to handle those complaints. We have been doing very well.

Social distancing, it has been all over the news, however, there has been no complaint in my office, at least that I am aware of. I don't talk about other people's briefings; I don't want them to talk about mine. It is not fair. Here in Bushwick, we are doing very well. If I receive any complaints, I give my officers direction, I give my officers advise and I give my officers education first. I give them all extra mask. We approach people for social distancing when we are called to an area. We had a couple of people call us from Maria Hernandez Park, because they wanted some space. We went there, we advise the people about social distancing, but more importantly, we have mask to give the people, so if anyone says that they need masks, we have plenty to give them.

So, if you give me a call, I will shoot right over there with plenty of masks. If I don't have enough, I will get some.

So, because I don't know the precincts, I can't speak for the other precincts, but here at the 83rd precinct, it is education first and then we want to make sure everyone gets the masks, they need.

Maria Hernandez Park is our biggest park and since this whole thing we haven't had any problems in the park. I told the captain today, that we haven't had any crime over there. That is amazing. I want to keep that up for the summer.

We have assigned school safety agents to Maria Hernandez Park, Thomas Boyland Park and Irving Square Park. They are there to help as well. They have masks and they will advise people about social distancing.

Finally, is Memorial Day, it will be here this weekend. My big concern is the barbeques and the house parties. Last year we had a successful Memorial Day, but I don't know how it will be this Memorial Day. I can tell you that my officers are here, and we don't want to, shut down a small little barbeque with a couple of people from the family. We are not going to allow block parties and we are not going to allow people double parking their cars and putting out big speakers and trying to start a block party. It is not going to happen. We are going to ask people that are having barbeques to bring their event into their property line or into their backyards and by 7pm everything stops. Our officers will be driving around. Hopefully, it doesn't come to enforcement. We just want everyone to know that now is not the time to have these parties. If people start seeing people have a barbeque then they are going to have one, then it will be a big crowd. So, I hope Memorial Day is as successful as last years.

We know that in Manhattan where some bars are opening, and restaurants are serving alcohol and the patrons are hanging out in front of their bar. If you see this, just give us a call and let us know.

We have not received any complaints, but we are proactive in speaking to bar and restaurant owners. We let them know that we cannot allow them to have an outside bar, and we expect them to police themselves more than us having to go there.

Questions entertained:

Ms. Annette Spellman: What are the rules about barbeques on the roofs? We have quite a few folks going on the roof and having barbeques.

DI Dooley: The same rules applies as someone having a barbeque in their front or backyard. If you do not live in that residential building, you cannot be having barbeques there. Large gathering is just not going to be permitted. We can go into a private location and break things up, but that is not something we want to do. That would be the last resort.

Ms. Spellman: We are also having a lot of problems particularly on Weirfield Street, between Central and Wilson Avenues. Cars are parking on the sidewalk in front garages. We have a lot of senior citizens that must walk in the street to get around them. I don't know if PD is handling that, or if you can get traffic to come and check it out, but it is happening a lot on Weirfield between Central and Wilson, and it is also happening on Central Avenue between Hancock and Halsey Streets.

DI Dooley: That is something we can handle.
If you see it happening, you can call 311 and we will respond.

Ms. Spellman: Well, the reason that, my neighbors are coming to me is because I'm retired from the job. They come to me, because they've been trying to call 311 and they have been put on hold for two hours. They go to the 311 website and receive no help, so now they ring my bell.

DI Dooley: 311 is experiencing the same type of problems. They have a small staff because people are working from home.

We track all the response times from 311 and what we notice is, especially on the weekends we will get 23, 311 calls in one shot. What happens is they are behind in entering it in and they let it out all in one shot.

We still have our NCOs and we can put these blocks on the special attention list. People should not be parking on the sidewalks, there is plenty of space for people to park.

Chairperson Camacho: Thank you! I went out with officer Anno, and we went to Myrtle Avenue and we gave out 400 masks to people over there with some officers. They stayed there and chat with them for about 1 ½ – 2 hours. It was good. I think you posted it on Twitter. I have no complaints about our officers, they're the best! If I did, I would be the first one to tell you. Regarding domestic violence, we were hearing that due to the corona virus some are in danger in their home, because they are afraid to say something. How is that working?

DI Dooley: We look at it as a proactive approach. We have Sergeant Wang and he is very good. We also realize that people are at home now and they are probably afraid to call on whoever is abusing them. We are starting to get back to knocking on doors. We are trying to keep a lot of our police officers as far away as possible because a lot of them are sick. We don't want them going to people households and getting anybody sick. We also

have a list of people that we must call on, every day, to make sure that they are okay. That is why we have the NCOs going out to people. There is still resources available for domestic violence. We have a system in place. The big thing is for the children. We want to make sure that they are not at risk. We have a very aggressive domestic violence program and that is why I think it is down 50%.

Ms. Louisa Chan: Thank you so much for the work that you are doing. I am Chinese American. I see a lot of news articles about the harassment of Asians. Generally, I know we don't have a large Asian population here, but what is the precinct doing in how they are addressing hate crimes and racism due to the corona virus? I have to be honest with you, I've been home for about two months and because of the news that I've seen, I have been afraid of walking around in the neighborhood. I haven't personally experienced anything here, but it's just what you hear that is going on throughout the city. People getting harassed in the subway, walking and things like that, it's scary to me. So that's why I've chosen not to take walks to the park or anything like that, because I'm scared.

Mr. Camacho: Louisa, you shouldn't be scared. If you want to take a walk through the park, let me know and I will walk with you.

DI Dooley: That is a great question. We have a special unit for hate crimes. They are very aggressive and very good. I have not received any reports. Complaints, it's usually starts with the executive overview, so I get involved in them and we'll make referrals outside if we must, but it starts with outreach.

And we want to make sure that it's not typically with the Asian community, because we don't have a big Asian community here in the 83rd Precinct, but we do have a large Hispanic community and we have a black community. So, outreach is always going on. Whenever we get a complaint of anything, it goes right to my desk. So, I'll start with a meeting investigation.

We want to talk about pulling a video, we want to talk about a cooperating story, we want to get the person help and the resources that they need and connect them to the right people. The next day we will have the crime task force or more than likely an NCO officer reach out to the victim and we will then come up with a game plan.

Once the videos are pulled, the goal is to arrest the person that committed this act as quickly as possible. We want to tell the community that this is not going to be tolerated. That we're going to have immediate enforcement on it.

We don't have a big Asian community for me to have a big outreach towards the Asian community, but we do have outreach with the NCO program or community affairs offices. The victim comes first, how they feel is more important than me making arrest. I hope that answers your question?

Ms. Chan: I was hoping to hear more about you actively patrolling the area.

DI Dooley: I am happy to tell you that we have that happening here in Bushwick.

Ms. Jo-Ena Bennett: You mentioned that there are a lot of illnesses at the 83rd Precinct. Could you elaborate on that? And how is that affecting the community and the 83rd Precinct? They are first responders too.

And I just want to say something in reference to what Ms. Chan said. You can look around at the Chinese restaurants and see that they are close.

There is a reason why they are all close. It doesn't mean that somebody went in those restaurants and threatened them, but those people feel threatened. I know, this is not a political organization, but it came from the top down when the White House called it the Chinese virus. So, we have to be aware of what our children are adhering to and we must educate them. Louisa, I can imagine how you must feel. So, my question is, how is the corona virus affecting the 83rd Precinct. Can you address that, please?

DI Dooley: Great question. So, when this whole thing started, we got up to about 72 people that were out sick. Most of them with the virus, myself included. I don't know if everyone knows that I was sick. But they had the virus in April, and they had a bad case of it. So, they're still sick this month, however, most of my offices is back, including myself.

But when we went down to seventy-two people out sick, we had a lot of help. What they did was empty out 1 Police Plaza. A lot of them came and helped us.

We had all the units like internal affairs, narcotics, detective bureau, and they all came in and pitched in. Basically, when someone calls 911 a police officer must respond. When we were down to 72 cops and we received a call from headquarters, our response time was still excellent.

We were still getting to all our jobs. And we were still able to get crime down. They all did a phenomenal job.

I was worried that our response times are going to be off, but they never did. We were still able to handle all our problems, and all our staff still help Wyckoff Hospital, which they're doing an amazing job over there. A lot of these cops, they're young, and healthy, and some of them got sick, but most of them, are doing just fine.

They got a little worried, and they should be. Who's not. They do not know if they are asymptomatic. The last thing they want to do is go into someone's house and get sick and they did not want to go into someone's house and get someone sick.

So, right now I can tell you that my office has mask and PPE items. We all have them. We all get our temperature taking. We are taking steps to protect ourselves, to keep ourselves safe and others safe. We have 10 cops out now from the entire precinct and most of them are carryovers from April. They just had a bad case of it. They are still recovering.

Mr. Monroe: I saw the response for COVID-19 islanders. I want to make sure that there's some outreach that they're doing to the African community. Maybe people who are maybe first generation from Nigeria, or immigrants, they are being targeted by false information about this virus. Also, I want to ask a question about the homeless situation.

I know that there have been some issues of not being able to put them in shelters or something like that. And usually now, if you do have to take the train, it's predominantly people who don't have a residence, or they have some sort of mental health issues. How are your officers handling that? I know that this is kind of a sensitive situation.

How are they handling the mental health issues and if they understand the need to social distance, and the need for protection, how are you guys handling those issues? Because they are sensitive and it can't be handled the same way as other things, right?

DI Dooley: So, homeless is not nothing new to the 83rd Precinct, whether when this pandemic started or before that. We had talked about this in January, and in February, and we had breaking ground results.

We brought homeless outreach to in the 83rd Precinct way before the virus got here. I got to be honest with you.

They are still here. They're here almost every day or every week, getting them to take shelters and offering them services.

We have giveaways, food giveaways, by the Maria Hernandez Park. If you ever go to Marie Hernandez Park on the other side, the far side where the benches are, a lot of them congregate over there, and we're able to bring resources to them. There's also a shelter over at the 89 border that we're able to get resources that's in the 90th Precinct. We're still able to help them believe it or not. A lot of them will take the resources. A lot of them do not want to go to the shelters but we know we must get them there. And if there is a problem with talking to them in terms of mental health, then that is what outreach is for, that is what breaking ground is for. Our officers are all trained in how to deal with homeless people. They have been trained long before this pandemic started. We have been talking about homeless all last year, around Broadway and Myrtle Avenue. We have talked about it on Jefferson Street.

We've done multiple cleanups over there and we've been able to connect people to services. It just must be the right service. A lot of times they don't want to go all the way to Manhattan North to a shelter.

We try to convince them to go to a shelter that we have here in Brooklyn, and that seems to be working a little bit better.

As far as mental health is concern, we are not mental health experts, but we can get people to the services and resources that they need. We can get them connected to Woodhull Hospital, Wyckoff Heights Hospital, and to Breaking Ground Homeless Outreach Unit.

I get emails almost every day, that they're here doing cleanups and getting people services because when they do those cleanups, they send me an email, to let me know how it's going.

Mr. Monroe: Okay, that sounds great. I just want to make sure there was steps to service, because sometimes breaking ground are the first point of contact with them, with the segment of population that we're talking about.

What is cleanup? Could you please explain that?

DI Dooley: A lot of them have tents, these makeshift tents, along with a lot of the stuff that they're collecting. So, sanitation usually comes down and they'll clean up the makeshift tents. The cardboard boxes and other stuff.

District Manager: Thank you for the inspector Dooley and everyone for the questions. Several people have let me know that they have joined in.

Marcus Harris, representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams: We are working remotely, but I am, going into office once a week.

If you need any assistance call someone, 718-802-3700. Our constituent assistant team is still working. And if you also need me, you can download me at 917-324-2680. I'll share it in the chat.

Yvette Lopez, representing Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, 718-443-1205. I did want to let everyone know that if you have any families who need food, we are at 215 Moore Street, distributing food from 12-1pm. Give our office a call for more info.

Ms. Jessica Franco, representing Senator Julia Salazar's office: She was looking forward to this call, however she had an emergency meeting regarding first responders. She apologizes for not attending the meeting.

We have been distributing hand sanitizers, mask and partnering up with mutual aid groups in Bushwick and Williamsburg and Cypress Hills and we will continue to do.

So, to our, if you are in need of any you can reach out to me, my email is JFranco@NySenate.gov and I will be happy to share that on the chat. Our biggest goal is to ensure that the community gets equitable funding. She is also pushing for housing and education. She is working on cancelling rent. Our office is more than happy to help any constituents who are not able to get through with unemployment applications.

District Manager's Report, Ms. Celestina Leon:

Good evening, everyone happy Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage month. May also marks two months that the city has been on pause and all non-essential workers have been asked to stay at home.

I can't thank essential workers and volunteers enough for all that they have done.

I'm also happy to share that we've received a significant increase in the amount of calls from individuals in Bushwick, offering to volunteer. In addition, I have received calls from those in need of food and assistance.

And it's certainly inspiring and reaffirming to see us working together to help each other, especially the most vulnerable.

I've listed all the events and meetings that I've attended. I won't go through them for the sake of time.

But I will just say that most of them were, in several areas concerning the budget. I did meet with OMB, the Office Management Budget on several occasions, as well as, the Department of City Planning to discuss a little bit about how the district needs, and budget consultations will look this year.

I've also had a variety of check ins with our elected officials, and their representatives, our community-based organizations as well as agencies and community partners. I've also participated in quite a few informational webinars.

Most of you may know that Bushwick has never had the composting program, although we know that it is a concern for a lot of the residents in the neighborhood. Now that funding is cut, of course, there are other concerns as Mr. Camacho referenced regarding programs and for our youths.

There's certainly a lot of battles that we have to fight right now, in terms of funding. I also handled business as Mr. Camacho reference in terms of the staff. So, we've had a staff meeting. There's been some trainings for using tools like WebEx that I've participated in. I've also been regularly attending both the regular Bushwick Community Partnership meetings as well as their governance meetings, which are always excellently run.

So, if you have any questions, or you would like to see my full report, I'm happy to share that, although I won't go through all of it. So, that concludes the summary of my report for this evening.

Committee Reports:

Permits and Licenses (PLC), Committee Chairperson, Melissa Carrera
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 6pm via virtually

3 Items on the agenda.

- 1) Ten Bells Bushwick Inc.: 65 Irving Avenue. They are seeking to change their establishment classification from Restaurant to Bar/Tavern. Due to no open flame

propane, which technically identifies as a restaurant. SLA asked them to make this change. Everything else stays the same.

- 2) Artichoke Basille's Pizza – 18 Wyckoff Avenue
They came to our meeting in February, they came to let us know that they were renewing their sidewalk café. Which we approved. No other changes will be made. They will have the same number of chairs, same number of tables.
- 3) Aura Finesse LLC d/b/a AF Studio NYC – New Application LWBC, 1501 Broadway, border of Jefferson. They are a gallery, seeking a full liquor, bar, tavern. Due to COVID-19, this lady has not been able to produce any new business or have any events. The space can be used for baby showers, parties and things of that nature.

We want to make sure that we support businesses like hers and we wished her the best of luck.

We also talked about new business. We have a list of businesses that Celeste and the office has put together. We are checking with business to see how they are doing during this pandemic.

Mr. Camacho: Artichoke is open, and you can order takeout. Let's try to order something so that we can keep all these businesses open.

Recommendations:

Permits and Licensing:

- 1) The recommendations were to support Ten Bells Bushwick, Inc. on their change from restaurants to bar and Traven.
- 2) A recommendation for Aura Finesse to support, and to connect them with Jamie, which I hope that was able to happen around their landlord. To support their full liquor and wish them the best of luck. And lastly, we didn't have to vote an artichoke. It was just more of a gesture that they did to show up and let us know that this was happening.

District Manager: one quick point of clarification on Melissa's report, regarding 65 Irving Avenue, they elaborated on their music. They wanted to know that the committee and the full board were okay with them specifying the type of music in their establishment.

As for Noak at 65 Irving Avenue, they just followed up with the board's office. They've already been supported by the full board, but just to note that they clarify the type of the music they were going to have.

Ms. Carrera: Is it jazz music, Celeste?

District Manager: Yes, I think so.

Is there a motion from the board regarding the permit's licenses committee recommendation?

Mr. Camacho made a motion to accept the PLC committee's recommendations. The motion was second by Ms. Anne Guiney.

All members present were in favor, with one abstention. Motion so moved.

Chairperson, Mr. Camacho: Recommendation to table the election to September. Also, to create an air hoc committee.

We can start with a committee of whoever wants to be on it.

And then, from within the body, I think Raul was on it, I think two years ago. If possible, whoever wants to get involved and then from there, they, create their own chairperson to conduct, and do the calls.

District Manager: Is there a motion regards to the elections committee this year, whether to postpone, or to move forward, with the election being conducted in June.

Mr. Camacho: The committee must start meeting now if the election is to be held in June. It will be in September if you want to wait.

The executive board requested that I bring it to the full board. I want a single vote from everyone because it needs to be put on paper and there need to be an open meeting. Everything should be open, and everything is on the table. And the only thing that's on that table is:

1st Vice chair; 2nd Vice chair; Recording Secretary; Correspondence Secretary; Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentary. My position is every two years.

Ms. Louisa Chan: Camacho, my question is, what will happen in September if we are still not able to meet? What will happen?

District Manager, Ms. Celestina Leon: If I may, I have spoken to some of the other district managers, and most of them are finding alternatives. So, there are few options that I've spoken to Mr. Camacho about, in terms of doing the election next month. So, it is possible. It's just up to the board to decide what they want to do. The committee would be reviewing those options that I have, but we do have options.

Ms. Louisa Chan: Can you tell us what those options are?

District Manager, Ms. Leon: One board is doing a roll call vote; another board is looking into a Google form and then there's also another board using the polling option that exists on WebEx.

Then another board is also looking in to see if their secretary will be the one that privately takes a message from all the board members regarding their picked.

District Manager, Ms. Leon: Is their motion from the board, in terms of moving forward with the election next month June?

Mr. Camacho: Or September?

Mr. Egaudy Gomez motioned to have the election in September.

Mr. Camacho: Is there a second?

Ms. Jo-Ena Bennett: I second the motion.

Mr. Camacho: We must do a single vote.

District Manager: Roll call vote.

Mr. Camacho: We want to know everyone that agrees to it. We don't want to get caught up on any legal technicality. We want to make sure that everybody's speaking for themselves.

District Manager: The individuals that are on the phone, they won't be able to say anything. They can call it in, and I can always follow up to find out what they say.

Result of Roll call vote:

5 abstentions

3 No

13 Yes

So moved, so the election has been postponed until September.

There will be doing the ad hoc, right? Yes. So, for the time being, we still will be getting the committee together, but everything will just be done when the board comes back from summer break.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

Mr. Eguady Gomez: Regarding a lot of the businesses and in keeping our communities intact, especially our culture, the things that are important to us, the Moore Street Market is still open. We have five vendors that are open now, and more are going to open later...

A few of them decided to stay home for their own safety, others decided to come into work, but the ones that are open are AC Tropical, and others.

J. R. Taylors are making their own PPE masks, and then there is Arturo from toys treasures, he also has good equipment and things of that nature. We are going to have more openings this weekend. This Friday, we are doing live streaming with turnstile tours. We're going to be meeting some of the vendors that are still open.

We should be opening probably next week. We took a lot of social distancing precautions, and seating has been eliminated.

We have two stations where you can sanitize your hands. We asked people just to pick up or use the delivery service. I will put more information on the chat.

Mr. Camacho: Ms. Barbara Smith sent me a text saying that she wanted to vote. She said, why can't I vote?

Ms. Barbara Smith: How come the ones on the phone can't say anything. I would like to vote and make an announcement. If the ones on the phone can't vote, you will not have a correct total.

District Manager: I can only tell if those on the panel would like to say something, not those on the phone. We can go back. You can make an announcement.

Ms. Barbara Smith: I'm given out masks tomorrow in front of my house with the 83rd Precinct at 10 o'clock am.

Mr. Camacho: Is there anyone else on the call that you can access?

Ms. Leon: I'm going through it now. I just must cross reference their phone numbers with my list.

This is the first time we did that like this, so it's a little bit different. I think McClellan has something to say.

Ms. Mary McClellan: I'm fine. I was trying to get on before, because that lady from the society was saying that, the man that mop couldn't be considered. I think that the man that mops should get what he deserves, just as much as the nurses taken care of people, because if it wasn't for the man that mops and who keep the area clean, she could not function. He is very important too.

Ms. Martha Brown: How about getting the other people that is on the line now. I see you got McClellan and Barbara and I also was not able to speak. I've been on here since six o'clock and it's 8:07pm and every time I tried to say something, I couldn't speak either. I heard her say she saw my phone number, but how can we vote? We can't even say anything.

Mr. Camacho: You can vote Martha.

Ms. M. Brown: I vote to have it in September. We must do better with setting up these meetings, with these phone conferences.

Mr. Camacho: It is the first time; we will get it together.

Ms. McClellan: I vote for September.

Ms. M. Brown: We must get out the kinks because the people on the phone should not be muted.

Mr. Eliseo Ruiz: For those people that were on the phone for two hours and did not get a chance to speak, nor had the opportunity to vote. Thank you for doing a terrible job today, but I know you are going to do better next month, I can guarantee you that. Barbara Smith I will be at your house tomorrow to pick up two masks.

Ms. Martha Brown: Don't forget those ballots still have to be sent out and mailed in for the elections. That still must be done. Everything must be done in secreted. No one should know who is voting for who. You must set up the election sheet so that they can be mailed out so that everyone can vote.

Ms. Celestina Leon: It may be a little bit different this year because if we can't meet in person. We can't necessarily have ballots because we would have to be in person for that.

Ms. Martha Brown: Let's just hope by September this COVID is finished, and we can do an election in a more normal way. But in the event, we must figure out some way to get those ballots in the mail, get them back, and get them tallied.

Ms. Barbara Smith: Why we can't we postpone this election until next year?

Mr. Camacho: Because the by-laws say we must do it.

Ms. Smith: The by-laws is on a piece of paper and the corona is real. So, we need to find a way to do this in person.

Mr. Camacho: I am with you. I have been in contact with the legal department and they are all doing it this way.

Mr. Felix Caballos: Celeste, going back to the voting, how many said yes and how many said no?

District Manager: 13 said yes, 3 said no, and 6 abstained.

Ms. B. Smith: Now, 16 said yes.

Mr. Caballos: We don't have a quorum.

District Manager: We have a quorum. The motion already passed.

Chairperson: I was going to call you and ask you what is your vote?

If even you, voted no, it would have still passed because we had a quorum and we had enough people that said yes.

District Manager: We have Marcus outside his office. He would like to make an announcement.

Mr. Marcus Harris, Representing the Brooklyn Borough Hall Office, Eric Adams: I wanted to express my condolences Raul Rubio. I did let the Borough President know, and there is a letter coming out to you from him. So, if there's anything that you need, please feel free to reach out to me. I'm more than happy to assist.

I just want to make sure that everyone knows that we did review the community board applications. What I have suggested, after speaking to Celeste, is to make sure that people understand that as an applicant for community board, first of all, you should have at least attended a meeting in the past before you apply to be a Community Board Member. Also, you must be aware of the attendance requirements for the meetings.

We want to make sure that everyone understands that. The commitment is the commitment. If you then say that you're unable to do it, then fine.

But we want to make sure that people understand what the requirements are in your bylaws. That is something that I'm going to be looking at and enforced.

I just wanted to make sure that we also know that if you go on www.Brooklyn-USA.org, if there is a need for PPE items, you can request that on the website.

So far, we've handed out about two hundred thousand masks. The Borough President has been out personally making sure that he is handing them out in NYCHA developments. He's about to start at Mitchell Lama.

The city has also been doing park situations, but we want to make sure if there's anybody that needs them, they can have them. Lastly, we receive an overwhelming support for restaurants that wanted to support the first responders. We have made sure that we have fed every single hospital, and every precinct in Brooklyn, and we're looking forward to continuing to do that process.

If you're working twelve to fourteen hours per days, and as a first responder, you don't have the time to cook something. So, we are making sure that we have the food and everything for everybody.

Mr. Camacho: Thank you. Marcus, it is also on the city charter regarding time attendance. So, I'm aware, and they're aware, because they all received a copy of it.

Marcus: We're going to also put a copy of it on the website, where you can go to apply to be on community boards. That way people see it right away, just to make sure they're aware of it. Every community board has a different Bylaw, but we want to ensure that if you're applying for a specific community board, you understand exactly what the requirements are.

Alexander Cox: Hello everybody. My name is Alexander Cox. I'm an attorney, a camera legal service. I'm in the housing unit, and I shared a brochure with Celeste, which hopefully can be distributed to all of you. We do base legal advocacy.

I'm in the housing unit, but we also provide for closure, prevention, integration and consumer debt and consumer fraud services. As far as COVID-19, it is important to point out as you may be aware that there's an eviction moratorium in place until June 20, and there was also another moratorium in place until August 20. We have a hotline and I can share more information on the chat as well. It is on the brochure that I shared with Celeste. We're working from home, but our main line telephone is also available during regular hours. That's it. Thank you.

Ms. Elvena Davis: Celeste, Rev. Aytes want you to know that she is on the line.

District Manager: Okay, I will mark her down.

2nd Roll Call:

Ms. Martha Brown: When we get these toll charges do, we pass them on to the board?

District Manager: If there's an issue with the toll charge, we must talk about it outside of the meeting. I know there's been an issue with that, but there should not be a charge for these meeting.

Ms. Brown: We will see when the phone bill comes.

District Manager: Okay, please, let us know before you join the meeting if that happens, because we must figure that out before the meeting start.

Ms. Brown: Well, I told you that it says toll, it says toll when you call that number that you gave us. So, that means that the charges are going to come on your bill. I guess depending on what type of plan you have. But we'll see when the bills come in.

District Manager: Okay. We will look for an alternative if that's a problem.

Ms. Brown: Okay. Alright.

Ms. Barbara Jackson, I make a motion that we adjourn the meeting.

Samuel Nemir Olivares, I second the motion. All member present were in favor.

Ms. Martha Brown: The cemeteries are close. So, do not try to go and go to the cemetery for Memorial Day, I just want to give you a heads up on that.