

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, January 16, 2019  
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center  
195 Linden Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11221  
6:00PM

Chairperson, Mr. Robert Camacho  
District Manager Ms. Celestina Leon

Board Members in Attendance:

Jo-Ena Bennett, Joshua Brown, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Louisa Chan, Elvena Davis, Julie Dent, Denisse Reyna-Dolin, Carlos Feliciano, Victoria Fernandez, Egaudy Gomez, Anne Guiney, Jose R. Guzman, Michelle Hilliard, Barbara Jackson, Cheryl Jones, Virgie Jones, Kweighbaye Kotee, Mary McClellan, Desmond Monroe, Sharlene Moore, Zulma Novoa, Cirilo Nunez, Luisa Jose-Olea, Raul Rubio, Julio Salinas, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jerry Valentin, James Wiseman and Odolph Wright.

Board Members Excused:

Martha Brown, Sufia Chowdhry, Freddy Fowler, Nancy Liao, Acire Polight, and Eliseo Ruiz

Board Members Absent:

Grace Aytes, L. A. Blacksmith, Ernest Estime, Christopher Graham, Austin Martinez, Gladys Puglla, Eva Rodriguez, John Scheaffer, and Vernedeaner Shell

The District Manger opened the monthly Community Board #4 meeting at 6:05PM  
She acknowledged the presence of Councilmember Antonio Reynoso.

- Public Hearing Item -

James Tillmon, Brooklyn Partnership Specialist, Unite Census Bureau – Presenting on the importance of the 2020 Census and the jobs that are available.

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Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339 TTY / ASCII ([www.qsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.qsa.gov/fedrelay))

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Special Guest Speakers:

- Tiffany Briery, The Trust for Public Land, NYC Playgrounds, Melissa Potter-Ix, Landscape Architect, Studio HP, Two Student Designers from PS 377
- Ramon Rodriguez, CEO, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

Tiffany Briery, Trust for Public Land, nonprofit organization: The build parks and playgrounds all over the country especially in the cities with the goal of having every person be within 10 minute walk from a park. They have been working in the New York City over 20 years renovating

school yards at public schools. They just opened their 201 school renovation with the nearest and newest project happening at PS 377.

Eric Hernandez is a student designer of the project. Ms. Briery asked him to describe what is going to take place.

Two parks will be merge together. Out of 4 designs 2 are being used.

- a) Outdoor class room will be added – A turf pod was added so that there will be extra space to play
- b) Kickball Field – the bases on the field will be redone because at present the bases are faded.
- c) Green Gazebo – which allows a place to read while others are playing.
- d) Play area – Play equipment will be added
- e) Art design - Outer Space
- f) Trees for shade
- g) Welcoming Signs
- h) Storage Center
- i) Multi-Purpose Court

Councilmember Reynoso and Espinal said a few words.

The District Manager, Ms. Celestina Leon called the first roll call.

**First Roll Call:** – 29 members present this does constitute a quorum.

The acceptance of the agenda was made by Gladys Puglla and second by Ms. Barbara Jackson.

The acceptance of last month's minutes was made by Ms. Mary McClellan and second by Ms. Sharlene Moore.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Mr. Robert Camacho welcomed all to the Community Board #4 Wednesday, January 16, 2019 monthly meeting.

No report. (Informational)

The Chairperson went to most of the same meetings that the District Manager went to.

**The Elected Officials and / or their representatives that was present at the meeting.**

- 1) Jennifer Gutierrez, Representing Councilman Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> Council District, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211, 718-963-3141
- 2) 34<sup>th</sup> Council District, Councilman Antonio Reynoso, 244 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211
- 3) Karen Cherry, Representing 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, Assembly Member Erik Martin Dilan, 366 Cornelia Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-386-4576
- 4) Paula Mendez, Representing 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-443-1205
- 5) Jonathan Pomboza, Representing District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, 350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-250-2340
- 6) Julio Salazar, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, 266 Broadway, Suite 201, Brooklyn, NY 11211, 718-599-3658

- 7) Marcus Harris, Representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-3700
- 8) Boris Santos, Representing Senator Julia Salazar, 18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, 1068 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 917-370-4440

The DM acknowledge the presence of the District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board #3 Mr. Henry Butler. She asked him if he wanted to say a few words.

Mr. Henry Butler: SAVE-THE-DATE – Who Will Be the Next Public Advocate? Public Advocate Debate, January 31, 2019, 7pm to 10pm (doors open at 6pm), at the Historic Boys and Girls High School, 1100 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11213.

23 candidates are presently on the ballots.

RSVP: <https://vidapubadvocatedebate.eventbrite.com>

Rezoning: Bedford Stuyvesant was rezoned in 2007 and 2011. Mr. Butler worked with the then Chief of Staff, Antonio Reynoso and the former Councilmember Diana Reyna at the time. Mr. Butler offered the support of Community Board 3's Housing and Land Committee if Community Board 4 would like it.

Council Member Reynoso: Community Board #3 was one on the most informed and educated community boards when it came to how they were working on rezoning. He felt that it was community controlled, he suggested that the community board take Mr. Butler up on his offer.

#### Federal, State or City Agencies

- 1) Sergeant Anna Serrano, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct N.C.O. (Neighborhood Coordination Officer), 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- 2) PO Gomez and PO Velez, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 3) Commanding Officer DI Dan Dooley,, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- 4) Tiara Mack, RiseBoro, SBS (Small Business Services) Work with Knickerbocker Avenue Merchants. 646-374-3118, [TMack@RiseBoro.org](mailto:TMack@RiseBoro.org)
- 5) Luke Griffin, , Bushwick Podcast, 724-484-3493, Website: [WWW.HearBushwick.com](http://WWW.HearBushwick.com)
- 6) Raul Rubio, DOHMH, Thrive New York, Mental First Aide Training, 646-988-8639.

Deputy Inspector Dan Dooley: DI Dooley just left command at PSA3. He covered all the NYCHA developments from the Brooklyn Bridge, the Farragut Housing all the way to Hope Gardens, for two years. Before that he was the executive officer, Manhattan South Narcotics. He covered all the vice modules, major case narcotics and gang teams over in Manhattan South. DI Dooley has an extensive background in investigations. He also does consultant work for homeland security so he knows a little bit about counterterrorism. He stated that he has had a hat in many things and feels that he is well-rounded as a commanding officer. He was born and raised on Cooper Avenue and 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, so the community is near and dear to his heart. He thanked everyone for welcoming him and stated that he is looking forward in working with everyone.

Sergeant Anna Serrano, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct N.C.O. (Neighborhood Coordination Officer): In attendance with her are:

- PO Fredrick Nelson - Sector Charlie: Covers Himrod to Flushing from Broadway to Wilson Avenues, 917-514- 7641
- PO Ram Roop & PO Shankar Sector Boy
- PO Sweeney : Administer Officer
- PO Gomez: Community Affairs Unit

Sergeant Serrano asked that everyone come to their “Build A Block” meetings so that they can learn about the sectors where they live.

President and CEO, Mr. Ramon J. Rodriquez - Update on Wyckoff Heights Medical Center: The Wyckoff Heights Medical Center’s sister hospital is Woodhull Hospital which Mr. Rodriquez stated is a great hospital.

Wyckoff Heights Hospital will be 130 years old this year.

7 years ago they were told that Wyckoff Heights Hospital was unnecessary and that there would be a merger, however 7 years later the hospital has had:

- \* 92,000 emergency department visits
- \* 162,000 outpatient visits
- \* 14,000 patients whom they have treated in the hospital

At a time when many hospitals are experiencing significant reductions in resources and services, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center continues to respond to the growing healthcare needs of the community they serve. All new beds were purchased, along with new furniture in some places and old furniture in other places. However, you do not take care of people with just good equipment, stated Mr. Rodriquez. The hospital has acquired new equipment and have expanding clinical programs. Recent improvements include addition of an on-site MRI to ensure that community residents do not have to travel outside the neighborhood to access advance radiologic procedures, establishment of a cardiac catheterization lab for definitive diagnostic tests that assess coronary circulation and overall heart function. A discrete Women’s Health Center that offers a comprehensive range of obstetrical and gynecological services in maximum privacy and comfort for female patients of all ages.

Mr. Ramon Rodriquez mentioned the Chief Nursing Officer, Catherine Gallegly – Simon, who has been the Chief Nursing Officer for 5 years, who could not be here.

Mr. Rodriquez brought with him the Chief Medical Officer: Dr. Gustavo Del Toro – he is a pediatric oncologist hematologist, and Chief Counsel, Mr. Kevin Smyley.

The hospital has improved in three distinct areas:

- I. Dr. Ralph Ruggiero, Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology: a little over 1400 babies were delivered at the hospital last year
- II. Dr. Koehler: Cancer Center and other areas
- III. Dr. Leaque Ahmed, MD, FACS: Is a fellowship trained Endocrine and Bariatric Surgeon. He has assumed the position of Chairman of Surgery at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Prior to his arrival to the hospital, Dr. Ahmed served as the Chief and Chair of Surgery at Harlem Hospital for over 22 years. His clinical and research

interest includes Weight loss surgery, Endocrine surgery and Surgical oncology. He had established a comprehensive bariatric surgery program at Harlem Hospital and has performed over 4000 operations with great outcomes. In additions Dr. Ahmed has trained multiple surgical residents successfully. For an appointment call: 718-907-8308

Dr. Ralph Ruggiero: Things have changed since you have last tried the institution stated the doctor. He asked that you know of anyone who is pregnant or in need of women's health to give them a try at any one of their sites. He brought with him, Juana Cuevas, MD. Doctor Cuevas runs the Women's Health Center.

Juana Cuevas, MD: They have achieved patient-centered medical home certification. They try to provide comprehensive care to the women that attend. They have psychological services, mammogram on-site, high risk pregnancy with a maternal fetal medicine doctor with ultrasonography. They take in walk-in patients every day.

Sharon L Koehler, DO, FACS, newly acquired Breast Surgeon: Breast Cancer is very, very serious she stated. One out of eight women will be diagnosed. Wyckoff Heights Medical Center has an amazing team to take care of everybody. She has a great radiology team. They did over 5,000 mammograms to help screen for breast cancer just last year.

Don't believe the myths that are out there she said, like: Don't believe that if you feel a lump in your breast that it is cancer, it might not be and don't believe that if you do not have a family history of cancer that you cannot get it.

Dr. Ahmed: He came to the US in 1995, and left Harlem Hospital in December 2018.

**District Manager's Report:**

The District Manager, Ms. Celestina Leon took the opportunity to thank all of the board members for their hard work and time. She also thanked the familiar faces that are frequently at the Community Board meetings.

(For her report please call the Community Board)

**Committee Reports:**

**Civic and Religious Committee (CRC),** Committee Chairperson Ms. Elvena Davis, Vice Co-Chair, Mr. Ernest Estime

Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2019, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, New York 11207-1422, 3:08PM

Board Members in Attendance: Committee Chairperson, Ms. Elvena Davis, Rev. Grace Aytes and Mr. Ernest Estime via phone call

Others in Attendance: CB 4 Chairperson, Mr. Robert Camacho; District Manager and Celestina Leon

Members Excused: Virgie Jones

Items Discussed:

Ms. Elvena Davis, Committee Chair opened the meeting with a round of introductions. She then moved to the first agenda item, summarizing that the committee has since discussed:

1) The Street Co-naming Request for Akeal Christopher

Since the request does not meet the criteria for a Street Co-naming, the CRC Committee asked the full board for their recommendations. Various recommendations were shared. One recommendation from Mr. Wright suggested adding a plaque to the Verizon building on Gates. Elvena has asked Mr. Wright to gather more information, as Verizon likely owns the building. The board will seek other ways to honor Akeal Christopher.

Questions of concern:

Permission is needed

Who will make the plaque?

Who would maintain it?

Who will pay for it?

Ernest – The Borough President mentioned the opportunity to apply for grants. The CRC Committee will find a way to team up with the Arts Committee to see what can be done for a mural or plaque. In regards to having capital, the board could reach out to the Borough President.

Elvena – However Ms. Christopher would have to apply for the grant. The CRC would have to meet with the ACC to see if we can come up with financing for the plaque.

Rev. Aytes – Stated that whatever could be done it should be stationary; not something that will be taken down.

Ernest – another suggestion, bikers have a memorial. What I was thinking it wouldn't be a bike in some way. This will likely be the better solution out of other options. It could be on the corner, although it's not technically a street co-naming.

Elvena – the next meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

District Manager – is there a motion from the committee on this item? Josh – I make a motion to deny the street co-naming with the stipulation that we champion alternative. Rev. Aytes – second. All in favor.

Preliminary Annual Parade and Shape-Up Bushwick Planning Discussion

A discussion on what the theme would be this year.

Ernest suggested spotlighting businesses.

Honorees? Outstanding business that has demonstrated significant commitment to the Bushwick community. (Research will be done and then the committee will decide)

Joshua & Elvena suggested – start including board members, as honorees.  
Robert, Ernest – Like Ms. Dent.  
Committee Chair, Elvena Davis – Everyone agrees on Ms. Dent and Nadine Whitted. All agreed.

#### Old Business

Greenest Block Awards Outreach: Elvena will reach out to BBG to have Lawrence come out to the block associations. She will contact him and ask them to present. Robert suggested maybe in April.

Resource Fair for Churches: DM – Mr. Camacho and the District Manager will follow up with the Mayor’s liaison, Ms. Jamila Pringle-Fynes. The purpose of the event is to bring resources and guidance from the city for the faith-based community. They will have access to more information on programming, such as health workshops and education, how to develop affordable housing, and more. More details soon to come. The suggested event date is still to be discussed, however, it will likely be in the spring.

#### New Business

Joshua is part of an organization called Family First Friday. It commemorates with the first Friday in August. They are asking for a letter of support. The purpose is to promote healing and family.

Chairperson Mr. Camacho – Joshua will come before the committee next month and then the committee will make the recommendation before it goes to the full board.

#### Announcements

District Manager: Bushwick Community Plan is holding an event on 1/12 from 11am to 1pm at the Diana H. Jones Senior Center (see the flyer for more information).

The EPTS Committee is hosting a town hall meeting on Monday, 2/4 at 6pm.

The EDC is hosting an MWBE Expo on Wednesday, 2/13 at the Hope Gardens Community Center.

Joshua: Julia Salazar the new State Senator will have an office in Bushwick. It will likely be on Putnam Ave and Wilson Ave.

Joshua Brown: Motion to adjourn the meeting. It was second by Rev. Aytes. All members present were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:01pm

**Economic Development Committee Meeting, (EDC)**, Committee Chairperson, Mr. Odolph Wright; Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Desmonde Monroe

Meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422, 6:00PM

Board Member Present: Odolph Wright, Desmonde Monroe, Gardea Caphart, Michelle Hilliard, Julio Salinas.

Board Members Excused: Jamie Wiseman

Board Members Not in Attendance: Anne Guiney, Sharline Moore, Raul Rubio

Others in Attendance: Community Board 4 Chairperson, Robert Camacho; Celestina Leon, CB4 District Manager; Mr. Willie Morales, Community Board 4 Community Associate, Rawle Brown, Azra Samiee, Jay Solly, Ricardo Lopez

Desmonde Monroe-EDC Vice-Chairperson welcomed everyone and began with a quick round of introductions before moving to agenda item #1.

Items Discussed:

#### Overview

Recap of CB4 MWBE and Small Business Resource Fair Planning Meeting:  
The CB4 EDC endeavors to plan an MWBE forum and small business resource fair.  
The event is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 6pm to 8pm.

Desmonde Monroe-EDC Vice-Chairperson:

- I. Opened the conversation by saying the purpose of this meeting was to go over the logistics for the upcoming event and seeing where everything is at. The list is comprised of city agencies and private organizations. The committee vice-chair suggested that perhaps another round of outreach effort be done via emails and phone calls to potential function participants would be ideal. As it stands now the District Manager of CB4 would outreach to the city agencies and committee vice-chair take cares of private organizations.
- II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> item talked about was about the support staff team which has to be assemble in order to help out with the setup and break down of the event. Since the Hope Gardens Community Center is the confirmed location for the event, once a walk over of the location is done which will be on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 5PM a more concrete plan can be developed in respect with the setup and break down.
- III. Topics for the event were discussed and as well as to who are going to be the presenters, the topics at this point are in the developmental stage at this moment and so far two presenters out of the desired five have already been identified, Mr. Rawle Brown from the Pace University Small Business Development Center and our very own board member Mr. Jamie Wiseman who will be talking about business in general and financing.
- IV. Refreshment of bottle of water and some type of food will be provided for the volunteers since they most probably would be coming straight from work.

#### Old Business

##### Industrial Areas/Manufacturing Business Study, Commercial Corridor Surveys

- o Talk about a proposed study for those areas along with the just released North Brooklyn Industrial business zone study and will be making a presentation at the



February Housing and Land Use committee and the report is now available online. Only 2 portion of the IBZ is located in Bushwick along the Flushing Avenue borderline.

- The next committee meeting since the event will be happening in February will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

New Business

- Under new business Robert Camacho stated he attended the East New York rezoning meeting for the train station area. He stated some of the merchants made their concerns and desires known.

Announcements

- Bushwick Community Plan Event set for Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Diana H. Jones Senior Center located on 9 Noll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206 from 11:00am to 1:00, snacks and refreshments provided.
- Desmonde Monroe asked for a motion to adjourn. Robert Camacho seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:24 P.M.

**Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation Community (EPTS)**, Committee Chairperson, Mr. Eliseo Ruiz; Committee Chairperson, Mr. Raul Rubio; and Mrs. Nancy Liao, Committee Vice Chairperson

Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2019, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, New York 11207-1422, 6:00PM

Members in Attendance: Mr. Raul Rubio, Ms. Jo-Ena Bennet, Ms. Louisa Chan, Mr. Eliseo Ruiz, and Mr. Jose R. Guzman

Others in Attendance: District Manager Ms. Celeste Leon; CB4 Chairperson, Mr. Robert Camacho

Excused: Ms. Nancy Liao

Not in Attendance: John Scheaffer and Sufia Chowdhry

Mr. Rubio discussed the report. Old business was discussed.  
To read the EPTS report please contact the community board.

The District Manager opened the meeting with a quick round of introductions and moved to agenda item two after summarizing the first item, as the presenter from Bushwick Car Service was not present.

The board's office invited Bushwick Car Service to the meeting earlier in the week after asking them if they still needed a letter of no objection in order for them to renew their license. The representative indicated that they did.

The DM proceeded to ask the committee for their thoughts on the Mr. Ron Roth's streetscape study proposal.

A motion was made for the first agenda item to be invited to next month's meeting since they did not attend the present meeting.

Louisa – motion to table to the next month meeting. Eliseo seconded. All in the favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Eliseo and second by Raul.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:24pm

**Recommendations:**

The District Manger asked the board vote on the Bushwick Community Plan, non URLURP. Related vote. This is a symbolic vote as stated earlier by the councilmember.

Mr. Robert Camacho motioned that the board vote on the BCP's plan, the full community plan with no exceptions.

The motion was second by Mr. Joshua Brown. All member present were in favor.

**Old Business:**

Update By-laws. It has been 6 years since they were updated.

**Announcements:**

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Excellent Pay, Flexible Hours, Paid Training and Temporary Positions

SAVE THE DATE! Who will become New York City's next Public Advocate? Public Advocate Debate, January 31, 2019, 7pm to 10pm. Doors open at 6pm. Location: Boys and Girls High School, 1700 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11213

RSVP: [HTTPS://Vidapubadvocatedebate.eventbrite.com](https://Vidapubadvocatedebate.eventbrite.com)

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- Brooklyn Borough Hall, 2019 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 – Monday 12pm to 7pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday 10am to 2pm
- Brooklyn Coop RCU, 315 Grove Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237 –  
Monday & Wednesday's 6pm to 8pm  
Saturday and Sunday's 10am to 4pm
- St. John's Bread & Life, 795 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221  
Tuesday & Thursday 6pm to 8pm  
Saturday & Sunday's 11am to 5pm

53<sup>rd</sup> District Assemblywoman Maritza Davila: Starting February 4<sup>th</sup> the office will be available to help people fill out their IT210 & IT214 tax forms. Every Monday – Thursday, from 9:30am to 3pm. For more information please call Paula or Marisol at 718-443-1205

SAVE A LIFE. Carry Naloxone. About 3 New Yorkers die from drug overdose everyday...YOU can save a life with Naloxone. Take a course. Save a life. Strengthen your community. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Brooklyn Neighborhood Health Action Center. Contact: Z Novoa, DOHMH, [ZNovoa@health.nyc.gov](mailto:ZNovoa@health.nyc.gov), 718-637-5221  
For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/health/naloxone](http://www.nyc.gov/health/naloxone)

Meeting Adjourned: 34 Members Present.

Streaming of Community Board 4 meetings can be found on YouTube under “Brooklyn Community Board 4”