

**Community Board 4**  
Public Hearing and Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 6pm

Webex

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celeste Leon

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Celeste called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone, before moving on to the first public hearing item.

Meeting Start: 6:10pm

**Public Hearing**

The first presenter had issues with their sound. Mr. Camacho noted that the Assemblywoman was on the call and asked for her to speak while Ms. Lozada tried to fix her sound.

**Guest Speaker: Assemblywoman Maritza Davila**

The Assemblywoman greeted everyone and introduced herself.

It has been very difficult to, you know, to move on with their daily lives. It just has not been the same. I don't think it'll ever be the same for quite a while. But I just wanted to say thank you to all of you for your continuous work and dedication to the community. I want to thank our Chair Camacho for his, his relentless advocacy to Community Board 4. I want to thank Celeste. She's always on point with whatever it is she needs to do. I just wanted to get on and say thank you to all of you for your service and just continue.

**Mr. Camacho:** Thank you for supporting us and giving us all the hope that we need in this tough time, especially what's going on all over this world but hopefully we'll get through this and we'll be more resilient and stronger than ever. And maybe we can continue to give our hugs and kisses and our loved ones and make sure that we all stay safe that'll be the most wonderful thing that we can do now, you know, I feel sorry for those kids that are locked in their homes and don't have that outside feeling because it's so weak on adults and we're always out there in the street. So, hopefully we'll move on and we want to thank you for encouraging us to continue doing what we do. We are a family. Let us never forget.

**Felix Ceballos:** I want to ask a question. I want to know my research, because I hear in some point is no going to be more vaccine in New York, if you know about that situation.

**Assemblywoman Davila:** We are very much aware that the vaccines have run out in New York City. And I have to tell you that the governor, as well as the mayor, are relentlessly fighting to get more vaccines. The last that I heard is that they're expecting a shipment tomorrow.

**Mr. Camacho:** How fast are we going to get it here the community?

**Assemblywoman Davila:** Well, hopefully we'll get it very fast. If you guys really want to know, I suggest one of the major sites that people are getting vaccines is 400 Irving Avenue, being a high school. I think that it still stands or seniors. And, you know, essential workers schoolteachers, hospital workers, healthcare workers. Those are essential workers, transportation. I still believe that they're still working on that population. And there are only two phases. It shouldn't be too long until we see, you know, regular people getting in, but right now it's getting the most vulnerable people in our city, state. So, we should be here. As soon as we do, I would urge everyone to please look at my Facebook account. I always put it up. Information is always on a daily basis. Any other questions? Well, thank you, I don't want to interrupt anymore.

**Celeste:** Thank you, Assemblywoman we appreciate you joining us. **Mr. Camacho:** Anyone else or council person that are here. **Celeste:** I'm checking the list I don't see any other elected officials. We have representatives, but no other elected officials.

**Agenda Item #2: Corina Lozada, Staff Attorney, Communities Resist (CoRe) – providing an update on the eviction moratorium and the Tenant Safe Harbor Act.**

Perfect. Thank you so much. And again, my apologies. So the new law that passed was called COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020. It was passed on December 28. And basically the summary is as follows:

Starting on December 28 the law creates a new moratorium framework that covers almost all pending and forthcoming eviction proceedings, that extend the general day of 60 days, for most eviction proceedings and it continues until May 1 for a tenant to submit a declaration that was created by the statute that attests to COVID-19 hardships and also extend some foreclosure protection, but I'm not going to focus on foreclosure and dissemination. So the 60-day moratorium provides that any eviction proceeding that is pending on December 28, or that has been commenced within 30 days so that's on or before January 27 shall be stayed for at least 60 days, or until a later date at the chief administrative judge determines if necessary, but basically this means that any eviction proceedings, that have not reached the final decision or final judgment. By the time that this act was commenced on December 28, or any eviction proceedings, that have been started between that timeframe from January 27 of this month is automatically saved for 60 days. So that phase, any trials and default judgments, any execution of warrants any motion arguments, or even briefing and answering deadlines that the tenant might have to face, where there is no case pending, and we're kind of does that make to the landlord, the hardship declaration that we'll talk about later. No case can be commenced against the senate until May 1, 2021. So that just takes the landlord's time to come and presumably by the statute of limitations is old and some May 1 so that means, there won't be any statute of limitations against them, but they're not allowed to commence the case against a tenant before May 1, 2021, if they have submitted this hardship declaration. There is an exception to this rule, and that's if a tenant is facing eviction due to a nuisance, or a tenant and the tenant pending proceeding has not been issued a warrant of eviction. And they submit a

hardship declaration they're also entitled to an additional day of the proceedings until May 1, 2021. This leaves us with a question. What about the tenants that do have one? We'll get to that a little bit later, but the initial 60 days' pay is for everyone, whether you have a warrant, or not. But this declaration, you should submit it. If there's no warrant, and later on we'll discuss whether there's a warrant for three eviction notices a landlord now has to include copies of the hardship declaration when they're submitting a predicate notice of termination. So they have to submit the predicate notice, which is a demand a pre-eviction notice, and the notice of petition along with this hardship declaration, the notice must be in the tenant's primary language so if the tenant speaks a different language, the notice must be in the language that they speak the notice must also include the landlord's mailing address and telephone number and their email address so that way they can be able to return the hardship declaration to the landlord, as well as a list of all nonprofit legal service providers operating in the relevant county. The list of the nonprofit organizations is going to be created and should already be on the Office of Court Administration website.

What happens if the landlord does not follow these guidelines? They'll have to submit an affidavit and so if they don't do all of these things, essentially, they'll be lying on this affidavit saying that they do all the things to start the case. And basically, we get that the tenants will have some luck in getting a default judgment thrown out.

If the landlord does not adhere to the specific guidelines and provide them with these notices, no case can be accepted for filing without the affidavits that I'm just describing and in order for the landlord to commence an eviction case. After this law they have to show in their affidavits how the hardship declaration was served on the tenant as required. And either B or C, which is that as time of filing there was no hardship declaration received by any occupant of the unit a question or death or respondent or another occupant of the dwelling returned the hardship declaration, whether persistently and unreasonably engaging in behavior that substantially infringes upon the use and enjoyment of other tenants, or occupants or causes a substantial safety hazard to others, which is essentially a nuisance eviction. So if the landlord wants to proceed under section six subsection c above, he needs to basically articulate a nuisance and basically say all the ways that the tenant is being unreasonable. In addition to whatever theory we had in the first place, there's lots of good law about the kind of detail required there. So basically, the landlord has to have one reason to evict, as well as witnesses.

What if the landlord lies about when they're filing this? If it's just about receiving the declarations and the credit could possibly submit directly to the court. The declaration to get the state, but they might also be able to do a motion to dismiss for default judgments and warrants and execution. After the default, no court is allowed to issue a default judgment or authorized enforcement of an eviction pursuant to a default judgment. After the effective date of the Act, which is December 28, 2020, or before May 1 without holding a hearing, presumably to evaluate whether this tenant is eligible to submit a hardship declaration. The landlord must submit an affidavit to the court reflecting service of notice on the tenant, including the date and time and place for the hearing. The acts do not specify the kind of service that requires if the client has previously entered a default

judgment dependent, trying to get the default judgment rendered binding, or written application to the court before or during the hearing. In order to show cause. Yeah, even for tenants and occupants let's just give it a second before we turn it back on that hardship declaration and have their applications, assuming they don't fall within the misconception. So you're a tenant, who has an eviction proceeding, and has for example, a stipulation agreement that says the landlord gets a warrant if you don't pay by x date or whatever it is. And they also submit this hardship declaration and have the execution of this warrant, say, as long as you don't fall within. There's exceptions for any eviction case as not in any case where a warrant has already been issued. Get that initial day as well, of the 60 days. So, on top of the 60 days you would want to do this hardship declaration so that way you can get it much faster. First of all, warrant, apparently, be reissued to a new language that I articulate that the tenant, either did not submit a hardship declaration, or was found by courts to be committing a nuisance. If a tenant provides the hardship declaration to the marshal at the time of the execution of the warrant the marshal cannot evict. If the landlord wants to take the May 1 day for a tenant who has submitted a hardship declaration, we have to allege that the respondent responded or the tenant is, again, quote unquote, persistently, and unreasonably engaging in behavior that substantially infringes upon the use and enjoyment of other occupants, or causes substantial safety hazards to others. This claim has to be included in the position of the change was already trending on other grounds, a new petition has to be served and filed. Even if the landlord already has a new judgment against the tenant prior to the app. Prior to December 28, the courts, still need to reevaluate at the problematic conduct has continued in order to allow the eviction to proceed. So, essentially the landlord who wants to update the state needs to request a hearing. And only after the petitioner can show and establish the ground rules the case be permitted to proceed. Prior, the statute provides that only one administrator is required to translate and make available the financial declaration in Spanish. And in the next six months, common languages in city. So that is good thing. Chinese both traditional and simple. Polish and Russian.

The court also had to post these translations on their website. And so they can be found [www.ny.gov](http://www.ny.gov). And all of the actual function declarations and all of the languages are there. There are also the full hardship declarations on this month as well. Once a tenant with pending cases fills out these declarations, they should be sending them to housing court, so that way they can have the May 1 day. And so these are the email addresses for each respective report. So it's the county hardship declaration and [whiteboard.gov](http://whiteboard.gov) for those tenants who don't have pending cases, they should still fill out the declarations and return it to their landlord tenant execution of the hardship declaration, essentially becomes a rebuttable presumption that they have experienced financial hardship and that qualifies them for relief under the COVID Safe Harbor Act was being talked about last time and I'm going to summarize a little bit later, but if the tenant does not complete the declaration that does not mean that there's a presumption against them that they have not experienced financial hardship. But what we're telling our clients and what we're telling people is, if you have hardship set up this declaration, you don't need a notary it's fairly simple and you can definitely call us if you need help. This is the required notice that the landlord has to give tenants. Basically this notice explaining to the tenant that they've lost income will have increased costs during COVID, that they are entitled to have a say and so May 1, and it gives us information about

legal resources, and the number that you can call, as well. The tenant declaration is all that landlords need provided they're commenting. This is in English, but this is the same declaration that can be found on the Office of Court Administration website. And so section eight explains that I'm experiencing financial hardship, unable to pay my rent or other financial obligations under the lease in full, or clean alternative suitable. So you would go through those numbers and if that is used you would check off. Also, if you were forced to vacate the permit to proceed and move into a new permanent housing, it was called a significant health risk to you because you are one or more members of your household have an increased risk for severe illness or death to the pupil. And so, it's for anyone that also applies, it should check that off, fine print their name and date it. We do also want to caveat that we say that you have to comply with other lawful terms, under your tenancy and that you're under penalty of law. It's unclear what under penalty of law is because this is not an affidavit but basically just be truthful when you're signing the declaration executive order to 266 suspended the execution of a warrant of eviction for tenants suffering financial hardship. Under the Safe Harbor ACT, extended that until January 26. But basically, this law, makes those executive orders, because now there's a further extension and so the tenants have more protection. But it also helps in that if you sign the hardship declaration you have a rebuttable presumption that you have suffered over hardship under the Safe Harbor law. Again the exception is nuisance tenants. They are not protected under ESCA if the landlord has filed a nuisance eviction case against you, but you can be under the COVID Safe Harbor. So the Safe Harbor Act provides that rental obligations, accruing during the COVID period, cannot be converted into possessory judgments, where the tenants have experienced financial hardship. So, it interacts with the FDA and then the hardship declaration creates a logical presumption that the tenant will qualify for protection under the Safe Harbor Act. So that's one good reason why we think that everyone who can testify to having COVID hardship should sign the declaration. The National CDC moratorium was also renewed for another month until January 31. So now that the FDA has passed. I don't think that there's much value to this in executing the executive or executing the declaration under the CDC order. It works essentially say commencement, or progress in an eviction proceeding. The requirements are pretty narrow or require a lot of permissions by the tenant at some money being old using their best efforts to make partial payments, and so we think you should sign this declaration. That concludes my presentation. If anyone has any questions.

### **Q and A/Discussion**

**Annette Spellen:** This is my question is, do you have any information for homeowners who are now getting into financial trouble because of tenants not paying their rent?

**Response:** So this also has a foreclosure hardship form. I didn't speak about this in depth. I just did the tenant one. However, the Act does protect homeowners, as well. And so you can definitely give us a call and I can orient you on that, but the Act is both for tenants who cannot pay and for homeowners who are experiencing hardship. **Annette:** Thank you.

**James Fitzgerald:** My name is James Fitzgerald. I have two questions for you. My first question is can we get a copy of the slideshow presentation? And my second question is, correct me if I

heard this wrong, but you had mentioned that there is a document that the landlord is supposed to supply to the tenants?

**Response:** Yeah. So the documents on the slideshow are the notice to the tenant. And that notice explains the protections that they have under the FTA if they have hardship, as well as the hardship declaration. And so, landlords must also provide their address and telephone number and email address to allow tenants to return the hardship declaration to the landlord.

**James Fitzgerald:** I just want to make sure that I have this clear my mind. But this relationship, initiated with the landlord providing the document to the tenant, then the tenant is in a position to follow the hardship declaration. Am I correct in that thinking is to begin with the landlord?

**Response:** Correct. There are some tenants who might have, like, that through a nonprofit organization representation and have gotten their hands on the hardship declaration and they can send it to the landlord corresponding on their own, or if the tenant already is in court proceedings, they would be sending it to the court. So for example if my landlord has already sued me and at the time my case is still pending, I can say my hardship declaration directly to the court. And I would obviously send a copy to the landlord or the landlord's attorney would receive that when it's sent to the court. But if still the landlord wants to file a new case, they have to provide this notice to the tenant, along with a hardship declaration. **James Fitzgerald:** All right, thank you so much that clears up everything for me. **Response:** You're welcome.

**Celeste:** Any other questions board members? Hearing none, members of the public if you have questions please add them to the chat if we don't get to them this evening, I will certainly pass them along. You can always follow up with me in the office. This is Celeste speaking, district manager for CB4.

**Mr. Camacho:** And I want to thank her for doing a wonderful presentation and also for working with this community in a rough time like it is. They're always the key for this community so if anyone knows someone because you know a lot of people have to put their pride in their chests and they're afraid to tell people that they have any hardships, and you know someone maybe we can guide them and help them somewhere where they can continue staying in this community.

**Response:** Thank you so much for having me and I really appreciate all of you. Thanks.

**Celeste:** Samy, did you have something? **Samy:** Yes. Quick question. Thank you for the presentation. There's a federal moratorium, as well, and the new president announced that he might do a new moratorium on to March 31. So how would, how do both moratoriums interact?

**Response:** So, the CDC basically extended the moratorium right now until January 31. And there's new questions and a few admissions that tenants have to give for example, that they have to admit that they owe money they also have to explain how they were trying to pay. But basically, when it comes to federal law and state law, state law usually provides more protection than the federal law.

And so, right now, they have provided a longer moratorium for tenants who are facing eviction. That doesn't mean that the CDC's federal moratorium goes out the window. But generally, that governs more in New York State courts because it's giving more protection and our legislature, obviously, uses the federal guidelines to inform what's going on here in the state. So for right now, even if the federal moratorium was extended to March, if the tenant has signed a declaration, they're given more time until May 1. So they have essentially two more months than the federal one.

**Celeste:** Samy, does that answer your question. **Samy:** Oh yeah, thanks. **Response:** Thank you.

**Celeste:** Perfect. If there's nothing else we can close this agenda item, board members are we good to go? Yes, well thank you, Corina, and Bruno, we appreciate you being here and providing this information to the community. **Mr. Camacho:** Yes, we do.

**Celeste:** We will move on now with our agenda, I was checking the attendance list. It doesn't look like our first agenda item – Ms. Williams made it this evening. She may have had technical difficulties. Either way, if she is not here that means that our public hearing portion has come to an end and we will now close this portion of the meeting. If there are any questions or comments from the public that weren't addressed this evening, please feel free to reach out to us in the board's office and we will certainly follow up.

**ABSENT – Agenda Item #1: Barbara Williams, Brooklyn Outreach, NYC Health + Hospitals Test and Trace Corp - providing an update and the latest information on test and trace efforts.**

### Regular Meeting Agenda

**Celeste:** That being said we'll go right into our regular meeting agenda, beginning with our first roll call. And I just want to make sure we do have some board members that were muted just because of background noise earlier I want to give them a chance to unmute so that way we can hear them.

#### **1. First Roll Call**

**Board Members in attendance:** Grace Aytes, Joshua Brown, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Felix Ceballos, Louisa Chan, Daniella Davi, James Fitzgerald, Freddy Fowler, Egaudy Gomez, Anne Guiney, Jose R. Guzman, Tanesha Honeygan, Barbara Jackson, Kristen Jock, Cheryl Jones, Virgie Jones, Mary McClellan, Desmond Monroe, Samy Nemir Olivares, Raul Rubio, Vernedeaneer Shell, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellin, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams, James Wiseman, and Odolph Wright

**Excused:** Elvena Davis

**Absent:** Andrew Choi, Victoria Fernandez, Migdalia Gutierrez, Luisa Jose, Zulma Novoa, Gladys Puglla, and Julio Salinas

**28 board members present constitutes a quorum.** (31 board members were present before the meeting ended)

## **2. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Camacho made a motion to accept the agenda and Barbara Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

## **3. Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Celeste:** I spoke with Sharon before the meeting, she is working on them. They were almost finished, but not in time for the meeting. I would suggest a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting. Board members?

Raul Rubio made a motion to table the previous meeting minutes and Jose Guzman seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

## **4. Chairperson's Report**

Happy New Year's thank God we're almost over this hump. We need to pray for the people that we lost loved ones and our seniors and everyone that passed away in regard to this tragic pandemic and hopefully we'll get to this house. Maybe we won't have we won't go back to the 60s, like we were before. Now we'll have peace and harmony, and we can all get together all over again. This one a breakdown, I'm going to read you the mailings, I had been going to then I have another thing that we need to address some of the things that are going to go on hopefully for the new year. I just want to give everyone blessings and I hope everybody's families are okay.

On Thursday, December 17 at 3pm we had a meeting with the Deputy Inspector Casazza. He has some insights on what's going on in regard to incidents and our public safety.

On December 17 at six o'clock, I met with the CEC.

On Thursday, the 17th at 6:30pm, I was in the forum with Assemblywoman Maritza Davila in regard to the know your rights.

On Tuesday, January 5 at 4pm I was at the Brooklyn Borough Board meeting in regard to the coastal zone q&a question amendment, which was approved.

Wednesday, the sixth. Three Kings day, I think Celeste has a picture of me with the three kings. Woodhull gave out toys for the kids with masks and everything.



On Wednesday, January 6 – Executive Board meeting.

I also got an email. I did a PSA 3 Community Council meeting. I joined them before I got on the executive board. It was very good to know. PSA 3 is in Bushwick. Most of them are the housing developments, but it was pretty good.

On Thursday, the seventh at 9:30am I did a walkthrough with Mr. Angel Lopez who is Maritza Davila's staff, employees, and Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez with staff Julio, and we did a walkthrough through of Hope Gardens because we've been getting complaints. And we went into Four H. She was happy to see us. They did her apartment, but They stepped on her washing machine and made a hole. I have the pictures. The floor is uneven, the doors don't close tight. So, also when I walked into one of the hallways and pushed the door open, the employees were hanging out in one of the empty apartments, eating lunch. So that's the supervision for you. We did meet with them. It's part of my report now to interact with the people that are taking over.

And there was also a discrepancy with people saying that they were privatizing. What they did was one of the persons that was part of the shares I know what it is that they had they were talking about they sold the shares to them in April, and people were calling, thinking that they were going to they sold it to another organization which was natural. So, we found out about that and it is absolutely not true. RAD does have a 99-year lease with NYCHA and no other person. Officials are calling and finding out if it's true so we found out that it's not true, but it was done in April, so they shouldn't let us know what they were doing because we don't like no sneaky tactics. So we did that walkthrough.

Also on Thursday, the seventh, there was a sanitation working group meeting. We also had the house and land use committee at 6:30pm so that that day had three to four meetings and one Zoom meeting.

Friday the eighth at 12 o'clock. I went to the office with Celeste. We got the mail. We gave the water to the plants. We haven't been there for a while.

On Monday, the 11th. I testified not as the board chair, but as a resident in the hearing for the racial impact study that we wanted with Councilman Salamanca. And I would also like to thank Anne Guiney. She went to represent housing and land use. It was beautiful to read and I don't know how she did it, but I would have been nervous. She did a beautiful thing, and I was very proud of her. On Tuesday, the twelfth. The Board of Correction meeting was doing a resolution in regard to some of the things they wanted to do. And also, they appointed a new board member that's from Bushwick on the Board of Corrections. I don't know. I know he was just appointed I didn't get the name of the person, but he was appointed, and I'm glad that there's someone on the Board of Corrections from Bushwick to represent us there.

On Tuesday, there was the NBA, which is the Neighborhood Advisory Board. It offers training on that. The CEC special meeting in regard to revisiting the capital budget plan for five years. Also on the 19<sup>th</sup> I met with Hope Gardens and the Bushwick Community Partnership. And, in Hope Gardens, they've been addressing it, and everything's been taken care of. We're going to do another walkthrough to make sure and we're going to go visit the senior to make sure that I got a call today that don't want to let them in because you're scared, you don't understand so hopefully an actual knock on the door where you can be comfortable when they can do whatever needs to be fixed 100 apartments.

The Bushwick Community Partnership had a seminar. It's nice when they start because they do some you know relaxing and they want you to relax. Going to go back meetings and listen to them. They're supposed to be coming during the presentation to schools.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, so now we're going to have bikes. Going to have scooters. We're going to have people running. We're going to have cars, everything in a small little place. So that's when I started it was a little crazy because someone mentioned, we want to get rid of cars. You know when they said they want to get rid of cars, our seniors and people that are handicapped.

Today was the 20<sup>th</sup> a full board meeting. As you know, Willie retired. We got him a present. So, we need to work with Sharon and Celeste, whoever Chairs these committees. If they can, want to do a report, when they can't do their report. They need help. It's only going to be two people. We're going to try to, I'm going to try to do a new committee. The breakdowns:

Arts/Culture/Technology – Celeste

Civic/Public Safety/Religious – Sharon

District Office – Sharon

Economic Development + Permits and Licenses – Celeste

Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation – Sharon

Health/Human Service/Senior Citizens/Veterans – Sharon

Housing and Land Use – Celeste

Youth and Education – Sharon

Executive Board – Celeste

Hopefully, we're going to try to see if maybe we could double up these two committees, so we can get we can get a quorum, and also make it less stressful. Hopefully, April or May we can hire someone because Willie has days. He's going to be getting paid. So we don't even know if they are going to give us so hopefully, we're going to be fighting to make sure that we do get.

Also very important, everyone that's up to reappointment must renew now. I was told, also the borough president and the executive board thank them you know this is their last year. They worked doing the job. You need to renew whoever is renewing needs to renew now. Also, district

37, our new Councilwoman, we, we need to make sure that she has support. And we want to give her the attendance list to make sure that she puts back the people that were supposed to put back. And also the people that were removed because of time and attendance, not be placed back because before I start, and just a little reminder, the city charter has any appointments May. Any appointed member may be removed from the community board for cause, which shall include substantial non-attendance at the board meetings or committee meetings over a period of six months, and also on our bylaws.

I keep telling you that the borough president we submit a list. Don't blame me, you need to come to your committees, you need to go to your meetings, and also the bylaws say a total of three unexcused absence or six excused absence during the year for regular monthly or assigned committee shall consist of significant cause to recommend removal from the board. So, don't blame me. Please, when you call you can't just say, I'm going on vacation. You got to give a reason why because we got to write that down. Just like your job. I'm sick, they give you a sick day. You got to call before, if you know you're not going to be then call ahead of time. As always, let us know. We just can't put excuse, like that, and that's it.

Oh I also want to thank a new board member, Rawle Brown. I was at a meeting with Nydia Velazquez and he says oh I want to thank Camacho and Celeste and I'm like, oh my god, he gave us a shoutout. And he's a new board member so I welcome him. He's doing a good job in regard to small businesses, and especially what's going on now with the pandemic and people closing down, hopefully, we don't go back to the 70s, where the stores are all abandoned and closed down, and also these requirements.

And we also had a meeting with the housing and land use committee of which they can tell you about. We want to make sure that the apartments that are empty to get a tax credit, make sure that the people that are in shelters, our people that need housing, are put there because they're leaving them open and it's not fair to our people. We really need to continue together, pushing the agenda forward.

**Celeste:** Any questions, board members? If not, we will move on. Hearing none, we'll move on to **the introduction of our elected officials and representatives:**

Andres Aguirre, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila's office  
(718) 443-1205, 249 Wilson Avenue

Jonathan Pomboza, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office  
Good evening, everyone, my name is Jonathan. I bring greetings from District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. You can reach our Office Action Center at (718) 250-2340 or you can reach me directly at (718) 250-2817. Thank you.

Julio Salazar, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office

Good evening everyone. Julio Salazar here from Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office. Our office is located at 266 Broadway Suite 201, Brooklyn, New York. Phone number for the office is 718-593-6584 My phone number is 718-664-5149. Thank you.

Taeka Haraguchi, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office

Hi everyone, my name is Taeka Haraguchi. I'm with Comptroller Scott Stringer's office. We are still working remotely. You can reach me directly on my cell phone at 917-594-2129 and I will drop my email in the chat. ([tharagu@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:tharagu@comptroller.nyc.gov)) Thank you.

Marcus Harris, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' office

Hi everyone. Happy New Year, Marcus Harris from office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. We are located at 209 Joralemon Street in downtown Brooklyn. The office number is (718) 802-3700. You can reach me on my cell phone at (917) 324-2680. Thank you.

Samy Nemir Olivares, District Leader

I'm a district leader representing Bushwick, alongside the female district leader. I'm sharing my email as well as my phone number where you can reach me for any civic engagement or election related matters. Thank you so much. ([samy@samy.nyc](mailto:samy@samy.nyc))

Nadeen Gayle, Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's office

(718) 342-1256, 400 Rockaway Avenue

**Introduction of agency and community-based organization representatives:**

**Celeste:** If there's anyone that didn't speak to me in advance, please feel free to message me in the chat.

Sinthia Pena Ortiz, Director, Bushwick Community Partnership

Good afternoon everyone. Phone number in the chat.

Tom Brogan, Brooklyn Public Library Dekalb Branch

Good evening. Tom Brogan for the Brooklyn Public Library Dekalb branch. Thank you.

Mayra Mera, North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence

(718) 302-4073, And I'll drop off my email in the chat. Thank you.

John Stanesco, Director of Community Programs and Learning Labs, Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

I'll put my phone and email in the chat.

**Celeste:** Perfect, thank you for joining us. I've also double check to see if we have anyone joining us from the precinct this evening. It doesn't look like they were able to make it. So we will move along. **Mr. Camacho:** They let us know that he won't make it today because of some of the protests

that are still going on. **Celeste:** Understood. Got it. Thank you Mr Camacho. So we will move on now to the next item on the agenda which is the district manager's report. That is my report.

## **5. District Manager's Report**

**Celeste:** Happy New Year and new presidential administration, we've made it 20 days since the new year, and as Mr Camacho previously referenced we've certainly had a lot to deal with. It is during times like these that access to information and spaces to learn more about our communities are more important than ever. And as you've also heard for the foreseeable future the board will be short staffed due to Willie's retirement. We will hopefully be able to begin to search for a new office hire in June. We appreciate your patience during this time and encourage you to follow up, as it's going to be challenging for us to operate with just two staff. So whenever you have a question if you don't hear from us it's not that we don't want to get back to you it's just a little bit difficult, you know, based on the volume of calls and emails received. We will continue to do the best that we can.

And I also want to highlight that last Friday Mr Camacho and I were able to tour the Bushwick High School campus vaccine site. We will continue to provide updated information to the community as it becomes available. It was it was an excellent tour; they were very clear on how people come in, how they set up appointments and the rollout. They're doing the best possible job that they can to make sure that the information is clear for everyone. And similarly, we will keep passing it along. And below I'm just going to summarize some of the meetings and events that I've attended in the past month.

On Thursday, December 17, there was an agency privacy officer convening hosted by the Mayor's Office of Information Privacy, the board and all city agencies are mandated to report on a quarterly basis if they've shared any identifying information. This is based on a local law that was passed I believe several years ago. We've been doing these reports for about three years now. It's essentially documenting what type of information is shared. Fortunately, since the community board is so small, we generally don't have anything to report as we limit the amount of information that we share. The only information that is generally shared is kept to specific protocols. For instance when we have our board members' information it's never made publicly available. It's only shared with the elected officials and the board members themselves. And similarly for the public's information that's kept within the board's office at all times.

The same day, I also had a conversation with Jamie McKaie from RiseBoro regarding Project Hope. Project Hope is a new initiative and program that's coming to Bushwick and other communities. There's funding that's been made available for folks that need additional support during the pandemic. These are individuals that will be on the other side of hotline where community members can call if they need any type of support, whether it's referrals for services, it's mental health referrals, or even just someone to speak to. It's very isolating you know we're living in a new reality and sometimes you just need someone on the other line. So this is a new program that will be coming to Bushwick. We hope to share more information soon. If there are

folks that are interested in finding out a more or potential employment opportunities, please let me know. I'm happy to pass along that information.

We also, as Mr Camacho mentioned, met with the Deputy Inspector from the 83rd Precinct. We do this on a regular basis to go over public safety concerns. A lot of the issues in Bushwick recently have been about illegal party houses. We've gotten a concern this week about those types of establishments. And of course, other safety issues throughout the neighborhood.

We were also informed about budget cuts. Mr Camacho mentioned this. I will note that I was able to send a draft letter to my colleagues in Brooklyn for their consideration for us to send to the borough president for his support. The way that these cuts were handled essentially gave the district managers only several days, at least a week before Christmas to bring the information to the board, and it was not enough time for us to go through the usual protocol, which was a point of contention and lead to a lot of feelings of concern over the budget cuts in addition to us having to take the cut to begin with. Thankfully, we were able to send a letter to Borough President Adams and we are expecting a response soon.

**Mr. Camacho:** And I'm going to say it the terrible way. It is a slap in the face that they are telling us to cut things out without even—there's a board here. You know let the board know, let us determine what we need to cut down and put it to us. So I've been working with them as we've been trying to help. You know, we, our budgets already set. And I know you got to take money but, you know, give us an opportunity to sit down and talk with the committee find out where is it we can take it from, and how we can do it.

**Celeste:** Thank you Mr Camacho, and on Tuesday December 22, I had a call with a local homeowner, Dina Alfano, who has been supporting the historic preservation efforts we had a check-in to discuss next steps. If anyone is interested in historic preservation, we all know right before the end of the year we lost 1001 Bushwick Avenue the Charles Lindemann house. We want to make sure that any of the other historic properties within the district have the opportunity to be landmarked. It's another tool for preservation of the community and the community's history and culture.

Moving on, I attended on Thursday January 7, the Bushwick Community Partnership governance meeting. The governance team continues to guide the efforts and initiatives of the Bushwick Community Partnership. For those that don't know, they hold their monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month in the morning. It is a great resource to learn more about city agency programs, about local service organizations, and they seek to support the whole family from children all the way to grandparents, the entire family is the focus and providing support for those families.

We also have the sanitation working group meeting for folks that are interested in learning more about those efforts, feel free to contact me. We work with partners like the Clean Bushwick

Initiative. We work with local business leaders such as Tony's Pizza by the Myrtle Knickerbocker Plaza, along with other organizations like RiseBoro.

And on Friday, January 8, I had a call with Noel Hidalgo from Beta NYC. They've been the primary organization that's helped some of the Manhattan community boards access Zoom, hopefully we will benefit from those efforts as well. I know Webex is a nightmare. So hopefully we will have Zoom before the end of this meeting year. I checked in with Noel to talk about other tech opportunities for the boards and to see how we can further collaborate.

On Tuesday, the 12th I attended the borough service cabinet meeting. There were presentations by the Department of Finance, as well as The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment.

On Wednesday, January 13, I attended a virtual workshop on winter consumer assistance and enhanced COVID-19 protections. This is for utilities. The Public Service Commission continues to provide information and measures to make sure all utilities are operating by regulation, and that they are not taking advantage of the current climate. For more information feel free to reach out to me.

And Friday, January 15, I hosted the 4th Future of Community Boards working group meeting. This is an effort between district managers citywide to talk about what the future of community boards will look like. Hopefully, we'll be able to produce a robust report before the end of February that will outline some of the challenges we faced and recommendations for how to solve those. And on Monday January 18. I was invited by Transportation Alternatives to join their North Brooklyn committee panel to discuss community boards. I joined both board and non-board members of Community Board 1 for a discussion about what community boards are, what they do for their communities, and the benefits of becoming a community board member. And that concludes my report. Thank you very much. Are there any questions before we move on? Okay, seeing none. And if I missed it, I promise I will come back to it. For now we'll move on to committee reports.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### Economic Development

We had the Brooklyn office for the Department of City Planning, presenting an overview of the commercial and industrial zoning. It wasn't as exciting as I thought it was going to be. Basically, they went over already existing zoning laws and what these zoning regulations are. I mean, you know, manufacturing or construction. We actually have the presentation; we can share it. The good thing about it though is that when they come back, we really ask them to do a deep dive and look at industries that are thriving in the area. Prior to COVID and in through COVID so we wanted to get the job creation prior to COVID and through COVID to kind of start tracking to see where what industries are driving in Bushwick, and so which means what jobs are coming to Bushwick and I think that's more comprehensive and that's exactly what the information we need to know.

So the next meeting they're going to come back and they're going to discuss that. Our second item was the proposed economic development plan. It's a 42-page document that basically covers economic development strategies. It talks about education, supporting workers, housing, it's a whole plan. And before it's released to the full board the committee needs to go through. There will be questions and answers after the next meeting so make sure you read up on it. The next meeting where we go through, start drafting. That document will be our blueprint not only through 2021, but we're looking at the next maybe like one two to three years' worth of work. So the EDC will have a complete agenda that will last from this year to hopefully maybe three years so we will always be pushing on new agenda initiatives and having wonderful things to do. So once that goes through, we're going to do our subcommittees that will go through the executive board to go to the full board, and then everyone will see it, or vote on it. Then that will be our strategy and the good thing about the plan is that economic growth is so far reaching and touching so many sectors, other committees can take from the plan as a will to implement their own agendas, and I think it'd be great for everybody. I think that was it.

We talked about the FRESH development, coming.

**Anne Guiney:** I can definitely do you want me to give the names. Sure. Very briefly, the folks also came before the housing and land use committee. The Rheingold development site that is Evergreen one the site is 54 Knoll Street, and people who presented were the land use consultant and lawyer, Ellen Hay, Ron Huperman, and then the owner's representative, whose name is, I believe, Yoel Schwimmer.

**Desmonde Monroe:** They were very receptive and once they have three months prior to them starting the hire, they're going to bring us the list, probably from management levels, all the way down to cleaning and stocking. And we're going to basically get a head start to get the word out and get the people that we know within the community. Obviously, it's a selection process, but at least we get a head start, for their own internal hiring process. So I mean I think that would be good. Thank you so much.

**Mr. Camacho:** I made me a fresh copy. And we all going to read it and we're all going to break it down, it's very interesting and I want to thank you for this. I made a nice copy, highlighting what needed to be highlighted and that's what people should be doing like that we can all get together make sure that we represent pushing the way we want to represent, and now people coming in here telling us what they want to give us instead of what we want and what we think it does. **Desmonde:** No problem. Are there other questions?

**Samy:** Yeah, one point of clarification. You mentioned about the timeline or the process. The committee will bring the draft to the full board would that be just for awareness, or will the full board have some process to give input to the draft?

**Desmonde:** It would be great to have feedback right now, what's happening is that the draft has been sent to the Economic Development Committee, they have to read it. I think we can go through



that process with the board. I will leave that up to Celeste, but definitely a three-year process to get the actual info. It could be a really good way, and how we can solicit feedback in an expedited manner. That way we're moving forward so I will definitely talk about how we can make that happen.

**Samy:** Yeah, I guess the question was, how and when board members could provide some feedback and or yeah for something because I would like to share some thoughts and ideas that I have discussed about street vendors and small businesses to promote like people buying local Bushwick, businesses, especially during COVID so I will love to share that with their community directly.

**Mr. Camacho:** If anybody needs a copy, they can read it and then you can get involved with the committee or you don't have to be part of the committee to come to the committee, you know you can come in there not voting. But if you're a board member, you can come to the committee. We need members. We're trying to make sure that we get the services more than anything now so whatever you put we may have we all get together we'll make it happen.

**Desmonde:** What Robert said yes everyone's welcome to come to the committee that would be amazing. And we're merging EDC and licensing. The next meeting will be a joint meeting and we're going to see how it goes with Melissa on the agenda. She also has a copy of the economic development plan. And then we're just going to see how that's going to work, and we're going to move forward there but you know, I think we can all put together. The fact that there's a little bit of staff, and we kind of have to kind of do our parts to help out the office. I look forward to working with other staff members.

**Mr. Camacho:** clarification in regard to economic development and permits and license we can work together because when they come to the board and they come get their license and there's some things that some of them may not know about services that they may have maybe it can guide them, and maybe together we can make sure that they're whenever opening that it drives, and we can work together regarding economic development and build the jobs. Small businesses may not know that there are grants and loans especially now that even any other piece can apply for. So maybe if we link them together. We also have a board member here too that's into the small business, so maybe we can link and do more to make sure that we get the services and the jobs and the businesses coming back out to push, just an idea, and you've got to think outside the box, you know we have to now. We got to think out the box. We have to make sure that we bring different ideas and different things that are always trying to take medicine, it's always doing ideas if it works, it works. If it doesn't work, guess what we tried it, and we've tried to make it happen, but we just can't stay still on the same thing. The same you know when the new ideas, new things get people involved bring people in, especially the people that want to come in, they want to come in they got ideas if it works, it works if it doesn't work, guess what, we tried. So, thank you.

**Celeste:** Thank you Mr. Camacho and everyone. I will send the economic development committee report. I wanted Desmond to review it first before I sent it to the board members. I'll include the presentation from the meeting and then also all the other supplemental materials for your review. Any other questions or comments before we move on? Moving on to our next report.

#### Housing and Land Use

**Anne:** Hi everyone. This is the report for the housing and land use.

**Mr. Camacho:** Before you start any board member, anyone has anything to say, or see anything, please tell. Open up. Don't wait to go home, we got to nip it in the bud now, whatever it is, if it's something that is out of the ordinary or you want to speak to me, please, please let us know we're telling you open up, open up, let's see what we can do.

**Anne:** I would like to second that there's a lot of housing and land use things going on right now. If anything I mention tonight, you have more questions or there are other issues or you see projects or you have concerns, please I am always available, or we can set a time I'm happy to talk to anybody. If you're concerned about something absolutely just reach out 100% phone line is always open. I can certainly try to help address or answer any questions or maybe just start to focus on some issues that are of concern.

So our meeting was on Tuesday January 7. The primary agenda item was the 54 Knoll Street FRESH food store application that Desmonde mentioned. It is in the existing Rheingold development. Many of the older board members remember that vote and I think we've all learned some painful lessons from that. That project is an existing, I think 900 plus almost 1000-unit complex of building. They have been open for a few years. They wanted to put in a FRESH supermarket. So there's very technical stuff that they presented to us. Basically reallocating some existing space from one category under the zoning code to another. It is an existing ground level at grade parking, that they want to turn into about a 40,000 square foot FRESH supermarket and move the parking from one part of the building to the sub-basement. They said that it will not affect the number of parking spaces.

It was a very technical application. And one of the reasons that it ended up moving to the Economic Development Committee is because they were able to tick all of the necessary boxes for the City Planning Commission, you know it's in certain neighborhoods certain size XYZ. It was a very technical application that we would have more leverage if we ask them about their local hiring plan. So, the committee after hearing and asking a lot of questions, which are in the report, many of them were about parking. Mr. Camacho and a number of other people asked about the parking. And we're concerned about increasing on street parking issues. They assured us that there was no change in the parking, that there were still going to be the same exact number of spaces, and that they would be, they were working out with the operator to whom they're leasing it. So there was a pretty robust back and forth. Questions about like is this going to cater to the neighborhood? Are you going to hire locally? Those are really the concerns and ultimately our vote after they left was

to move it to economic development because that's where we thought we could apply a little pressure for local hiring which is very important, and it does mean reporting on that.

That was the only agenda item. There was old business and some new business. The old business was the racial impact analysis study that Mr. Camacho mentioned. Bruno, and I also believe Corina from Communities Resist have presented to the housing and land use committee. I believe we've reported back on a probably 18-month effort that Mr. Camacho and I have participated in as representatives of community board four, which is basically trying to change the environmental review process for land use and development projects all over the city and ask that review process to include an analysis of who are the people who are going to be impacted by this.

And I think as we know, in Bushwick, a lot of these big projects tend to have a really disparate and negative impact on long term residents. A lot of people of color in a place like Bushwick, and so that there has to be an accounting for that, before they even break ground, not five years later. And so it's a citywide thing. There was a hearing on it at the City Council. I asked the housing and land use committee because we had discussed a number of times. The legislation. If I could present testimony, not as an individual, but on behalf of CB4. Mr. Camacho presented as an individual, we discussed it for a while. I recused myself from the vote. The housing and land use committee allowed me to do so. There's only two minutes of testimony. I'm happy to share it. I can put the link to the testimony in the chat if people would like it or maybe if it's easier to send it out with Celeste. Basically the gist of the testimony was to say, this is another tool that is going to help community boards like ours, make better informed decisions about the land use projects because we take our work very seriously and we want as much information as possible. And we want to make sure that we are not supporting a project that is actually going to be displacing our own neighbors and is having a negative impact on our community. So that was the baseline of that testimony. I shared it with the committee, but we will share it with the whole board. I apologize I should have put it into the notes. Then the next thing was the responsible possible development policy.

We have been working on that with an organization called Association for Neighborhood Development. I'm missing a word from it but it's basically a checklist or guidelines that when a developer comes to the housing and land use committee. It's we ask from developers, as they are going to take on a project, even working on that for a long time. It's also ready to share with the wider board. And so I guess Celeste will figure out. I don't want to overload people with reports so if the Economic Development Committee is also sending out a report this month, we can save it for next but it's also something I think that it will be helpful because then we just let people know right off the bat, this is what we care about, as a community. This is what we don't want to see. And I think a lot of you will not be surprised to see what is in that responsible development policy because it's the kind of stuff we talk about all the times where deeply affordable, you know, you know, respectful of the neighborhood in a lot of different ways.

So it's things that we are sharing with them. We can't necessarily enforce it but it's I think it's very important to tell, so that those are the two things. There were just a few very short notices about things that are going to be coming up again. We're going to start focusing in that committee on the RAD Hope Gardens as Mr Camacho mentioned. I think that it's incredibly important. I reached out to Asher Freeman at the Council Member Reynoso's office to have somebody come in and talk to us about this whole idea of citywide comprehensive planning, so that the board can just start to know what that means. And then that was it. So, we had lots of good discussions, but then we kicked our one thing to vote on to the economic development team. That is all from housing and land use. Any questions or any anything?

**Mr. Camacho:** I just wanted to thank you because I heard you when you testified, and you read that. And it was nice the way you did it and how you framed everything, and you know it was little heartbroken that I said, Anne did a good job and I want to let everyone know that you did a good job. **Anne:** Thank you, I appreciate that Mr. Camacho.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yeah, and that place is in bad shape in many newspapers that they have a lot of apartments empty. Yeah. And I was a little upset that they want us to give them a letter of approval for a FRESH and our people are in shelters and these people can leave apartments empty. And I made it specifically clear that we need to, we're going to work together, or we need to have our people in some of those apartments. That you have 10 people and our families in shelters, and he knew what I was talking about. And I said they may not afford the money that they had, but something beats nothing. You know you rather have some dollars and no dollars or to leave it open and put some people away and now you're asking us for some things. You can frame it the way you want to frame it but I'm going to frame it the way I see it, and we really need to start putting and making recommendations of what we want and what we want them to do not vice versa. And that's what we really need to do. Yes, I know our families and kids are getting pushed out and going to shelter. And we really need to stop pushing and see the next man that comes in because if we can pay \$200, a day for someone in a shelter. And I know my man very well that six grand that we can put a family there for two or \$3,000 in a city and save money, so that's what we really need. So now they're talking about parking space that they know that their tenants are paying. And it's empty. So they empty upstairs so they want to take the ones that want to bring it upstairs. Open the door first, they say that they quote unquote given jobs. So we want to make sure that the jobs that are giving are going to be for the people in Bushwick. Give us applications we'll go out and start giving it to people we know everyone that needs jobs, and then put it to the test. And that's what we need to put, when we recommend that he said he's going to hire people from within the community, and I told him we want managerial jobs to not only sweeping. We got intelligent kids here, and youth that need a job that can do management and that's what I'm trying to say and that's what I want you to take, I know you've said it nice.

**Celeste:** Thank you Mr. Camacho, I just want to acknowledge that I have a few phone numbers here. I want to make sure all board members are unmuted. Just give me one moment please.

**Raul Rubio:** Thank you for that I've wanted to make sure when you're talking to these people. If we can. I don't know if it's possible but remember they didn't make the switch for that property. And so, somehow another says a thing or when you come to the point of developers coming in. They didn't keep them keep doing the bait and switch on us, they need to make up all these things about this we want this we want this, and they say yes yes yes yes, and they say no, they sell it to somebody else. And then we're having, you know we have a lot. Because you have a paper to show right here.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yeah, yes. We're going to do is a recommendation. Or we could put down there, and specifically state that, so we have no other choice.

**Anne:** Okay, I got it. Sir, Mr. Reverend right. That's such an important question or point that you made rather. And I think we all there's a lot of really bad feelings about that project, specifically because of the bait and switch, we all voted, we thought we were to get 30%, affordable housing in that building and the guy who sold it four months later and then just it was a gentlemen's agreement a handshake it's back to 20%. And that I think it's something that is a mistake that we have learned the hard way. And I don't think that as a community board any of us will ever feel comfortable signing off on an agreement like that and the more they sold it and so as I was about two to three summers ago, there was another project at 1600 Dekalb. Some of our community lawyers who are at this meeting, Corina, Bruno maybe you can jump in if you have more specific details, but one of the things that we pushed on that was much deeper affordability, and this was a wide consortium of people not just the community board. It was Make the Road. It was a lot of people involved in that process. So as much deeper affordability, 100% affordable deeper affordability, but then also a bringing on a local community partner, so that they had a legal ability to see if the developer reneged on it. I think that project, ultimately changed but I think Rheingold has meant that what you just raised is something that none of us will ever vote for again because of the Rheingold experience and it's just such a bitter taste in the mouth. So, but I think that's a really great thank you for bringing that back up. I'm not too sure if it's a possibility we can put it in the team to make sure I'm not annoying. And that's lots of time that's what they're putting in now, they're forcing them and putting it in a deed restriction, so. Okay.

**Mary McClellan:** This is Mary McClellan, and I will make a statement. Now, one out with the horse and buggy. That's why I got to see the phone, but I don't know how to work this thing. Oh, you see, we have to put it in writing. We have computer. I don't want to appear, but the computer can spit out an agreement. Come, you have to find something, you can go down to your house and you got to find everything. You got to find them to find them.

**Anne:** All right, Miss McClellan you couldn't be more right and now. No one's allowed to shake hands anymore anyway, so we're going to stick to the lawyers that you know, but now, now I'm sensible enough to make friends with lawyers so they can help out in situations like this, so that we don't make deals that we can't enforce that have a legal thing, big job.

**Questions from the chat:**

**Celeste:** Thank you everyone. We do have some questions coming in in the chat and just because it's under committee reports I want to you know respect this. Just a quick question about the business impact on traffic on Bushwick Avenue from 4pm to 7pm. I know this came up during the committee discussion as well in both meetings. This person, Miss Hicks, mentioned markets come and go. What's the supermarket's commitment? I believe we're going to get into that during recommendations. When we go over what the recommendation is and what the board would like them to do. Sound good?

Rev. Aytes shared that she has her bible meeting. Celeste confirmed that she would be marked as excused.

**7. Recommendations**

**Celeste:** I believe we only have at least to my knowledge, the recommendation regarding the FRESH grocery store at 54 Knoll Street.

**Mr. Camacho:** They give applications to the community board office, and we'll give it to the kids in and we'll be the first ones to get jobs. **Celeste:** If I may, Mr Camacho, just add to that, they did say three months in advance so if we want to hold them to that that timeline so that we get them as soon as possible. And also partnering with the local workforce development organization to make sure that they're also connecting with the community through that mechanism if that works.

**Mr. Camacho:** That works.

Mr. Camacho made a motion in favor including the above stipulations and Cheryl Jones seconded it. All were in favor, so moved.

**Celeste:** Samy, did you have something to add to that? **Samy:** on the jobs but I need the language that you mentioned was for our local workforce development. Yes, if that's the case then that you know that they guarantee that is, you know, jobs for especially you know low income and low cost so I you know not straight back to just our workforce development but like nearby residents as well, of course. Okay, understood. Any other recommendations? All right, seeing none, we will move on now to the next item on the agenda.

**8. Old Business**

**Celeste:** Any old business board members? I have one item technically this was old business as well under the housing and land use report, but you should have all received a copy of the responsible development policy. This has been a longtime coming. So please take a few minutes to review it and hopefully before the end of this meeting year, the board will be able to publicly review and vote on it and have a responsible development policy to share with all parties that are interested in developing in the neighborhood. I don't know if you'd like to add anything to that Anne or Mr Camacho.

**Joshua Brown:** In regard to old business do we have an update on the Pilling Street development, given it's a large development?

**Celeste:** Unfortunately, I have yet to hear anything from them, and I have not heard from the block association in a while. Usually when something's happening, whether it's related to that or any other projects or issues, they'll reach out and give me a heads up. I can check in with them. And also when Mr Camacho and I meet with our new Council Member Darma Diaz, we will make sure that this is on her radar as well, if it isn't already.

## **9. New Business**

**Celeste:** I have one item of new business that came to our attention, technically last month but we have some updates regarding the corner of Broadway and Linden. I know that there are a few community members that are on this evening. So, board members, you will know this as the former garden that was stewarded for many years by Avellar Hansley. Several years ago it was sold to a private developer and then it was sold again. And now they're proposing a building that is of course, out of character, I believe it's going to be 12 stories, and they have a parking lot, that's slated to go directly behind the building.

For those of you that don't know it's an irregularly shaped lot, it looks like an L, so it stretches from that corner all the way behind the row houses that are along Linden Street. So we've heard from many concerned neighbors rightfully so, about this development, since this summer I have looped in our liaisons from City Planning, the Department of Buildings, and the Economic Development Corporation. Board members, as a reminder, the Economic Development Corporation put a deed restriction on this property. So they have been reviewing the terms of that deed restriction because it's unclear whether the original deed, back in the 80s is going to affect the current deed, which of course does not include that deed restriction. I've been told by the Department of Buildings, they are the enforcers of zoning, you know the city's zoning code that they've been having conversations with all parties involved. EDC is going to inform the developer of their responsibility. We also did mention with these sites in particular, this is not a land use change. This is not a ULURP process. This is as of right development. So what we can do as a board office as a community board is request, on behalf of the community that they come to a meeting. However, if they choose not to do so they are not mandated to officially present. However, we will be following up to make sure that they know the community's concerns and we have an opportunity to speak to them directly about what's going on. Any questions on this?

**Mr. Camacho:** Yeah, maybe we can get somebody elected officials to force them to come to see us, or she can come because that doesn't make any sense, they're going to be neighbors or not be good neighbors.

**Celeste:** Absolutely. And just to note I have been in conversation as well with Asher Freeman from Councilmember Reynoso's office they've been very supportive and advocating as well for more information on this, making sure that the agencies are doing their due diligence and they're

not putting in permits without having the appropriate information. So this has certainly been flagged and I also want to thank the community members who have really stepped up and provided information to our office. They've done their research. I know that there are a few folks on this evening. If anyone would like to say a few words, this would be the time, if not we can always continue the conversation offline.

**Samy:** I wanted to research and see if we can get more information prepared next month about the issue of the attack, violent attacks on women on the Morgan Ave station. Some of the big things were most frequent statements and the last attacks that the attacker was identified, was seen at Bushwick store. I spoke personally with one of the victims. They have raised the issue with any mental health support or violence victims as well that he took five of these incidents for the police to put two and two together and understand that there was a pattern of violence, so I think this case raised a lot of questions and a lot of issues about how these cases are handled. It was you know about the pattern and you know from the aspect of when our cases that are targeted against a particular minority or a population like women in the same station, and also the other aspect of what kind of resources and the treatment, to which the big things are our handle. You know the big things, you know, mentioned how they work, you know attached to a wheelchair sent to the hospital without their consent. How they do these things have not received any connection whatsoever to, to what is trauma related issues, etc. And what they say was a very personal inhumane connection with the authority so anyway I don't want to. It was you know that we can improve working together and that this case you know was a great concern for many in our community.

**Mr. Camacho:** So we'll see with the public safety committee and maybe we'll get the inspector to answer some of the services that they have and see if they can bring more services in regard to that we'll see what we can do with, with the Deputy Inspector. He's not here he would answer those questions for you now. So we'll find out.

**Celeste:** Got it. And a quick point of clarification, thank you to Michelle who joined us this evening, the corner of Broadway and Linden is a 20-story proposed development. I was thinking of another development on, I believe Weirfield Street, that's 12 stories that's in a similar situation where it's a private site. All right, and I have one other item of new business and this is for the public that have joined us this evening and also for committee chairpersons we talked a little bit about this during our last executive board meeting. Any members of the public that are interested in becoming a no- board committee member, please feel free to send me a message in the chat or to reach out to me in the office, I will be sending an email to those that have expressed interest this week. Happy to have you get more involved.

**Mr. Camacho:** And it also benefits them if they want to be on a board because it looks good in their resume that they are participating, and then they know what's going on. It's also to see because a lot of times people go in there and it's really not what they want to learn all the time is like they'll know if they get on there. They'll know that's it. This is what they wanted to do what they don't



want to do. Test the waters which is being a non-board member which we do have to have. They can't vote on anything, but they can participate in the process. **Celeste:** Thank you. All right. If there is no other new business, we will move on.

### **10. Announcements**

**Celeste:** We now have our announcements, a minute and a half. I believe everyone is unmuted. I'm going to call on you.

#### Julio Salazar, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office

Firstly Happy New Year to everyone. I look forward to sharing upcoming news in regard to vaccines and a host of other issues as the new administration comes in both the majority so hopefully, we can update the community on time, all the proposals that are being considered. You know, as of right now, there's a brief discussion in regard to the next COVID relief bill but everything is very tentative, so I don't want to bore you with the details right now. As soon as we get concrete details of course we'll send them to the chairperson and district manager, or at least an FYI. Again, no vaccines is a pressing issue. A lot of the policies from the old administration are now being reviewed by the current one. So that's very important to know as we discussed that in our meeting. But again, we're still working at 266 Broadway, you can always reach out to me directly if you guys have any questions or concerns and if there's anything we can help you guys with especially with the IRS stimulus checks which we've been getting a lot of questions and concerns about so my phone number is 718-664-5149, or you can email me at [Julio.Salazar2@house.gov](mailto:Julio.Salazar2@house.gov). Thank you everyone.

#### Taeka Haraguchi, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office

Hi everyone. Happy New Year. My name is Taeka Haraguchi and I'm with Comptroller Scott Stringer's office. Happy Inauguration Day! Here's to a better year ahead, and it's good to be here this evening with Community Board 4. So just a few quick updates to share. So firstly, we have our annual paid summer internship program. The application is now open for matriculated college students, and the deadline is March 5, 2021, and all intern candidates must apply via our website to be considered. The program is during the weeks from June 7 to August 5, and I will drop the link to the application in the chat afterwards. Secondly, the comptroller released a plan to make sure New York City small businesses get their fair share of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding as a program reopened on January 11. This program is intended to support small businesses by helping them to retain staff and stem job losses. However analysis released by our office found that New York City lagged far behind in its share of eligible businesses that received a PPP loan. So just 12% of more than 1.1 million employee based and non-employer businesses in the city received a loan, compared to more sparsely populated and less economically impacted states such as North Dakota and South Dakota, where more than 20% of businesses received a loan. The report also showed notable disparities between boroughs and industries receiving these loans with nonprofits getting minimal support through the program. So I will share a link to that report as well. And finally, the comptroller released a Fair Shot NYC plan for vaccine equity. A snapshot of the Comptroller's vaccine equity plan to ensure that New Yorkers across backgrounds,

income levels, occupations, and age groups have equitable access to vaccines as the city ramps up distribution. The plan includes recommendations for more transparency and outreach to increase access for communities of color, lower income neighborhoods, and immigrant New Yorkers. The Comptroller called on the city to release demographic data in real-time that breaks down the age, race, profession, and zip code, mandate businesses provide paid time off and drastically scale up outreach and education through public advertising campaigns and local community leaders and organizations, so I will also drop that report in the chat. Thank you.

**Mr. Camacho:** You know you went over by only because we love Scott Stringer, he went over a little more you and it's supposed to be a minute and a half. It's okay, we will never let you go by the second time around we got it.

Jonathan Pomboza, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office

Good Evening everyone thanks so January, I'm sure I'm sure everyone knows is National Human Trafficking Prevention, and the DAs office is doing a community awareness training this coming week. And so just two quick events Monday January 25, from 5:30 to 6pm it'll be mobilizing the faith-based community to address human trafficking, the intended audience of clergy members the state and NGOs religious leaders, and then Wednesday will be for everyone to continue. We'll be doing opening remarks, what is your role in the anti-trafficking movement, the intended audience is everyone who's interested.

You can find out more good news [www.brooklynda.org/htawareness2021](http://www.brooklynda.org/htawareness2021). Thank you so much.

Tom Brogan, Brooklyn Public Library Dekalb Branch

Oh yes, the library's releasing a limited-edition library card related to celebrating Black culture and history. I put in the chat for free to get more information. The deadline is January 31. This is still being released, it's supported by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and the Brooklyn community boards and is part of Brooklyn Public Library's June 30, 2020 celebrations. Thank you.

Mayra Mera, North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence

We are currently recruiting volunteers or survivors for sexual assault advocates for Wyckoff hospital. And so we're asking for anyone. Bilingual is a plus. In order to be a volunteer you just need to be 18 years or older and be able to Woodhall hospital within 20 minutes by car, and we will reimburse. And there is a training provided as well for free. And if you have any questions or would like to know more about being a volunteer, you can volunteer at [www.northbrooklyncoalition.org](http://www.northbrooklyncoalition.org). I will also be dropping a PDF in the chat and my number as well.

Virgie Jones, CB4 Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Shared an update regarding the Association off Black Educators of New York (ABENY) essay writing contests. A student from IS 349 won in the past and he will receive appreciation. They were able to get 16 buildings that did participate, thank you and that. The next thing that I would like to say we're having a new mayor forum, and that's going to be on Sunday, January 31. And

that's going to be in coordination ABENY, and you can contact me. And I use the email for that event and we're trying to get as many educators as possible. And we do have scholarships available, also events for our graduating seniors, and you can get the information from the district. Thank you so much. Thank you love you miss you.

John Stanesco, Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

Everybody this is Johnston Stanesco from the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services. Thank you for having me. I'm here tonight to announce an opportunity for parents in Bushwick, our organization is operating four Learning Lab programs in the Bushwick area. You may have heard of learning labs, under the name learning bridges, it is a temporary program, operated by the city to provide free childcare from 8am to 3pm, Monday through Friday for any students who are enrolled in a Department of Education School, and in their blended learning program. So, it's only available for students who are enrolled in blended learning, but it is a free program. And we supervise children on their remote learning phase and offer engaging and fun activities for them once they're finished. So if you're interested in this, my number is 929-276-7188. But you can also apply online. If you just go to Google or your favorite search engine and search for New York City learning labs programs you can start a survey to enroll and the locations we have in Bushwick from my organization and there may be some more, but the locations we have currently are at Hope Gardens Community Center, PS 299, and PS 75. So if you're in the area, we have space for students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yeah, could you please send that to the committee, as well? We have YEC, that's the youth education committee that we have, and maybe we can send it out to people in the community.

**John:** Absolutely Mr Camacho I'll send you a flyer as well as some instructions for our parents to enroll.

**Celeste:** Thank you. All right, I don't see anyone else in the chat and I believe I covered all of our organizations this evening. For future reference if folks would like to make an announcement, you can always let me know by adding it to the chat or reaching out in advance of the meeting. We're happy to accommodate. If there are no further announcements, board members we'll be moving on with the agenda. Oh, and hold on I know we have someone. Give me one moment. Barbara, I did not forget. Go ahead. If there's anything you'd like to announce.

Barbara Smith, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Council President

Oh yeah. I want to ask everyone on the board if you know the senior that might need help to register for the COVID shot, could you reach out and give them a hand in the next couple of weeks? I helped coordinate going to get enough seniors to be picked up and take them to get this shot that they see in the building and sit outside and wait for them to get the shot and take them back to their residence. So it's going to take a couple of weeks for the managers of the senior buildings right now. I'm concentrating on 297 and 349. Those two senior buildings. So the social workers can go

around and get the seniors registered. But if anyone you know any communities where people know of a senior, they have to get the shot. So thank you so much for your time everyone. Happy new year.

**Celeste:** Thank you. Alright, so we'll move on now I believe that's all of our announcements for this evening. We'll go into our second roll call.

### **11. Second Roll Call**

Celeste conducted the second roll call.

### **12. Adjournment**

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

Thank you everyone. Have a good night.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:27pm