

Community Board 4  
Public Hearing and Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6pm

Webex

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celeste Leon

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Meeting Start: 6:06pm

**Public Hearing**

1) **Carolyn Scibelli, Senior Program Manager, NYC and LI Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs, National Grid** – providing an overview of National Grid’s energy efficiency programs that are relevant to Bushwick.

Carolyn greeted everyone and moved right into her presentation.

**Carolyn:** those are our brochures, so you can click right on that brochure and find out exactly what kind of equipment, and what the eligibility requirements are for. Okay so you can show that you're getting quotes from plumbers to do this work for your contractors you can show them, hey, this is why I need to install in order to get a rebate. They should be well aware of our rebates. We also work with them on a regular basis and send them notes and emails and try to train them on everything so that they can help you get the money that you need to get back. Okay. We also have a new program that we are really excited about, which is only in the New York City area, so that's your Brooklyn area. Okay, um, what we do for this is that you can either have a one of our Franklin energy technicians who is our partner with this program, come to your home, or you can do it virtually right over the phone, especially with COVID We'd set up that feature, they'll go through a few things through in your home, asked you a few questions about how you use your energy, what kinds of things, air readers how old you showerheads or things like that. Once they do that they will come out there, and they will install the air readers in your bathroom in your kitchen. Okay so that sprays the water a little less than a regular nozzle would weigh when you put the nozzle on it, the water comes screaming out this just flows it better. Okay, use a lot less water. The low flow showerheads to, same idea, we have the handheld ones or the regular standard showerhead. We also do pipe wraps around the pipes in the bathroom and the kitchen on the hot water so it keeps the hot water hot. Shouldn't you don't use so much energy heating the water in the thermostatic shower valves, which is my favorite thing. I have two girls and they put the shower on and then they walk around, and I don't know what they're doing, waiting for that hot water to come on and how many gallons of water have gone down the drain already so that thermostatic shower valve, it's just like a little pull chain. It starts dripping water when the water gets hot, you pull the chain, and then the hot water automatically comes out, saves you a ton of

money. So all these little things we would do and it's no cost, that's a free program, Anybody can call and it will just come. Like I said either install it for you or send you a package and you can DIY. Whatever you feel most comfortable with. During this COVID time so that is the phone numbers right there, our information is also on our website for all these programs. Also the marketplace marketplace you can order it's like a National Grid Amazon, if you will, you can order showerheads air aerators thermostatic shower valves right on the marketplace and the rebate is automatically in that price so you don't have to fill out know the rebate form, you just find on there we ship it to you, and you can install it and start saving money on those Wi Fi thermostats, smart thermostat, if you don't have one. That's one thing I would tell everybody to do. It saves you the most money, we'll keep the heat low at night, you can set it during the day as high as you want. But when we all start getting back to work, it's great because it automatically shuts off the heat during the day when you're gone. And it just really saves you so much money I've noticed a huge difference in type installed in my home. Then we also have multifamily rebates, so a lot of our constituents in Brooklyn, a lot of our customers live in large multifamily buildings. And even though they're not paying that National Grid Bill themselves, you know it definitely is reflected in that rent. So, if you know that there are things in your building that can get done, once again we have a no cost service where we will come into each of the units, install the showerheads for the air rater, bathroom iterators and steam traps, where they are available. So, half the tenants or tenants can get together and say hey, we want you to do this. No, it's free. Mr. Landlord, call this phone number, and we'll schedule time, and everybody can sign up for a time that they want that technician to come into their unit, and we come and do like 50 or 100 units in a week. You know because we offer so many different times so this too, even though you don't pay that definite, you know, individual bill, definitely get involved. Okay, then also any other, you know the tenants are really strong which I love tenants and buildings are starting to get very involved in being environmentally friendly, being more energy efficient, if they see something and they know hey or the landlord is thinking of replacing heating systems, any kind of new technology, we have rebates, it can go either through prescriptive like my rebate, online, or we can do a custom, you know, rebate which we go and we look at what they're trying to do and we base the incentive off of the work that they're doing and how many, how much money they'll save on their bill. So once again, a lot of different things that they can do for themselves. So just kind of quickly and it won't take up too much time but just to know anything that has to do with your natural gas bill. If you're looking to save money, or replacing equipment, always go to our website, call the call center, you know, talk to the customer advocates if you need any help paying the bill but always come to us and ask us what we have to offer, because we do really have a lot of programs out there to offer our customers to help them lower their usage, which is that will continue on and on. Even if you're having bills, the more you save on your energy, the less your bills are going to pay. It also helps us environmentally. I don't know if you want to take any questions, or else I'll just, I'll stop sharing my screen and let the next person speak.

**Unknown:** I have a question. What about converting from oil to gas, what are the rebates for that?

**Answer:** Um, there are no rebates for converting from oil to gas at this time, no. But there are rebates for the equipment that you may install. Not for the actual conversion though.

**Celeste:** Thank you, anyone else. Last call anyone else. There's nothing in the chat or the q&a so if there are questions that we don't get to now feel free to let us know and we will certainly pass them along to National Grid. **Carolyn:** Thank you so much for the opportunity. Have a great evening.

**Celeste:** Just so folks know, there is a lot happening on my end so if for whatever reason I don't respond to you right away whether it's a text or a chat message I'm monitoring four screens at the same time. So, just thank you for your patience, but we will move on to our second public hearing item.

2) **Gabriel Halili, Consultant Project Manager, Sapna Advani, Director – Urban Design, Community Planning, Raul Rubio, Community Coordinator, and Tommy Truong, Project Associate – Hester Street, Bushwick Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Study** – providing an update on the study, their findings, and next steps.

**Gabriel (Gabo):** Some of you know me. I've been away for a long time. We have these 20 slides, hopefully 15 to 20 minutes we'll be speaking. I just want to thank you all, the board, Mr. Camacho, Celeste for having us here today to come again and talk about the BOA. Before I go into the overview I just want to introduce the team who is here, you'll have me Gabo Halili. I'm a project consultant working on the BOA since 2017, working with the Bushwick Community Plan. Before that, we also have Raul Rubio, if you want to introduce yourself.

**Raul:** Yeah, I mean you guys know who I am, been working with this project since phase one. And I want to thank you guys this was the end of the board entirely for, you know, coming along to this process with us and hopefully this isn't over, and we can eventually look forward to phase three when things kind of like normalize even more, but thank you.

**Gabo:** Next we have Sapna Advani who is here as well as part of our team. And we have Tommy from Hester Street to take notes so we make sure we record everything. So I just want to start with mapping up. Hopefully in the 15 minutes I'll be speaking today. So there's an introduction, project background, findings or recommendations, and next steps, and a few questions. So for the introduction, I just want to talk about why we're here today. We want to update a detail on our progress this presentation, we sent Celeste an executive summary. And if she can share that with you, it will be really helpful. I want to describe what the BOA can mean for Bushwick, what the benefits are of this project and what it can do that is different from the Bushwick Community Plan and how it's different from the rezoning. We also want to solicit feedback as we seek designation from the state. This is another reason while we're refreshing what you've done since two years ago, maybe 2019, especially when the pandemic is just warping time. I just wanted to refresh everyone's memory. What you see here is things we've already talked about. But, since 2020 We've been working with us to refine the work. It was really a lot of writing and rewriting but the content remains the same. So, just giving you a visual view of who we are. The Project Sponsor is FSM. The Family Services Network led by Dr. Eaglais. They're the grantee of DDoS from the US and efficient as the folks who brought us in at high speed and green collective where Sapna is part of who is here with us today. We have Dr. Rubio, y'all know our community coordinator

BJH advisors did our economic development work on this project and we had cuff and vented to help us out with the community surveys we did in 2019 and 2018 2019. To give you all a background I want to start with the visions and the goals of this project, the vision and goals of this project are really rooted on the Porsche Community Plan, the poll will work. So, I'll read it out. So, another project vision is to protect and strengthen Bushwick by identifying implementable. And let me just move this insane specific development on vacant underutilized and brownfield sites that advance community goals of the BOA and BCP on affordable housing. Economic and Workforce Development and Public Health. For the VA the three main goals are affordable housing. Economic and Workforce Development and Public Health, And it goes under here really, again, rooted on the Bushwick community plan because we're basing a lot of our work on that. And if I go okay so here's what boa designation can do so this park project is part of the state's do a program which means brownfield opportunity area. The probe that's the big state program that's funding our work through episode two, so through a designation of this report this this this project is like this report that we're doing is support from the state committee to providing ongoing support refers to implementation of the lower plan so one of the hallmarks of this plans, is the state wants to make sure that these can be done, and it won't just be like, this plan, and finish shelf priority and preference so once we did it we receive variety in preference for steep grants and other financial assistance, the predictability is one thing that the ball also brings so community based goes into POA, in all boys really across the state help provide potential developers an idea of what kind of development community will approve so at least they know what the community wants when they go in with this kind of plans, and the Brownfield cleanup program, tax credit for developers or participate in this program to remediate to redevelop site and ABOA are eligible for a tax credit bump up to 5% if development of brownfield again just to define it for you. For those lands that have a history of environmental pollutants. It was a gas station before. It needs remediation.

So, broad strokes of a project timeline Esther was said she was here for step one in 2009, which is a long time ago from 18. We started this. When I was testing the question committee, and happened right before that, and from 2013 to today, we don't have a steering committee meeting before meetings we've seen before, surveys and stakeholder research from now and beyond, which can take five to 10 years honestly for implementation. So, our community is really rooted in community plan. 2018 is the foundation of our through our work, because we, our goal reading wasn't to repeat and ask the same questions again since that just finished in everyone already said what they needed in Bushwick, through this plan so we really able to bring the recommendations, they're in to the board and complimented it with engagement we did for this project so there is the steering committee for the boa. And you'll see here is a list of where community members and city agencies are trying to really have a spirit of collaboration, moving forward for a site-by-site development again this is not a rezoning just want to make that clear. We did the CB4 presentation. Here's a picture where we, before the pandemic we recall, actually, one foot from each other less than we did community surveys here, just some highlights below in the interest of time, and then we're going on to findings and recommendations. So from all of our engagement, all of our research and all of the work that we did, we come to the goals and objectives, and as you read through this, you might see it familiar because it's almost newly lifted from the Bushwick Community Plan. And we adapted it for the ball context, which is site by site development. And we focused on built environment recommendations from the plan here, so

building affordable housing building commercial spaces that cater to the needs of the neighborhood. Very site buildings very built environment things more than less and be talked less of the policy stuff in this kind of work for the, the objectives to take the goals and objectives to bring them into action, we created an implementation strategy which you'll see on the report so we're finishing this report at the end of this month, we're almost there. So you'll see that soon, a draft so each objective that'd be mentioned before has a set of recommendations that are based on the BCP oil processes. Each recommendation is also matched with interim next steps toward implementation. So for example, just want to see an excerpt of the report here. So you'll see, for example, one of the objectives we mentioned earlier, build commercial spaces that cater to the needs of a neighborhood, and each recommendation here will look familiar to you again from the worship community plan. I just want to zero in on the blue part two want to increase banking options in Bushwick, preferably a local credit union. The only reason why I'm doing this is to show you what you'll find in the reports you'll see there's a timeframe, their partners, their estimated cost of our funding based on our research. And in terms of next steps. So the interim next steps is really how we're making all of these implementable, like small steps to create a local credit union if that's what the community wants right so the first step is to determine the need for it through some research. The next is to analyze the number of credit union members in that area that works. So for each recommendation we have, we formed it into a project with next steps with interim next steps that can move it forward, and the orange checks you see here are steps that the state can fund, like operationally can fund plans to move forward implementation of these, so there's a lot of mechanisms to make this implementable is what I'm trying to say and what the boy is trying to do here was done. We also looked at strategic sites. Looking at my cheat sheet here, we showed you all this last time. This is not new to anyone on this call, but we selected 15 strategic sites that are nearly underutilized and vacant sites or useless parking lots. Because parking is an important issue in Bushwick, especially for the NYPD and those parking lots around bike calf heights Medical Center and just for the general public, we include that on the report which we'll see later this month. We included ways to preserve and consolidate parking users on site, and to make these sites, At least, parking, but more than parking, to be able to build a lot of other needs that the community will need to give you an idea of how we got into the sites, we looked at size greater than 10k, either parking or backup lot spread out in Bushwick publicly owned sites and preferred, while there's a lot of bureaucracy into publicly owned sites, those are opportunities 3d for 100% affordable housing. We also wanted to find the opportunities to strengthen clusters or fill gaps in health, housing, economic development, demonstration sites are part of the strategic site so of the three of the 1526 sites we selected three to show potential of what it can look like. So for example, on this next slide, these are the three demonstration sites, again, part of the 15 sites we've shown on the map. These are all proposals, nothing's ever set in stone, but we're showing here strategies of development that count toward the ball goals in housing, economic development and public health, but we're really trying to show here is community-based development is possible. As the report is showing not only what you see here like the zoning studies, and the shapes of the buildings but also construction budgets and sources of government subsidy to be able to build this kind of project so we think this is doable. We're trying to give a message to developers that community-based development is doable. You just have to listen and be creative and do it right. I'm sure it's more complicated than that but that's the message we're trying to see here. Just to give you a closer look. So this site is the NYPD parking lot, beside no

wastelands, it's just south of the central station on the end. So you'll see here, the yellow part is affordable housing, where the BCP says, affordable housing should be at least, at 60%, AMI and lower community facility spaces the blue part in the red part is commercial space, what we're trying to do, you know, activate the ground floor and make it more lively it's an empty lot. It's by a transit station. One of the important things here is to be preserved in a wasteland space. So the building looks odd if you look at it now, it's not a rectangle, there's not a square, but we push the mess as far away from the community garden as possible to show to keep to preserve direct sunlight on it because that's what they said that's important to do that, usually to any community garden right. We also did a shadow study that shows for most of the year the garden will have direct sunlight for at least until 1pm during winter months, and until 3pm during the summer. So again, the goal here is to show, community-based development as possible that's mindful and intentional and considers the neighbor, their neighborhood in Bushwick, and it doesn't mean it has to be like a cookie cutter type story rectangle. It can be a lot of things. So for the next steps, we are going to complete the final draft and we'll share it with you all. Literally the next few days of the day, the team will be writing. Just to finish it up. We want to see, seek your feedback, as a board, we'll be sending you a draft again for the questions and comments. Anyone has today, we will record, and try to answer as best as we can and accomplish what we can under reporting based on our capacity and time. And there I know there might be questions that are bigger picture that might be more time and more energy that frankly we'll record that and bring it to the next implementation phase, and see what capacity we have to, to integrate that in, but if we can't. Those questions will be recorded and brought into implementation. We're going to apply for board designation with the state to get those benefits a priority, and funding project development that matches community needs and desires. And finally, beyond the structure of this project, FSN because we're only a consultant but FSN hopes to collaborate with the community. When the opportunities arise to implement the goals of this project, you know, you know I've been with the water through the BCP as well. And I understand and we understand that there's a history of tension between the Bushwick Community Plan and the rezoning. So we're hoping this project could be another way to get community based recommendations and ghosts implemented in other ways, but mainly through site by site development, and not through a full neighborhood rezoning because we know we know how much tension that's been in, we've been in the same rooms with those that have been. And that's it, that's it for me. Hopefully that was 15 minutes. If anyone has questions.

**Mr. Camacho:** I have no question, I just have a comment. I see what you did there. I see that if we can attack these places that are there before someone else that doesn't have an interest in our community and what we want, which is deeply affordable housing, not affordable because affordable to anyone. We needed affordable housing for our community, and to create a spot check where we can. I think this community is all for because compared to having the empty lot there in the cities not doing anything, and we're waiting for them to get why not try to be in front of it. And then if we get a mayor that's going to have the new mayor, it comes in and pushes out agenda. Now we have more money for our banks and we have more to do. I commend you guys. This looks great. I wish it could be done now. And that way, you know, five, six years from now, we don't know someone else might want to do something so we really need to get on a board and support you all organization anyway, in regards to that also in, in backs, because we see that

people come in from outside. Borrowing money outside different places and going to other places and taking over our community and we have a bank here, then we could do our own supporting and helping our own, and borrowing money and giving it back. Check recycling, because other people. And I come into this community getting the money for you somewhere else, and only our land. And again a mortgage and we are stuck with nothing so it is good that we do a credit union in our community. That's going to give money to the community and invest back into the community. So that's really what we need and I'm glad and I hope that this goes through hopefully. I know you guys, you've been with us for a long time so you know what we mean and how hard it is in Bushwick to make sure that we continue to live in a place where it's getting harder and harder especially for our seniors and our young kids to continue to live in everything.

**Unknown:** Number 10 and 11 where exactly are they?

**Answer:** So number 10 is the parking lot south of the school.

**Unknown:** that's along Bushwick Avenue.

**Answer:** I can look it up right now. That's beside a church on Bushwick Avenue and Madison. Yeah, so there's a playground and then just south of it is the parking lot with a lot of trees around it, and then to the right of it if you're looking from Bushwick Avenue, there's a church. Number 11 is on Broadway. And I think most of it. Okay, that's an empty lot. There's a community garden, just north of it which is not part of the lot, because we want to preserve the community garden.

**Jose:** Good evening everybody. Just two questions during the board estimation, what is the role of the community for that process, that's, that's my first question. And the second one is the credit union. We already have a credit union, right, that just caught that's going to play out for the first question about the community board.

**Gabo:** We're gathering feedback from you all. And once we send the report, we'll give you a, like a forum to pay back and all of that. But also, I know I asked Celeste earlier today, if we could ask click prompts for more support from you well but I understand that takes process from presenting to the committee and then presenting again to you all. Honestly, though, if this project is coming up and we want to figure out that there's a pass through we could do that or if this, if we need to go through the motions, we will do it. Find a way to do it. But at the very least we'd love for your feedback once we get. Once we've shared the report at the end of this month. Can you repeat the second question again?

What role does the board have that just answered the feedback if we want to solicit feedback from you all. Towards designation. We'd also love to have your support, but I know that might take a different process of plus presenting to the committee. you would have to go through committee then come through the full board. And the second question that he asked was, is there's already a credit union here. Why establish another one, so that at the point that we're putting this together, we were not aware that that was taken from the palm washer community plan I mean, it's not. If

you all want another credit union, why not if you don't want it, we don't have to do that. That's also not the only recommendation on that there's a bunch of other things as well.

**Mr. Camacho:** I guess I think I think that the reason why you guys did that was on the opposite side of Broadway, there isn't under your credit union is a murder on the Knickerbocker and on the other side of Broadway by gate by a Halsey by Chauncey/Gates M-line by Dekalb by Myrtle the area there. A lot of people don't want to go on that site and they maybe they want because that's the borderline across the street is Bed-Stuy this side where I live is the forgotten side, I guess that's why they put that there because my side here, we never had to get any services on this side, and it's kind of sad but I'm sorry I have to say that but that's absolutely true, I lived it. 60 years and I've never seen anything on this side besides clubs and wine and drinking. So, instead of jobs and bags and services that this community can use, so I guess that that was one of the points, aware, is that community one. We know you have one over there. So, one, another one. There's also, there's also a chase of the black. There's also city back of the block is over to a Bank of New York. So you know, the more the merrier. To serve the community. In my opinion, especially as I know banks on this side.

**Jo-Ena:** I put a question in the chat was, if, can you hear me, Jo-Ena Bennett. When would you expect your plan to be implemented? And one of the things that I'm concerned with from what I hear from the New York State Comptroller's office is that New York State is broke, particularly in light of COVID. So, if approved, when would you implement it, and how would it be financed and are you also thinking in terms of the President's plan for infrastructure, I mean how is this going to be financed? **Gabo:** Sure. So the BOA program only funds, the planning part of the project, the process and also gives tax incentives, like it doesn't, it doesn't fund, the actual building, it won't fund the view, like the community or whoever upgrades this project forward we'll have to figure that out through done developer and partnering with the property owner and all that stuff, usually on development but the state will fund the research for it the planning for it the staffing for it, but not the construction so that's a constraint for timeline plan once we designate it close. That's not necessarily the end of the plan, but let's make it official implementation for the plan once we send you the report it'll have for each recommendation and each quote unquote project will have a timeline. So, really, that's, that's done estimation of car parts. There are folks in the community who really want to get things done. I think it'll really depend on the players in the room when this will be implemented. But that always sets the stage for that to happen and sets the stage for support.

Other questions. Uh huh. Go ahead.

**Barbara:** Don't have a set of, like, little restaurants and stuff. Wonderful to do this on that avenue and Madison 1997 When I was on a committee to open up the credit union. This is a district carrier, that's no longer a business credit union people come from all over the place. And it's only a couple of dollars to open it up, we can drive, and I could use this business, great issue. And I heard one of the board members saying where would the money come from this ocean, and you get enough community to take the money will be recycled. So that's how the Caribbean. I think this will be brief.

**Mr. Camacho:** Thank you for you guys and all you do.

**Celeste:** We're going to just move on in the agenda so we do have another special guest speaker with us this evening but I'm waiting for the green light that he's ready to speak. So, but that does conclude, excuse me, our public hearing agenda. So thank you everyone. We will now move on to our regular meeting agenda.

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## **Regular Meeting**

### **1) 1st Roll Call**

**Celeste:** So we have our first roll call Board Members please be ready.

**Board members present:** Rev. Grace Aytes, Jo-Ena Bennett, Martha Brown, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Felix A. Ceballos, Louisa Chan, Daniella Davi, Elvena Davis, James Fitzgerald, Freddy Fowler, Anne Guiney, Jose R. Guzman, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Mary McClellan, Zulma Novoat, Gladys Puglla, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams

**Excused:** Joshua Brown, Barbara Jackson, Kristen Jock, Odolph Wright

**Absent:** Andrew Choi, Egaudy Gomez, Rev. Migdalia Gutierrez, Cheryl Jones, Samy Nemir, Julio Salinas

**Celeste:** 28 board members present that constitutes a quorum. Thank you everyone.

### **2) Acceptance of the Agenda**

**Celeste:** All right, moving on now the acceptance of the agenda. Is there a motion from the board to accept the agenda.

Mr. Camacho made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Raul Rubio. All were in favor, so moved.

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

Mr. Camacho made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Freddy Fowler. All were in favor, so moved.

**Celeste:** Okay, just for folks to know please let me know when you're ready. If we have special guest speakers please let me know if you're ready, either through the chat, or via text. Thank you and Mr. Camacho. My apologies. We will now move on to your report this evening.

### **4) Chairperson's Report**

**Mr. Camacho:** Okay. Well, I would like to thank everyone for joining. We would like to give a prayer to George Floyd and his family and everything that's going on in the world so hopefully everything slowed down, if any. Also I would like to give my condolences to Melissa Carrera. Her husband's mother and father passed away. Also, my condolences go out to Acire Polight, who had a family member pass away. Also, Odolph Wright, I'm not sure if he is doing well, we'd have to call him and check up on him. We had him in our thoughts and our prayers and hope he feels better on the board and all, or all of us, and we miss him. And we will, we will send something and I send in my tag so make sure everybody check up on one another you know we're not we're not trying to be nosy, you know, but we want to make sure you're right you want to make sure especially at the tough times that are going now. We really need to take care of each other, Especially this hard time. More than anything now, you know, just check up on one another. We're supposed to be family, make sure that we're all alright if whatever we can do for anyone because you know times are rough. Believe me, I, I know that we're all acting, you know, we're trying to be safe. Hopefully, God willing, we'll all come meet again soon and this phone style thing. I'm now four to eight the same as seeing our people we're sitting down at talking. You know, people telling you their concerns and issues and now it's like, I don't know, but we have to back off. So this is just a reminder, Jamie Wiseman, is no longer. He didn't renew for next year. Also, we have Victoria Fernandez, also resigned. You know her. We know her mother passed away. So, you know, it's hard.

Really we sent out to all of them and we hope. There's nothing you can say, but we were praying for them and I know everything's going to be alright. Also, we need to check like I said we need to check on each check upon each other. We really do. You know we have a lot of seniors; we have a lot of people who want to make sure that they're safe and we want to make sure that we hear from them we're supposed to be a family. So that's what families do, even if we may not. You don't get it all with no one, you know, talk to no one, at least sit down to organize the world is too crazy now as it is for us to be like that. So, we, we also have other business, we want to make sure that the committee's, as you know, is going to be an action whoever the chairperson is or whatever you nominate the committees. We put them all together if it is not working. If it doesn't work, or people are having a hard time so it was to let us know. You know this is the time we talk, you know if it's too much, it's too little, or we need something or whoever wants to remember these don't we have a lot of old timers here and they want to pass the torch to the new people to everyone, and they wanted to commit some people don't want to do it. Some people want to do it. We encourage you, so we want to do less meetings more productive, and make sure that we are. If you do become the chairman, you're going to say I'm going to do my report. Make sure you get the report in time because we don't want later on if the report is there. And then it goes back to salaries because you're supposed to be doing the report. So if you're going to help. so help if we're not at you know we're short one, Willie retired. So we're short one person. Sharon splitting the work. Also, we also want to welcome back Martha Brown.

**Martha:** Thank you.

We need you to teach us, to bring this back to how things used to be, you know, because in order for us to go forward, we got to know what was behind us. So, I know when you talk people listen

because they say wow, you know, it's like you're like an encyclopedia, you can turn everything around and it's great and we love you very much.

**Martha:** Thank you. I love all of you and I missed you all very much and thanks so much. Thank you for everything. Love you all.

**Mr. Camacho:** As to my meeting on Thursday March 18 At 1pm, we were in a meeting with Bushwickers. On Thursday, March 18 at 6pm CEC, which is the Community Education Council for school funding partner Thursday, March 18 at seven, the NCO patrol borough mask out by Saturday. I was in a Zoom meeting with a 1325 Broadway in regard to the garden. They learned they got on what's going on with that piece of property. So, we're still anticipating something to happen on Sunday, March 24 21st at 4pm I went to a to element at the borough president rally to support the aging community, as a community, as you see what's going on. We need to take care of our people and make sure we protect them, that they will protect us. On Monday, the 22nd at six o'clock, see before that economic or environmental protection, transportation, and parks committee. On Tuesday, the 23rd at 6pm, the NCO meeting, set the boot sector Charlie Wednesday March 24 at 6pm, north or right virtual tenant tennis workshop fight to win. Assemblywoman Marissa Davila. On Thursday, the 25th are the district of the district office Committee met on Friday the 26th as TV for housing land you news. Thursday, April 1 at 5pm Sanitation workgroup. On Friday, April 2 We met with red. On Friday, April second and 30, edify palmetto, they will give him the second shot the scene is there. On Tuesday before the Brooklyn Borough board presentation in that Brooklyn Borough presentation was the New York City Department of City Planning and Zoning for assembly. Also the Cold Spring Harbor on the NYC Tech's opening for 2021 summer camp in New York City. The permit cap, Department of New York City, campaign finance board on rank choice voting. Hopefully, it's now it's late, but we should have had more I don't know why. Why are they pushing up their rank choice voting is too late. So stop that because a lot of people don't have education. And it's sad. Personally as seniors, you know, picking one person, imagine picking 500 People won't want to sit and it's terrible. So we really something needs to be done about that we need education before they even start a program could they always put a program. And then we got to learn as we go. And when mistakes go, and we had people that don't represent us, or pick up people that don't represent the community that are suffering, then we're up the river without a paddle. On April 7 Wednesday. Executive Board. April. April 8 Thursday for PSC before. We had a meeting on April 8, at six o'clock, the age as a, as a Veterans Committee on April 30 Tuesday, the EDC. Our permits and licenses. On April, 14 District cabinet service. Advocacy Service we had the OB, national, Department of Aging, Department of construction, the Attorney General's office parks department, fire department, health department, the controller's office MTA, as you know they're going to start painting the treasures of the train. Con Edison was there. DOT, DHS, which is the Department of Housing Services, or consumer protection. And then on Saturday, April 17 At 11, we had Ernie squared talk.

Let me tell you man. We had all the bosses for the rack. Hope garden toilet was out there raking the lawn and cleaning. It was great, it was really great. Well, and on Sunday, we did two, I went to, they also have Earth Day Maria Hernandez Park. On Tuesday, the 20th, the butcher

Community Plan. Today, the 21st this morning at 10 o'clock I was an agent present clergy. And today, Wednesday at six o'clock or the full community board meeting. And any questions, anything in regard to my report, anything that you guys want to answer. Now it's time to answer it.

**US Senator Schumer:** Robert, Chuck Schumer, Hi.

**Celeste:** I was just gonna say we have our special guest with us, our United States Senator, so I wanted to make sure everybody knew that he was here, so feel free members if you have questions now for Mr Camacho, by all means otherwise Senator, we defer to you thanks for joining us this evening.

**Senator Schumer:** Thank you. Are there any questions for Mr Camacho, or should I get moving?

**Celeste:** Going once, going twice, board members. Hearing none, take it away, Senator.

**Senator Schumer:** Thank you. Well, first I want to thank all of you for service on the community board 4. I ride my bicycle through your neighborhood all the time.

**Mr. Camacho:** with a helmet, and I hope you go the right way.

**Senator Schumer:** I do, you know what's my favorite route? I don't know if anyone lives. I am Jewish. But I have a church that I pray in, and it's not in your district but I go through your district to get there. It's St Matthias in Ridgewood on Catalpa Street, the best route to get there is on Greene Avenue. So I ride on Greene through your whole district from Broadway all the way to the Queens and I sometimes take some of the other streets too. I ride through Bushwick all the time up to Flushing Avenue, so I'm not a spandex guy. You know I'm not going at 40 miles an hour. I go nice and slow and I talk to people and I see what's going on. And so, I know your district very, very well. It's a great district.

So anyway, first I want to thank all of you for your service on the community board. I want to thank Robert, who is the chair. I want to thank Celeste, our district manager, and everybody else, for being part of the board. I am a community person. I started out as a tenant organizer, and I know how important the board is to a place like Bushwick, which is a, you know, such a beautiful neighborhood so diverse, so many different kinds of people and so many people struggling. Okay, so it's really important that you serve, and I appreciate that very very, very much. As I said, I started out as a tenant organizer in the southern part of Brooklyn Sheepshead Bay where I'm from and went to Madison High School. My father was an exterminator and never made much money so I know what it is. I know what it's like to climb up that ladder and I know that's what you're trying to do, and we need our community boards, they're just fabulous. And I want to say to all of you, you know, thank you for serving, because I know how it is when things go wrong, and you hear it from everybody. When things go right. No one says thank you. And you don't get paid very much on this job, we know that, so I just wanted to say thank you thank you thank you for caring about the Bushwick community which is so important in part of Brooklyn. First, before I get I call to let you know what's in our AARP bill, there's a lot of help for a lot of people, and I want to make I'm

spreading the word here, because all the money that we got for New York and for the people of your community if it doesn't end up in their hands, and in the hands of organizations that help them, it won't work out. So I'm going to talk about that but first I do want to say a few words about the verdict and the Derek Chauvin trial yesterday. The verdict serves as an official proclamation of what we've known for a year, George Floyd was murdered by an officer he was supposed to be the opposite was sworn to protect and serve but he didn't. But I wanted to say this as Majority Leader, by the way, I'm the first Majority Leader ever from New York, what do you think of that, yeah.

But anyway as Majority Leader, I want to make it clear that we're not going to mistake a guilty verdict, as evidence that the proud problem of police misconduct has been solved, or that the divide between law enforcement and the community has been bridged because we know it hasn't. So we have to remain really diligent in our effort to bring meaningful change to police departments across the country to reform the practices and the training and the legal protections that shield police officers guilty of misconduct. So last year I put together a group led by Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, she's no longer a senator as I guess you all know, but they put together, working with Ben Crump, you've all seen Ben Crump on TV the last few days, it was George Floyd's lawyer, and he's the most brilliant civil rights lawyer, and we put together something called the justice in policing Act, which is the most comprehensive bill to deal with the systemic bias of police departments in the country, and it would ban racial and religious profiling, it would ban chokeholds and no knock warrants, it would create a publicly available nationwide database on police misconduct and bigotry and the two most important things that would eliminate qualified immunity. So police officer did something that was bigoted or racist. And God forbid someone died or was hurt the family could sue. That's a very important thing, and it would say that the intent. The intent standard is so high you can never go after police officers do this that would change it. This is the most ambitious and far-reaching federal proposal ever to reform police departments and I'm going to try. I'm right now we're trying to get it passed by Cory Booker. Since Campbell is not here anymore. The Vice President is leading the charge. We're going to fight hard for that. And we want to make sure that George Floyd's death was not in vain, plain and simple. And we're not going to rest till the Senate passes strong legislation. And if you want. I will send you a copy. So everyone on the board can see it. Robert, if that's okay with you I thought of things to send you. Okay, now let's go to the COVID bill. The bill we passed, is the most progressive piece of legislation affecting more people, poor people, and middle-class people, that has been passed in about 15 years. And it's very, very important people note, one of the major things we put in the bill was vaccines, we made sure that communities of color, go first not last. And now there's enough vaccines that anyone over 16 can just line up and get one. And Robert. And if you don't have enough sites in your community board area of call me we will get another site, I made sure that all community health centers could get the vaccines, those are neighborhood clinics, you have some stubbed up some of them gotten it in Community Board 4 what we have department building there maybe we can work something out and put them in a health department building, wherever you need to prove them so they're convenient and please urge people to get the vaccine and said, you know, my parents, praise God, are 97 and 92. They got the vaccine, there okay this vaccine is not like the others I know a lot of people of color don't want to get vaccines because they used to. They do oftentimes use people of color as guinea pigs in this

stuff. No more. It's really changed, please urge people to get the vaccine, and we're trying to make it so that there'll be enough vaccines. Enough vaccines that everyone will have one, and by June 1 to the middle of June, there'll be enough people in New York City vaccinated that we can go back to our normal lives. And that's an important thing. Second, before I get into the bill. I want to assure you that those horrible people who took over the Capitol on January 6 Let me tell you my story. I got to the floor of the Senate, for the first time because on January 6 We won the elections in Georgia making me this majority leader. And I learned that at 4am January six morning I got in my car, go down to DC. I'm on the floor of the Senate for only an hour when a police officer and a bulletproof vest and a machine gun on his waist grabs me by the collar like this. I'll never forget it. And he says, Senator you're in danger we got to get out of here. You may have seen this because they showed it on TV the overhead cameras caught it. We walk out of the door of the Senate, I turn to the right. I'm walking briskly with these officers. I go in and door you can't see me in 20 seconds later we're running out at full speed. I was within 20 feet of Am I allowed to use a curse word we're in Brooklyn, you know, I'm from Brooklyn, yeah, you could say it I'm gonna let you say don't worry about it. We got a tentative path, there's a path to head covering because I was within 20 feet of these bastards. Let me tell you, if one of them had a gun. If two of them had blocked the door. I wouldn't be here. But now the good news is we're prosecuting them. There are 400 of them who have been they're racist. They're insurrectionists, they're horrible human beings as Donald Trump who led the whole thing, but they're now arrested 400 of them and we're going after him to the full extent of the law. So that was the low point of January 6. But now we're coming back. As I said, we've gotten the vaccine so there's enough vaccines for everyone we're prosecuting these people Trump's no longer on Twitter, by the way, he gave up his New York citizenship Good riddance. I never want him to come back again. He was the worst president we have ever had. He was a liar, he's a, he was the biggest liar I ever met. If he was talking to Community Board 4 like this on the Zoom, and then he walked downstairs and reporters outside they'd say Did you just talk to Community Board 4? He'd say no. And his blood pressure would go up a bit. He's just a patent liar, he's a racist.

But in any case. So, we passed this bill and now we're doing good. We're doing good with vaccines. Here's other things to check. Anyone whose individual whose income is below 70 575,000 If your income is below 150,000 If you're a couple, you should get you should have gotten already a 14 \$100 check in the last few weeks. And that's per person so if you're a family of four, you should have gotten 50 \$600. And it applies to children. College kids who are still living at home, disabled adults as well as all kids. This is very important. And if people haven't gotten the checks Robert they should call to the community board, I have my staffer, Steve Barton and Julio Lopez on the Zoom, we can help them if they haven't gotten the checks if their income is that so 90% of the people on board for should get the checks were made sure that we'll make sure that if, if people don't have it to make sure they call the office and we'll link with you to make sure they can get their checks.

We got money, we got. Okay, the second thing we're getting is people don't know this gets called. We've doubled what's called the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit. If you make below 75,000 as a single parent if you make below 150,000 As a couple, starting in July, you will get a check of 250 a month for any child six to 17 300 a month for a child zero to six per child for

a whole year. This is going to take half the kids in New York out of poverty. Young child is born into poverty. You know, they don't get properly fed, sometimes properly clothed properly education proper health care when they're 18, they're in a deep ditch. Now, to their credit, some of them climb out on their own, but a lot can't, and I don't blame them. So now with this money in people's pockets that's much less likely to happen and that's going to start coming let people know in July. So, once these checks have expired, is that, and this bill is so good that the top, you know the. Okay, I'll do that. The next thing is that we got money for all our small businesses and restaurants. I ride my bicycle down sometimes Knickerbocker Avenue Bushwick Avenue, I see stores closed. There's now going to be money for every small business and every restaurant, the restaurants get a six-month grant. They're really hurting because they've been shut down, and the small businesses can get for 24 weeks. And all of this money the restaurant money they can use it for wherever they want the small business can pay the worker salary. It can go to rent it can go to anything they need, and it can go to undocumented as well as documented which is very, very good. And so, spread the word on that if you have small businesses that haven't applied for this money, make sure they do. Make sure they do and I will get you information on all this and there were phone numbers we got money for what's called CDF eyes and MDI Community Development Financial Institutions and minority development financial institutions, and they have people now that paid for by the federal government that will answer the phone and give people find to show the small businesses. It applies to nonprofits, how to get this money. There's money for them. Next thing you know this is not known as well. We got rid of the prohibition on Pell grants for anyone incarcerated, 14 a lot of young men and young women in prison, a lot of them just add a small amount of marijuana in their pocket and they get a big sentence because marijuana until you know at the federal level is such a high level drug, which it shouldn't be I'm trying to decriminalize it right now and legalize it, you may have heard about that, I said 420 should be a semi national holiday on the internet yesterday that got around, but in any case. Now they can get Pell grants. So, a young man or young woman in prison, they can take a technical course, they can take a community college course, they can take a college bus when they get out, they could have a good life. Here's another thing we did, who's your, who's your Congress's Nydia Velazquez your Congress member.

Yes, I did with AOC, she's nearby Ocasio Cortez, she called me up because she represented Corona and queens that had the highest death rate. And you know what broke here for like to see these kids, kids and adults, pushing their face against the glass in the hospital because they, their loved one was dying of COVID. They couldn't kiss them, they couldn't hug them, they could not touch them goodbye, And then adding insult to injury because they had no money, they couldn't give these people a funeral or burial. We have 7000 People just in Moore's waiting. So we wrote a law, she called me up AOC she said what are we going to do, I said I bet I can get the law changed I did. There's now \$9,000 for funeral expenses, and we will distribute it to you. There's a hotline phone number that anyone can call, and there are people waiting. And if you pay for the funeral previously, guess what, you can get reimbursed up to \$9,000 and we loved in the funeral parlors about this, but I want to get you that phone number and I can't find it here.

Yeah, okay, we got money for all the subways, no one should be. You got a lot of subway workers and bus drivers in your district, none of them will be laid off, and no cutbacks and service. We got

money for the state and local government. The same thing, no one should be laid off or cut back; a lot of city workers, hospital workers, they're all saved. So, that is a very good thing as well. and there's money, listen to this for churches. The churches are vital to our community than dying. There's no one showing up a church, there's no collection plate, whether they be Protestant, Evangelista, or Catholic, they can, or Muslim or Jewish or anything, they can get this money to help pay the pastor and keep the church going for six months, please let them know most of them don't know this, we've let the Baptists know we've left the barn Holly says know that they're not let the word isn't out there yet, so it's important to let people know about that. Let's see what else I'm leaving out, oh, there's money for rental housing \$2.1 billion. I worked with Jonathan. But the Housing Coalition. If someone can't pay the rent there is money to pay their rent. There is money right now to pay their rent. So for six months they won't get kicked out. Again, I'll get you the information who to apply to. Okay, okay, well not because someone gets kicked out of their house, they never recuperate and they're homeless. There's also, not only not only that, when they leave. And it was a person that there was a patient that much and that had that much. We're gonna have, they're gonna have the right to two or \$3,000 You gotta, you gotta, we keep, especially our seniors and our people to make sure that we can continue to live here.

This will keep them in their homes. So make sure, again, this is something that's very, very important. Okay, so those are some of the things in the bill, and I will let, I will get you the information, please Community Board members spread the word if you're a member of an organization, let them know this applies to nonprofits, as well as small businesses, churches, as I said, get the word out about all these things, so people can get the money. This bill is so good. Let me tell you the difference between the Republicans and the Democrats, when the Republicans had a chance, you know what they did in their big bill they cut taxes for the very rich. 1% got 83% of the benefit you know what the top 1% got in our bill that we just passed, nada, zero, and the bottom 20% got an increase the poorest people got 20% increase in income to help them pay the rent feed their families and do everything else we got money for the food banks, too. When I write down Green Street, there's a big food bank right by Broadway. Yeah, I see people lined up all the time to make sure these food banks are no, no, that there's money there's help to them so they can have enough good food for people with healthy foods. Okay, so that's basically it.

Yeah, center nets fell in with how you did. And thank you so much for your service. Listen, doing things to help those who the renters, deal with the fact that they can't pay their rent, but we also have a problem with homeowners who can't pay their mortgages, there's \$9 billion to help people pay the mortgage so you're not foreclosed on the same thing as the renter, I'll make sure of that information in the sheet. Let me say one other thing you have in Bushwick, a lot of little landlords, you know, yeah. Like, we lived in a two family house. Okay. Should I leave the landlord if the guy can't pay the tenant can pay the rent, what's this little landlord going to do, there's money for that. Not for the Big Shot landlords, but for the little tiny landlords that may have a one or two or three family house. That's how they met there's money for the foreclosure to prevent foreclosure on a mortgage to any other questions?

**Mary:** My name is Mary McClellan, and I thank you sir, for coming to tell us, because this money, so that we can apply for it and get it charged as needed in our community. Thank you.

**Senator:** Thank you Miss McClellan, appreciate it.

**Mr. Camacho:** That's one of my seniors we love. I love my wife. My wife called my wife because of my old lady really.

**Senator:** My parents are 97 and 92, what do you think of that? My father is a funny guy, he's 97 I said he was an exterminator his whole life, you know, he says I'm 97 How bad could DDT have been.

**Luisa:** A lot of the death certificate says, died of natural causes, by not formally changing that.

**Senator:** Yes, we have to get a change for this funeral money. We're working right now with the federal government, Congresswoman AOC and I are working with the federal government, and most of the death certificates that said this was in the early days, you know, last year, when they didn't know what COVID was still trying to say if the, if the symptoms are the same, that it will count and I think we'll get that worked out. Oh, dang, great question, Luisa. Did you call up and that's what they told you?

**Luisa:** No, I'm just acting now. Yep, okay. Yeah, cuz I got two calls today at work.

**Senator:** Yeah, good, good. Well you tell them we're working that out. Any other questions?

**Barbara:** Hi, I'm so happy that you came to Bushwick. I'm Barbara Smith. I'm also the president of the 83rd precinct council.

**Senator:** Oh good, good. Listen, I forgot to say this, you're reminding me of things. We got money for that. Just one sec. We got money for the school boards and your local school board will get money and I made sure it went by chapter one, so the poorer districts get more money in the rich suburban districts don't. The governor got mad at me for that but so be it. But listen to this. There is money for the school boards to have after school night, and summer school, your local school board, and your precinct Council can apply because it's a nonprofit as well. Let me just say this about the schools, I hung out, I went to James Madison High School in Brooklyn. I hung out at night at the Madison night center. Now my parents didn't have any money, I was out on the streets, but because I had a place to go and kept me on the straight and narrow I played basketball every night. I like to let people know our team wasn't very good, you know what their motto was at Madison High School, maybe small publisher. There's money there for After School Night centers, and drug programs. So you can apply for that at the precinct. I forgot your name, but you could apply. Barbara Smith, Miss Smith, you can apply.

**Barbara:** Now my question was, I'm seeing all this money you're putting in all the tobacco, all community board for us to work with the city saying they don't have any money to hire anybody else. Where are you finding them, and our local city people can't find any money for some NES and Stan afford to have a helper in the community board for they are under a ton of work in

Bushwick, they need more help in the community board for, and as they need some ideas to help them out.

**Senator:** So, let me, let me make a suggestion, you see the money doesn't go, I got de Blasio the city of New York \$6 billion, use that for whatever he wants. I would suggest that the community boards get together and make a request to all of you how many there's like 70 community boards. I guess in the whole 59 community boards in the city get together and make a request to hire an extra person or two during COVID you're needed to help get these ideas out. And I will if you get the community board and organization. This is a great suggestion by Miss Smith, I will get on the phone with you with De Blasio and say hey we got you all this money, why don't you use some for this community board.

**Barbara:** We have members, we all can write a letter.

**Senator:** Don't. We'll do a call with de Blasio but let's get all the community boards to do it, that'll, then they'll have to pay attention. Okay, next one.

**Desmonde:** So my question was about state infrastructure, because we understand that a lot of the web businesses and businesses were really affected by COVID and suddenly not reopen a good pathway to economic development is through, city, state and federal contracting vehicles. What are we doing about increasing the compliance behind MWBE spending that way.

**Senator:** Businesses have another avenue to get as we, we tried to put come Desmond we tried to put communities of color first and just about anything we did, whether it was the school money or the vaccines or whatever. And in this next bill which is the infrastructure bill that's coming up, you know, he calls it Biden build back better, we say, 25% of all the new business has to go to minority women businesses 25% It'll be a real because it's billions of dollars, so and we will make sure that's enforced, we got to pass the bill first, but I agree with you. They say they talk a good game, but they don't do it, we'll require it. Right. Thank you.  
Any other.

**Louisa:** This is Louisa Chan. I wanted to thank you for advocating for New Yorkers and really fighting for what sounds like a great bill. I have a practical question that has to do with the I guess the Biden infrastructure bill to like you know like, I think there's been so much disinvestment in our MTA and capital infrastructure, you know whenever I go to, well, you know for for COVID I used to travel a lot, and, you know, most of the other places that I visited many other countries have much better, more modern infrastructure and it's just really shocking and appalling when you come back from, you know, those anyways. International and you come back to a decrepit, you know airport and decrepit and slow creaky trains and stuff like that. Like what are we doing, or what do I guess what are you doing to advocate for New Yorkers to, to build the reason. Biden's Bill has \$2 trillion for infrastructure. And last that, since I'm a large majority leader now, we'll get a lot of it to New York, I've already gotten enough money the subways that they can start doing some rehab first bit of money was so they shouldn't close you know during COVID Because at the beginning, no one was going on the subways, so there were no faders, but now they don't close they can't lay off anybody we have a lot of subway workers in the minority, and poor

communities, bus drivers, things like that. And, but now we're getting money for capital and if we get this \$2 trillion. We can modernize our whole subway system, we can create more subway lines, and we can build that gateway tunnel which and listen to this, there will be about 10 million new jobs creating, and this relates a little bit to what Desmond was asking before 40% of the new jobs, how to have to go to people on minimum wage part time wage people just got out of prison. In other words, people would never have an opportunity to become a construction worker, which is a very good paying job, and you don't need to be a PhD and, you know, astrophysics, to get a construction job, and it's a good paying job, so this can change America just like the child poverty thing, but we have a huge infrastructure plan now we got to get it passed. I only have 50 votes I got to get everybody to vote for it. But so far, so good.

**Martha:** I have one question, Martha Brown. I have one question and it's really a request, we must continue to support Amtrak. Amtrak is the backbone of America so please, we've got to get some funds in there for Amtrak.

**Senator:** \$80 billion in Biden's proposal for Amtrak.  
Wonderful, wonderful notetaking, I use it.

**Martha:** I'm finished. Thank you so much, Senator you I've loved you for the last 30 or 40 years. You've been wonderful for our country. Senator: I can tell. I remember when Vito Lopez was here. Oh yeah, you had come here and to the seniors so I used to go to Thanksgiving and cut turkeys. Right, right.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yes, we want to thank you.

**Senator:** Thank you, Robert.

**Mr. Camacho:** for all you do for us. We're here for you.

**Senator:** I will get you the information and distribute it, and if you need help any of the groups or individuals need help, they should call my folks. Thank you, everybody.

**Celeste:** All right everyone, so we're going to go ahead and move on with our meeting agenda. I believe that was a very important discussion. I'm glad we were able to have it. Now we will move on to resume the end of Mr Camacho's report. I did want to just make one note regarding rank choice voting. I just want to quickly thank the Comptroller's office. Haris was able to connect us to the Campaign Finance Board. One of the contacts is a liaison. But we're in conversation with them, to have them do a presentation next month during our full board meeting, as well as adding another group come back in June to provide another overview. Just so folks have a little bit more information, you see it a little bit more often you can understand a little bit better, and that's again about rate choice voting.

Also, a quick reminder for folks on the nomination committee, just to take a minute right now, if there are any volunteers for nomination committee chairperson. This is just to make sure that we

have a record of who's going to be spearheading the elections in May next month. I will let everyone know again you should have received the form either online or in the mail. This year's nomination committee includes Desmond Monroe, Barbara Jackson, Mary McClellan, Melissa Carrera, Dustin Sonneborn, Gladys Puglla, and Annette Spellen. If any of those committee members, first of all thank you very much for volunteering, if any of those committee members would like to either volunteer or select someone else to do the nomination committee chairperson, this is the time.

**Mr. Camacho:** Is there any recommendation from you guys? What about Mary?

**Celeste:** Mary, are you willing to accept to be this year's nomination committee chairperson? It doesn't really change the responsibilities. The only thing that's different is that I'll just be touching base with you on the plan for this year. I'll give you a phone call and then I'll let you know what the committee needs to do and then you basically give me your feedback if everything sounds good, then it sounds good, and we just move forward.

**Mary:** Okay, I'll go for that.

**Celeste:** Excellent. Thank you, Miss McClellan, and thank you from the committee Yes, anyone else from the committee supporting Miss McClellan was on that committee whoever was on the ad hoc committee met named her. Yes, and that named after Dustin seconded. Yes. Okay. All right. All in favor. Yep. Thank you, nomination committee members I will follow, up with you shortly. Once we received the forms, friendly reminder please submit your forms the deadline is next Friday. All right.

And so now moving on with this portion of the meeting agenda we now have the **introduction of elected official representatives**, so I know in the beginning of the meeting I added all of our elected official reps that were on then, as panelists so I'm just going to call you by name.

**Marcus Harris, Borough President Eric Adams' office**

I'm Marcus Harris office in Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 718-802-3909, cell phone is 917-324-2680.

**Mr. Camacho:** Can you give me a few seconds please I would like to thank you, because we know that now with the term limits and the borough president, we would like to thank the him for all that he has done for us, and all that, if he is going to do or we hope that he is old, or going to continue to support Bushwick, and I love him, and we want to thank you and your crew for giving us all the support and helping us guide through this rough time that we have.

**Marcus:** Thank you so much, I appreciate that.

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

Good evening, everyone. Good evening everyone, Julio Salazar from Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez office phone number is 718-599-3658. Thank you. Thank you

undress.

Good evening everyone. Me Sandra, Assemblywoman. Our phone number is 718-443-1205. Thank you.

**Haris Khan, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office**

Hi, this is Haris Khan. My number is 929-512-1946 email address [hkhan@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:hkhan@comptroller.nyc.gov). Feel free to reach out to me. I'm the Community Liaison for City Comptroller Scott Stringer in his office. We also love Bushwick. That's true.

**Celeste:** Thank you. So now we have our introductions. If I missed anyone from an elected official's office it was not intentional, please just drop me a line in the chat and I will make sure you have an opportunity. We will now move on to our agency representatives, I have a few here from my list.

**Jo-Ena:** You know, when these people are saying their names, could they also say whether anyone is physically in their offices, and that's a good thing to know. If people give out phone numbers, it's one thing but if anyone physically in this office is during this COVID. When you try to reach somebody so it will be helpful just to know that when they give the name.

**Celeste:** Okay, no problem. So, everyone heard Miss Bennett, please just modify your introductions and make sure we know if someone is physically in the office.

**Corina Lozada, Communities Resist**

Yes, hi, Corina Lozada, staff attorney with Communities Resist. We are working remotely but you can reach me at the number I'm going to give you guys now 646-974-8773 That's our direct line, and my cell is 929-280-7432. Thank you.

**Damaris Falero, Department of Buildings**

Thank you yes my name is Damaris from the Department of Buildings. Right now, we're still working remote but we're actually going to be going back to the office starting May third, but my phone number is 646-618-4728 and my email is [dfalero@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:dfalero@buildings.nyc.gov). Thank you.

**Julia Foster, Department of Education**

Hi, Julia. I'm the Community Outreach Liaison for school districts 32 and 14. My contact information is 917-612-7831. Thank you.

**Mayra Mera, North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence**

Hi, my name is Mayra from the north Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence. Our offices are remote and in-person by appointment for a protected person, and you can feel free to call me on my cell phone at 314-635-0272. And you can also call us at our office at 718-302-4073. Thank you so much.

### **Noel Allain, The Bushwick Starr**

Noel from the Bushwick Starr theatre. The best way is to email us at this time, [noel@bushwickstarr.org](mailto:noel@bushwickstarr.org) or you my cell phone is 917-620-8546.

**Celeste:** And I know now we have our captain. So I will transition right into our captain's report from the 83rd precinct. I'm gonna make you a panelist, you should be able to control your video and sound now, Captain Sanabria.

### **Captain Sanabria, 83rd Precinct Report**

All right. Hello everyone. I just want to update you guys, everyone on the CEO spot, the commanding officer spot, you know the DI Casazza recently retired. He retired on March 31, and a new CEO, a new commanding officer has not been appointed yet. However, they have made me the acting commanding officer. Um, and I just want to let everyone know that even though we don't have a commanding officer, everything is being done to make sure that Bushwick, community is safe, and we're and all our services are continuing. So, until that time, all hopefully it's within the next week or two, but I can't promise anything. So, that's where we're at right now with that. Also, there's a new captain with us, showing Claxton, he just got promoted from the 77 precinct, he came over to the 83, and now he's with us and He's helping us and helping me out, and leading Bushwick and all the cops in Bushwick. With that said, I just really quick on in regards to crime. Once again, property crimes are our issue. What I have noticed lately is a lot of fraud calls, meaning people are calling would call, you'll get a phone call, and they would say you know your grandson or your child is in jail, we need to we need to, you know you need to send money to this particular place, and it's usually just a fraud call and people do do that, obviously they want their, their, their family member out of jail, and that's what they fall for but you know, I just want to make sure that everyone is aware that these calls are fraud. And if you ever do want to know if someone is in jail and you just call the precinct or or call the prison and we can let you know if someone's in jail anywhere in the city. So, you know, things like that, just be aware of burglaries are happening packages on packages out on the porches are being stolen please make sure you leave it with a family with a, with a neighbor or in a lockbox or an, you know, if you're ordering from Amazon they had those Amazon boxes, or, you know, at the local pharmacy, they'll hold it for you and you can pick it up and not have to file a complaint, because your your property has been stolen. So with that, I think that that's pretty much sums up the crimes, I just want to let you know. I just want to let you know, we, there was an incident on Halsey Street. I believe two days ago, where there was a domestic violence issue where the son did not want to let the mother and brother and sister out of the house, it became kind of like a hostage situation where, you know, we had to call ESU, there were helicopters there. But thank God, everything was taken was was no one was hurt, we were able to get the family members out, and we were able to take the perpetrator into custody, so no one was hurt and I know that, you know, people were calling people were calling the community affairs people were calling me to find out what was going on so I just wanted to make sure you guys know that everything was fine one of our officers was hurt, but minor injuries. He should be back at work, so if there's any questions, please let me know. I could take them right now.

**Unknown:** I have a question. Or literally, how do you handle these calls, Because I've been called, I've been granted grandchildren but they have Hi Grandma. Answer: the best thing to do is to hang up and block the call. You can block the call on your phone, you can, you know, you look at the phone number, and there should be an option where you can block the phone so that phone number will never come through again. If you are the victim of a fraud. You can go to the police department and we will take a report and investigate it as best as we can. But like I said, ignoring these and making and making yourself aware and others aware that this is an issue, you will not become the victim of upfront.

**Unknown:** A lot of a lot of people like to say they're from Medicare health insurance and stuff like that. I think that the elderly are targeted.

**Answer:** Absolutely. That's why it's very important to understand to let everyone know your family members, your elderly family members that they anytime anyone calls, then whether their content, you know content also Keyspan, same thing. Also your phone, your, your gas bill is just if you don't pay right now it's gonna get cancelled right. So they even tried that on me once and I hung up the phone. I called Keyspan. You know so you call Keyspan and verify it. But they will usually never, ever contact you via phone, usually by letter, or something like that. So just be, just make sure that everyone is educated in that I think education is the key and these fraud scams.

**Louisa:** Thank you. This is Louisa Chan. I actually work with ConEd, so there's fraud concerns all the time. And just let other members know utility companies will never ask you for your personal information. And if they ever say your bill was due, they tell you a pay by gift card you know that's fraud, so that's another thing we never asked you to pay using gift cards, because, yeah, that's just not how we do business, you have to pay through, through the, you know, the company portal or by check.

**Mr. Camacho:** So, I just say, I want to thank you and in your manpower because, you know what's going on in the world today and what's happening and it does it, the morale, or does it feel like you guys don't know anything, but we know you are, and we see them out there I did. They did a clean initiative on Saturday and we had the exhilarates, the youth, kids, they were helping us clean the park, all day and I just want to thank you because that know that there needs to be a change, but it should be a change a positive change where we can all work together and make sure that you have the service you need to protect us and vice versa. So I just want to thank you and we hope you stay with us, and we want to fight that you stay with us and become our officers so we will make sure, because we don't know who we're going to get we know who we that, well, we don't know who we're going to get, but we want to make sure that the people that that are there that understands push again here to support us and to give us, You know crime is going to happen both going to make sure that together we're going to stop crime and make sure we're all protected, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. **Answer:** thank you that's much appreciated. And thank you for coming by the other day, during the roll call of speaking to our third platoon as they turned out. They appreciate it knowing that the community is behind them, appreciate that.

**Eliseo:** Robert, can I say something please real short to the police guy?

**Mr. Camacho:** Yes, to the Captain. The captain, yes, I do apologize. My name is Eliseo Ruiz. I'm from COVID Street and Knickerbocker and Robert said you guys are doing a great job. We have the best policing in the city and we got good people there. I need help, you educating me too. I can educate the areas that are riding the little scooters, on the bike it is getting worse. I don't want to say one nationality but it's the Spanish people riding the damn scooters, up and down the block on Knickerbocker, a group. Yes, that they don't come back in the summer. They're gonna kill somebody on the sidewalk. Unfortunately, it's going to be retaliation, because you're getting killed on a sidewalk when you don't belong there. And I know that I spoke to the officer before he said you can chase these people down, but really anything that I could do, or you can do, please let me know. We could do something about this before he gets out of work in the summertime, you know, we could talk about it, I know. I know it's all over the city here, happening. Yes, thank you. You did a good job.

**Answer:** All right thank you we are trying to address the issue. It is illegal. We tweet out that it is illegal to drive these ATVs and these dirt bikes, electric scooters are legal, but we try to enforce the law as, as best as we can and it's, it's very helpful if you let them know that this is illegal and it's not. And it's, and we don't want this, the community does not want this in Bushwick. So thank you very much.

**Celeste:** Thank you. As that concludes all our questions for our captain, thank you so much. Captain, we appreciate you being here, as usual. I do have some messages from the chat. I want to make sure I acknowledged, we have a representative from the Assemblywoman's office. Isis, if you want to provide your name and contact information at this time.

**Isis McIntosh Green, Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's office**

Hi, Isis McIntosh Green, chief of staff to Assemblywoman Latrice Walker. We are in office, however we're not taking walkins we're only doing appointments, you can contact our office at 718-342-1256 or you can email us at [walker@nyassembly.gov](mailto:walker@nyassembly.gov) and we're handling everything from unemployment issues to voting rights, which we were able to pass today in the both the Assembly and the Senate.

**Mr. Camacho:** Thank you. Thank you, Assemblywoman Walker, we love her. **Isis:** Thank you so much, Chair Camacho, as well as District Manager Celeste. **Celeste:** Thank you and also just thank you for always having a representative at our district service cabinet meetings, it is a valuable opportunity for us to engage. **Isis:** And just as a reminder, I know someone mentioned vaccinations earlier. However, we do have available slots at some of our local hospitals offering the Pfizer vaccine. If you or anyone that you know is interested over the age of 16 and getting the vaccine, please contact us at [walker@nyassembly.gov](mailto:walker@nyassembly.gov). We specifically have eight slots available for tomorrow. Okay, thank you.

And I want to acknowledge as well we have one of our admitted New York State Administrative Law Judges with us.

### **Casilda Roper Simpson, Candidate for Civil Court Judge**

Hi, good evening. My name is Casilda Roper Simpson, I thank you for having me here this evening. My contact numbers. 718-722-8796. Thank you for having me.

All right, so we will move on now and again. I apologize if we missed any questions. It's not intentional, there's a lot happening behind the scenes, we will certainly pass along anything that wasn't addressed this evening. And if you were not included in the introductions, there will be the announcement portion later in the meeting.

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

Moving on now to the next item on the agenda, it is the district manager's report that's my report, I will try to be brief. Good evening everyone and Happy early Earth Day, which is tomorrow. I hope you've been able to find safe, fun and sustainable ways to celebrate and give back to the earth this month. Thank you to our community partners and elected officials who continue to emphasize and support the importance of caring for our environment and in turn our health and overall quality of life. As you likely know the COVID-19 vaccine is now open to those that are 16 years old and above, as we inch closer to reopening and statistics show the number of cases are decreasing it remains important to stay safe following all health guidelines and get vaccinated if you're able to do so. The city has invested a significant portion of our taxpayer dollars on pandemic recovery, including the many COVID-19 testing and vaccine sites throughout Bushwick and the city. We know that some are concerned about the vaccine and encourage you to do your research and of course, talk to your primary care physician.

As it relates to the board's office, you've heard earlier we are short staffed and thank you to Barbara Smith for having us in mind. I know we spoke earlier today. Sharon and I certainly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this time. For further perspective on this, I've referenced it as an example, think about our elected officials. They typically have at least four to five staff members if not more. These staff do everything from handling constituent services to the calendar two we just heard there's a chief of staff. I am the for five staff members Sharon and I are the four or five staff members into. It is very challenging to be able to serve Bushwick, in the way that we need to work with everything going on in the world and in our community, with only two people, and it weighs heavy on my heart and mind knowing that we would be better able to serve Bushwick, especially as it continues to grow and evolve with additional staff and support the time that I would prefer spending on projects to increase the board's visibility and engage with the community is often spent handling administrative tasks and processing correspondence. This is just the reality that we need, you know the board support, the community support. I'm happy to hear that the Senator is willing to engage, and I will certainly take him up on that as we move forward in this battle to make sure we have the support we need to serve Bushwick. And with the board's support, I've been able to meet those challenges creatively. I certainly appreciate all of our chairpersons for the Committee's that have been helping with their reports, it is invaluable help. It is a reality though that neighborhoods like Bushwick have been hit the hardest, our longtime residents and board members everyone except those that have been able to weather the pandemic more comfortably are struggling. We heard all of our board member updates from

Mr Camacho earlier, we understand this and we want to make it easier for everyone, we're adapting what we do and how we do it to better serve both the board and the community at large. And for those that know you know, for those that don't, community boards at their best play a fundamental role in shaping the resources and amenities and the neighborhoods they represent as the city changes and private interests continue to capitalize off of neighborhoods like Bushwick. We now are faced, again, with speaking up to our elected officials, all of us can demand truly affordable housing, the board can continue to prioritize it as a great capital need, but unless we're having real conversations about how to reclaim our neighborhoods and coming together to take action. We won't see Bushwick in Bushwick in the years to come. I know that Bushwick has a diversity and expertise from both longtime and new residents. This is really a call to action to both protect and preserve our community together. and below are meetings and events that I've attended, but I will briefly pause in case anyone has any questions or comments before I move on with my report.

**Mr. Camacho:** No, I have no question, I just want to thank you so much because you have, you know, have helped me a lot of times where we bump heads. But there are times when we get things done and then I just want to thank you because I know it is a hard job. I know it's not an easy job, imagine I don't get paid and I do my thing getting paid and getting more. I just want to I want to thank you most of all, you know, because, you know, young people like you, it's hard to find, you know to get someone that's really true and wants to work with the 2 million people just want to get a job and just to do a job but you do a job and you do it where you always call him, he always tell me, always keeping me informed always. So I just want to thank you and if I'm still here I just want to appreciate everything that you do.

**Celeste:** Thank you, Mr. Camacho. And I'm ready, let's get it done, right, let's take action. So I also want to summarize the meetings and events that I've gone to. I've highlighted some of them. So there are things that happen throughout every month, but for example I had a meeting with Columbia grad students they're currently working with the Clean Bushwick Initiative, one of our local groups. They're doing a sanitation report. I was able to give them a history of sanitation issues in the community. Please stay tuned for more information from them. I was also connected to the Department of Design and Construction regarding their communications one of my colleagues in Brooklyn suggested that they speak to us and the board to talk a little bit about how NYC DDC engages with the community. On Monday, March 22, there was a citywide borough coordinators meeting with the Office of Management and Budget, regarding budget consultations for fiscal year 2023 This is one of the things that I unfortunately am no longer able to take on since I'm busy handling items for the district I was not able to continue in the role as borough budget coordinator this year however, one of my colleagues has graciously accepted the passing of the torch. And for folks that don't know we engage in the Budget Consultation project process in September and October, we speak to all city agencies that are required to meet with the boards as well as others that are invited to talk about budget priorities. It's an excellent time to find out where they're going to provide funding to support the community and to also advocate for our needs on a borough and on a district level. On March 23 I had a check-in call with our liaison Delancey Nelson from Partnership for Parks. For those that don't know, they are the guides and the liaisons to help individuals that would like to steward or volunteer in a park. Please let me

know if you'd like more information from them. I also spoke with Dina Alfano, a Bushwick resident who is very passionate about historic preservation. We have ongoing preservation efforts. If anyone is interested in learning more about landmarking or getting involved, please let me know. On March 25 I was in the Bushwick Community Partnership Governance Meeting. We continue to meet to provide guidance and the partnership on their engagement with the community. And on Thursday April 1 I had a call with Council Land Use through Council Member Reynoso's office. Thank you to both the Council Member and Council Land Use. This was regarding Bushwick Avenue safety improvements, they will be attending our meeting for the committee next Monday to provide guidance and help us come up with a report to present to the Department of Transportation. This was at the request of our committee chairperson Louisa Chan, I was able to follow up and find us some support for the committee. And I also attended the same day the sanitation working group meeting, the 10th meeting that we've had. We continue to meet if folks are interested in getting more involved in addressing sanitation issues, please let me know. And on Thursday April 8 I spoke with Randall Toure from RiseBoro, this was regarding the Jefferson Street garden, which hopefully will be open to engage with the community soon. And then also, Stockholm Street legal defense campaign. They will be presenting on this campaign next Tuesday at the housing and land use committee, please reach out if you need more information. That same day, I attended a meeting. It was an introduction meeting with Plenty, an urban agriculture company that's based in San Francisco. It was interesting to hear from them as urban agriculture is another type of business that is most likely going to be in industrial areas. They don't have any plans to expand in New York City yet, but it was a great opportunity for us to learn a little bit more about what they do and the kind of facility that their business requires. And on Wednesday April 14, there was the District Service Cabinet meeting. We had a packed meeting with all of our required agency representatives and more, including our elected official representatives. Thank you to everyone that attends those meetings, again, it's invaluable. The Borough Service Cabinet meeting was last Thursday, the 15th, we had presentations from Parks on their anti-litter campaign, the Department of Transportation on open streets and the Civic Engagement Commission regarding the people's bus which is a new engagement project they will be rolling out this year.

And on Friday April 16 I had to check in with a colleague from Board 5. I try to speak to my colleagues, fellow district managers, on a semi regular basis, just to make sure we're all staying up to date about things that are going on and supporting each other. As a note to this, I have not been able to work on the future of CBs report, community boards report that you've heard about in the past, just given the change in our capacity, but I'm hoping that we will be able to rally and complete the report in time for it to be a resource, prior to this year's elections. And on Tuesday April 20, I attended the Agency Privacy Officer convening, this was put together by the Office of Information Privacy to provide resources and support for the agencies that have to do annual reporting. It's incredibly helpful and it also provides guidance on how we take the community's information which the board very limited very small we don't take any sensitive information from the public, but it's basically a way for us to have some more guidance on how to process information, especially as we live in a more technical, technological society. And that concludes my report. Thank you. Any questions, comments, going once, going twice. Alright.

## **6) Committee Reports**

**Celeste:** Committee reports, starting with, we already covered the district office. Mr Camacho, did you want to comment on attendance and the office opening, or would you like for me to just summarize.

**Mr. Camacho:** You can summarize. Celeste: in summary so the board members that have been flagged for attendance, that is either three unexcused absences or six excused absences have all been notified by phone. As per the board's bylaws, they will also receive a letter that details which meetings were missed and all board members are asked in that letter their intentions. We understand that there's a lot going on when we call, we always want to make sure that everything is okay. We know that there have been some board members, the circumstances right that's really what's happening in the background. So we are understanding, we are supportive. So those board members know who they are, in, in regards to the district office so you've heard from some agencies, you've probably seen the news that the city is returning to work in May for the Community Board Office, the building is open however staff go in about once a week, we're still working from home just to stay safe. We have plans in July when the board is on recess. By then more people should be vaccinated and should be a little bit safer. We are a small office but we're in a big building, it's a city building so we're just trying to be as mindful as possible. We want everyone to feel comfortable as we return, we will likely be on an alternating schedule, it really depends on, on what will happen with potential hires at that point. But by September we should be back in the office on a more regular basis. There may be some schedule changes but for the most part, we go weekly to check the mail. And we will be doing that more frequently, as we get closer to this end we also want to thank a board member gave us those plastic partitions, so hopefully we're gonna change the board around the office to make sure it's protected and make sure that we clean and if we have no one in there, they're gonna drop things off drop it off in a basket and we can pick it up and let them come back and pick it up so we're trying to be mindful.

**Mr. Camacho:** We gave water to our plants because the plants are dying to where we're bringing them back to life.

**Celeste:** The plants have been through a lot, they needed to be cared for. So, but thankfully they're doing much better now. So, but that being said, I believe that concludes our district office updates. In terms of our staffing, our former staff member, Willie Morales, is still on payroll until the end of May, hopefully by the beginning of June, we will get the green light from the Office of Management and Budget to begin the posting for the new hire, I will certainly keep the board and our executive board posted.

**Mr. Camacho:** Just a friendly reminder to the executive board Celeste is the boss of the person, we don't have to go through the full board. So I hope everybody knows that's only addressed to the executive board and myself as well as we'll be interviewing, sending the things under the City Charter so because she's their boss and we'll interview together.

**Celeste:** The process will be the same for the way it was for sharing the way it was for Felix for those that were on the executive board then it's, it's the same process so nothing has changed, unless we are notified that there are changes that have to be made.

**Economic Development + Permits and Licenses - Melissa Carrera, Committee Chairperson**

All right, perfect, thank you so much, apologies to everyone for not being on video today, I got my second COVID vaccine so I'm not feeling too great, but happy to be here with you all, and the economic development and permits and licenses Committee met on Tuesday April 13 at 6pm. We got started promptly at 605. We had four new liquor license applications for review. I'm not going to take up too much time. You can find a lot more information in our report, but I will go over them briefly. The first one is sole Latina Corp, located at 189 Wilson Avenue, it's the new full liquor, wine, beer, application, it's a family oriented Latin American cuisine. Latin owned. They are looking, you know forward to expanding and making some more revenue by adding this liquor license. They are also eager to connect with their neighbors with the community and intended operating hours are seven days a week, Monday through Sunday, from 8am to 11pm, that's their operating hours, and they are in total compliance with no selling about the whole after 12am On Sundays, which really doesn't apply for them here but it's good for us to have that written down. Next up we have Williamsburg Pizza. Coming to a, to Bushwick, which is pretty exciting. They have five different locations, and if you haven't tried them please check them out, they're really great. Located at 259 Wyckoff Avenue, right across the street from Latinos who Knievel's, and this will be their fixtures location opening here with no history of noise complaints, which is always a plus. They are a New York style pizza and appetizers kind of space, it's not a large location, and they are intending to open from 11:30am to 2am from Monday through Wednesday and Thursday through Saturday from 11:30am to 4am Sunday through Monday, 11:30am, to 12am, and this is just really for the sales of alcohol hours, they are intending to open from 11:30am to 4am just serving food, and the establishment is in total compliance with no selling alcohol after 12am On Sundays, and next up we have bed zero, which is the wheelhouse, as many of you know, the wheel house has been around for some time now. They're located at 165 Wilson Avenue. We received a letter from the senator, Julia Salazar's office, supporting the establishment. They are going through a transition of management and ownership. They have two new owners who have taken over previous locations and they are excited to come to Bushwick, get to know the community and get involved. So that's pretty exciting. They are a small light menu, space, and they are applying for full sidewalks, and their intended operating hours are seven days a week, Monday through Sunday, from 11am to 2am, and they are in total compliance with no selling alcohol after 12am. And last we had the JAG restaurant court also Killer Thai 207 Starr Street, they previously previously came to our committee, back in 2019 I believe it was so long ago now, but they came to us and unfortunately with COVID and everything happening they didn't get their CTO, but they just recently received it, it's family friendly time to see restaurant with numerous establishments in NYC, their intended operating hours are Sunday through Thursday from 12pm to 11pm Thursday through Saturday from 12pm to 12am, and they are also in total compliance with no selling of alcohol after 12am on Sundays. So those are the four new applications, something the committee did discuss under new business was the excluded workers fund, and I know that Gladys, who is on our committee is was going to find out more information from the road on this and get back to us and also Celeste talks a little bit about reaching out to

local partners, just to see how we can bring back that information to people in Bushwick who could really use this information and figure out, use funds. And that pretty much sums up my report. Yes, thank you so much, any questions. Thank you, Mr Camacho.

**Louisa Chan, Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation**

Yes, hello everyone. Nice to be here with you this evening. I'm going to try to keep it brief, because the left did touch on some of the committee items. We met on March 22 and got started 10 So now that we discussed, primarily the parks COVID Parks and Recreation permits, and we had to, we had for community members, submit applications and they all attended the meeting to discuss their request. But at the time we did not have the recommendations allocated yet for the permit, so that's still pending. And I think we're working with Mr Camacho on, on, on, on that. And then the other item we touched on was the invitation to the Department of Transportation to we are inviting them to attend one of our committee meetings to discuss priorities in our community. And, as, as a board, I'm sorry as a committee, we discuss some of the issues that we feel are important to the community that we wanted to bring up with the D O T. And so some of those items include the enforcement of commercial of truck traffic on Bushwick Avenue, we're still having a problem, certain car doors where buses run like on palsy, and actually specifically B D 50 to a job mean a lot of congestion with double parking. The Need for Speed bombs in certain areas, young member brought up Putnam Avenue, Irving to Knickerbocker, and then also a general issue of bikes in safety, especially when bike lanes end abruptly like at Wilson and flushing avenues, and then also the potential safety study for where pedestrians are crossing, especially when there's a break in the street, as a result of broadly for example at Broadway holier deeds and Broadway. So the main things we discuss at the committee. If you have any other items that you'd like to bring up with the D O T. Please feel free to reach out to myself or Celeste to bring that to our attention and we'll be sure to get that address. Thank you.

**Mr. Camacho:** And also while we're waiting for our waiting for one of those, there's only there's only four tarps and three parks are taking there was a, we're waiting for the other lady to give us the date that he wants to get to know me because we have two faculties that are applied there are two coaches. Super Kids, everyone, and one has Bushwick and one has lived in poverty. And what happens is the other individual has the smaller part, and four little kids, which is the one moment that he wants some time to push apart so we're trying to settle that on getting them. Once I get them together. They know we can sit down and have an issue but we also have one part available, which is time is born and that is not being utilized and we're trying to get clients' apartments to get their individual that didn't come in. The guy that lived across the street on best I said that by the development, which is a Rockaway, across the street from the park, so he said he will come in and maybe we can say we can get a hold of him, ultimately next Amin so he can come and tell us more or less you know how many kids he got that the percentage, the kids should be from Bushwick, and if he has his insurance or his 501c3, so we'll work on that. And that's basically it. Thank you.

**Louisa:** Thank you so much for adding some more color to my report. I'm still with my first meeting, so if I didn't have all my beats.

### **Health/Human Service/Senior Citizens/Veterans**

**Celeste:** Okay, next on the agenda is. I hope that hospital services and senior citizen veteran stones. Cheryl Jones, HHSV Chairperson, was absent.

**Celeste:** I believe it was two informational presentations. From the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence Mayra was there, who provided us an overview of what the organization does. I don't recall the second I believe there was, I think it was Riseborough, they were talking about Project HOPE. So they provided some information on Project Hope, as well as a shape up Bushwick so our modified pandemic adapted shape up Bushwick event this year was discussed, and then it was just some other regular business from the committee so but there's an outline in the committee report so please take a look, you'll get more details on what each of those. Both of the organizations provide as well as where we are at with Shape-Up Bushwick. And thank you to Sharon.

**Mr. Camacho:** I also like to thank the Shape-Up Bushwick. Yes, the same day, the third. Yes, thank you. Also, that was for the Earth Day event this past Saturday so yes thank you to all.

**Celeste:** to Clean Bushwick Initiative and of course, Penrose and Pinnacle from Hope Gardens.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yeah, we had the Vice President and Regional, raking the leaves there.

### **Anne Guiney, Housing and Land Use**

Hi everyone. Nice to see you all. The housing and land use meeting of March 30 was really focused on a board of standards and appeals variants application for 81 beaver street. That is the old Omer brewery building, I think many, many people are familiar with it. So, the application is to convert the use of the zoning, but just the use from manufacturing to residential. The presenters were Jeff Mulligan of Kramer Levin, CIO lawyer, Travis Stabler at one Paper Street development, who was the owner, and then Jordan Rogo from DXA Studio who was the architect. And so the three of them presented this application. This application is based on hardship. The argument is that they have. It is a landmark building. It was designated a few years ago, and they have been trying to renovate and or haven't started renovation, but they've been trying to rent out the spaces, and attract commercial tenants and light manufacturing tenants for several years and have not been able to do so. So the argument is that the money doesn't work, and they cannot get a reasonable rate of return with a commercial or like manufacturing use. So they were there to change it to residential. Many of you may remember that they came before us about 18 months ago and asked for support coming before the Landmarks Preservation Committee to make a few changes to make it work better for those commercial uses. And that was a great meeting, we had a very robust conversation. And it was really nice for the housing and land use committee to see a light manufacturing commercial building being kept in that use.

So I think we were all a little disappointed when they came before us saying they want residential. So basically there were a lot of questions. There was a lot of discussion about specific things. The size of the floor plates that are not particularly large. The fact that it's an L shaped building, and the floors don't line up so you'd have to do ramps or something like that. And that makes it harder to do manufacturing or commercial uses. And then the cost of updating a landmark building. Several of the committee members had some questions and some concerns. The proposal is to turn it into 45, I believe, residential units. And so there are questions about parking. Your questions about local hiring Desmond, I think really good questions about that, workforce development, Jamie. Mr. Camacho was concerned about the fact that all of these units, these proposed units, would be at market rate.

And then, we have been excited for a commercial light manufacturing restoration of this building, and so we're disappointed to see that go away. We also had some input from Asher Freeman at Council Member Reynoso's office, who raised some important issues which is that this is a BSA variance application, as opposed to ULURP. The Board of Standards and Appeals has asked us for our input and we will ask for a vote on a recommendation that we came up with as the HLU Committee, but that is a sort of advisory role. Whereas in the ULURP process which you know there is a built in statutory public input role for community boards, and so that they chose to use the BSA process, a variance application instead of going through ULURP. So there were a number of issues with it. Ultimately, our discussion really focused on in the end, and Joshua brown raised this it very importantly, is that as part of the Bushwick Community Plan and many discussions that we have been having for years now, is that we are not going to support MTOR aka manufacturing to residential conversions, and again this is not a zoning use change, and that is an important distinction. However, the end result is the same. This would be approximately 45 units of market rate housing with no requirement for affordability, and it would not be preserving the manufacturing and commercial spaces. So our committee recommendation to the full board is that we would like to send a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals recommending that they do not support this project.

**Mr. Camacho:** Madam Chair, and that's what we do, just, we would just send them a concern because what does it, what does the community benefit from my staging, you know he could do corners, he went from one thing a nice going to the border standards and appeal because he's creating there is a hardship, did you spend \$20 million, and turn around and go to one of those cheap five steps to create a hardship. That is a self-inflicted hardship. He did it upon itself. So why are we even talking that way because he took it upon himself, he thought he would make money. So that was the end it didn't work the way he was supposed to. Now he's going through the BSA and says that is a hardship. Why should we be giving? How does the community benefit from them?

**Anne:** So, it's such an important point Mr. Camacho, and I think there was a really robust conversation at the committee level. If anyone is interested in the meeting transcript, we're happy to share that with you. But really, it was especially at this moment in time when so many people in Bushwick are facing such incredible and profound hardship on so many levels. There is no recourse for those people. All the people facing hardship in this community right now. This is, you

know, real estate development. It's, I mean, there are risks involved in it, and it is not up to the CB, to, to, but they seem to stick to our principles, which we have clearly articulated for many years now, about what the needs of this community are. And so our hardship declaration is, I think less is not something that we are comfortable supporting when the project does not support any of the long stated community needs, goals and desires. Oh, thank you. That so the recommendation, which we'll bring up at, you know, in the recommendations portion is that the letter to the BSA states that CB board is not supporting this project, the rest of the meeting, there was some other discussion we're following the project at 1325 Broadway just went live, and that's that as of right project really just some quick updates on some things that have been on the horizon for a while, but the 95% of the meeting was focused on 81 Beaver. Any questions or concerns?

**Martha:** My question, Martha Brown speaking, and I realized I'm no longer on the housing and land use committee but I believe you need to speak with a technical adviser. I don't know if the borough president still has the technical land use advisors because this could be taking us into an area of. It's going to be a BSA variance and it's just private property. He may come into an area where there could be as-of-right for him to rent this property, according to his wishes as the owner. So you may have to, Celeste or somebody probably should get in touch with someone from the borough president's office.

**Anne:** So I will absolutely follow up. Thank you so much for this and you will forever be the superstar of the HLU Committee.

**Martha:** So I think you need to speak to someone before any further action is taken. When do you have to respond? How much time do we have to respond?

**Anne:** We have 60 days in total, but it was March 30. So we still have about 40 days left. So absolutely, Richard Bearak has always been incredibly helpful.

One thing I would like to flag for the board, I think that we've mentioned this before and talked about at the committee level, is that we're starting to see more BSA applications, variance applications that do not have that public input process. Again the BSA has reached out to us, but we don't have a statutory role. And I think that's the thing it's an issue of concern, and so just something we wanted to flag for everyone.

**Martha:** Okay, well I say, I said just tomorrow. If you get a chance to get on the phone with Richard is very knowledgeable in all these situations and I think he can play the devil's advocate and tell you which way to go, and which way to proceed. So, I do not suggest, if that's my suggestion. Thank you so much. And just a recommendation that as a board member, I suggest you do that before you need to make any twists and turns, you can still vote against it because whatever they're going to do, they're going to do anyway. So, you could still make your recommendation not to support it. But find out for Richard, what your best avenue of approach to this would be.

**Celeste:** Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Brown. I'll speak to Richard tomorrow. And just to note, we did consult with the Council Member's office who spoke with Council Land Use, so we did have some technical assistance provided but I definitely lean on Richard for other perspectives. So I will speak to him tomorrow about this to see if he has anything else to add or how we can strategize around this trend that we're seeing with these applications.

**Martha:** Wonderful, okay with that I guess is the main thing I'd like to say. What I'd like to add that into to check, check that we check with Richard.

## **7) Recommendations**

**Celeste:** Alright, let's move on to our recommendations. Melissa, would you like to go first?

**Melissa:** Yes, thank you, Celeste. So, the EDC and PLC recommendations for the establishments (applicants) that presented to us last week—Mr. Camacho, is it possible that we can make a blanket vote? Mr. Camacho made a motion for a blanket vote and Martha Brown seconded it.

**Celeste:** All in favor. Aye. Any opposed. Any abstentions, so moved for a blanket vote. Thank you.

**Melissa:** So the committee is recommending:

### **1) Sol Latina Corp – 189 Wilson Avenue – New LWBC**

Committee Recommendation: Moved to approve application as is with operating hours of 8am – 11pm 7 days a week. Establishment willing to adhere with the Community Board's stipulation of no liquor sales on Sundays after 12:00am. Committee recommends the establishment to do some neighbor outreach.

### **2) Williamsburg Pizza Wyckoff LLC d/b/a Williamsburg Pizza – 259 Wyckoff Avenue – New WBC**

Committee Recommendation: Moved to approve application as is with their intended hours for liquor sales of Monday through Wednesday from 11:30am to 2:00am, Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 4:00am, Sunday and Monday 11:30am to 12:00am. Establishment willing to adhere with the Community Board's stipulation of no liquor sales on Sundays after 12:00am.

### **3) BevZira Corp. d/b/a The Wheelhouse – 165 Wilson Avenue – New WBC**

Committee Recommendation: Moved to approve the application with their intended operating hours of 7 days a week Monday through Sunday from 11:00am to 02:00am. Establishment in total compliance with no liquor sales after 12:00am on Sundays.

### **4) JAG Restaurant Group Corp d/b/a Killer Thai – 207 Starr Street – New LWBC**

Committee Recommendation: Moved to approve the application with their intended operating hours of Sunday through Wednesday from 12:00pm to 11:00pm, Thursday through Saturday 12:00pm to 12:00am. Establishment in total compliance with no liquor sales after 12:00am on Sundays.

**Celeste:** Mr. Camacho made a motion to approve the committee's recommendations for all four establishments and Martha Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

**Celeste:** Okay. All in favor. Aye. Any opposed. Any abstentions, so moved. Thank you. That's good. All right. Our next recommendation is from housing and land use.

**Anne:** Our recommendation from the housing and land use committee for the 81 Beaver Street variance application for the Board of Standards and Appeals. The committee recommends stating our opposition to variance applicants. This is self-inflicted hardship and does not deserve this type of city bailout that does not support community needs.

**Josh:** I'd make a recommendation on that. Okay.

**Martha:** Is there a statute? Oh no. Yeah, okay, yeah. I'm saying that she says 90 days. You have 90 days 40 days.

**Anne:** Of course, Martha. Yeah, I'm not settling with the guy, then come back to it, you have 90 days to write the letter.

There was further discussion about the application. Martha Brown recommended Anne, Mr. Camacho, or Celeste speak to Richard Bearak, the land use director for Borough President Adams.

**Celeste:** So I'm not certain it's even 60 days so I would have to double check because the BSA is a little bit shorter so, and we actually as a matter of fact, just give me one moment, we can ask. We have someone from the 81 Beaver team on the call. I would like for them to answer how many days.

**Jeff Mulligan:** Yes, typically the Community Board has to respond 60 days from when they received the application that's actually in the board rules and I believe it's in the charter. Okay.

**Anne:** Yeah. Okay, thank you, I just want to be sure. The meeting was March 30. I don't know when we received the application.

Mr. Camacho made a motion in support of the Housing and Land Use Committee's recommendation to not support this application. Tanesha Honeygan seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

## 8) Old Business

None

## 8) New Business

**Damaris Falero, NYC Department of Buildings, RE: Local Law 152**

We are calling the property owners and informing them of the deadlines and all the compliance dates as well so I mean people should be receiving calls letters, you know, just to get the information out there, I'm actually wanting to put some information in the chat that has all the deadlines and the compliance dates for each community board. Besides Community Board 4 you know just in case anyone here. And I think he mentioned last evening that when he's more for is going to be having an information session. In June, with DOB, we're actually going to have the chief of plumbing enforcement on that information session, giving everyone, you know, all this detailed information regarding local law 152. He'll be able to answer questions and address anyone's concerns. Other than that, I do have one other short announcement. So do we just put out a new service that allows the public to see the average wait time for several different DOB services. It also allows the public to see the timeline for projects and all vehicles. I'm going to put the link in the chat as well, and that link will take you directly to the site. Other than that, that's really all I have, unless anyone has questions.

**Annette:** I have one question. I'm not familiar with the 152. However, there are a couple of people who have come to me and mentioned that they don't have to see a close. How can they get the application? One lady doesn't have a computer, and I tried to bring it up on my computer and I had a problem. So I needed to know how we get the applications to free tables to people.

**Damaris:** So you can actually go to the girl office, if you know someone doesn't have access to a computer. So, we do have people working in the bureau offices on the times, the operating times aren't like they were COVID Usually you expect to get there between 8am and 2pm. If you want to speak with someone directly who can assist you with finding more information about the property. In addition you also have a DOB customer service number. A phone number and you can speak with a customer service representative, and they'll also be able to assist you with any questions regarding CMOS, or any other questions on properties and I can put the phone number in the chat as well. Okay. The offices around the street, right? Correct, yes, two times around on the streets on the eighth floor, I'll put the address for the borough office, and I will also put the phone number for the customer service in the chat. Thank you.

**Celeste:** You're welcome. All right, if there's no other new business, or questions. All right, going once, going twice,

**9) Announcements**

**Celeste:** We'll move on to announcements now I just want to note that we do have some of our judicial representatives with us this evening. My apologies if I missed you earlier, I want to make sure you have an opportunity to speak just give me one moment. And I know we have other folks who are joining us this evening. If you'd like to make an announcement, please just let me know in the chat so I can call on you. Elected officials (reps), I'm going to go in order that I see you on my list. So please be ready.

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

I first want to acknowledge some of the other work in collaboration that took place over earlier this week with our chairperson and advocating for some of our work gardens residents and ensuring that they have the same access to city services, as it pertains to DSNY that those services be delivered some of our public housing residents as well. It's an ongoing conversation that we're having with our rent, and our chairperson was there, and we wanted to thank him corporate dissipating participating in that conversation and advocate and advocating for some of those, some of those resources so we'll give you guys an update hopefully soon next week as we have a walkthrough scheduled there. But I do want to say we're receiving some concerns from some of our seniors, as it pertains to the stimulus checks, as I mentioned in the previous meeting, so please feel free to reach out to us. We're able to reach out to contact the IRS and have those types of processes. So please feel free to reach out, I'll put my email in the chat but again our phone number 715993658 And I won't even try to go over what other senators said, but the infrastructure bill is something that's on the agenda for all members of Congress, and we all know how that can impact the infrastructure across the nation, but here in the district and in the city so with any updates, we'll share that as well with the community board but thank you again for your service. Our Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez on this. Thank you.

**Marcus Harris, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' office**

Hi everyone, um, just a couple of things we do have a deal on Brooklyn dash usa.org You will see that we have two financial literacy classes coming up. The first one is tomorrow. The other one is the following Thursday. In addition, and I know this is an issue that was brought up in one of the past meetings, I don't know who's down but if you notice a crosswalk is clearly outlined. Now, I went to Foodtown today. I saw it and I happily stepped on it across it.

**Mr. Camacho:** you should have taken a picture.

**Marcus:** I might go out and do it next time. Alright, that's it for me, everyone.

**Judge Roper Simpson, Judicial Candidate**

I just wanted to thank you for allowing me to be at the meeting this evening. It's always a quick meeting. It's my second time, I believe, being at the meeting. I wanted to know that I'm running for civil court judge, King's County. And I have over 25 years of experience. I'm asking for support and for your vote on June 22 2021. Thank you so much.

**Supreme Court Judge Rosemary Montalbano, Judicial Candidate**

I'm sorry I was having audio issues, it's Rosemarie Montalbano. I'm born and raised and live in Bushwick, Brooklyn. I am presently a Supreme Court judge, and I am running for Surrogates Judge, a countywide seat. I'm happy to be here, happy to hear all the things that are happening in our neighborhood. And thank you for the work that you do.

**Carmen Pacheco, Community Lawyer/Judicial Candidate**

Yes, it just happens that the judge was in the same place. Very popular tonight. My name is Carmen Pacheco, and I'm a community lawyer. I was the partner of the first dispatch from the law firm in New York budgets going global without that One World Trade Center in 1992. And this is

my journey. I'm running in your district, and I need the support of the community because I've been a community lawyer for just about 35 years. And I've assisted people for example the Cypress Hill Cemetery case where they bury people in. Well Latinos and African Americans and Asians in landfill or garbage that we did it. And we were able to push the Attorney General's office into taking on the case. And then we defended the people to ensure that they didn't have to pay for the term and and disinterment of their deceased loved ones, and we've handled cases such as myself on issues concerning Rico where our business owners were told to incorporate their homes, so that they could collateralize the home, homes and the moving into New Jersey to look towards New Jersey, so that they would end up with 56% interest rate 26% add on interest or whatever they were doing. So, we've been in the trenches, and even, even as far as even recently today with certain developers that take on the, you know like the churches. We know that there's inequities there, and we fought the fight to ensure that our churches maintained the land and they could provide affordable housing to the community so that our communities remain anchored. In addition, it's very important. And this forum, especially that I just want to make sure that everyone understands that if there's something developing next to your home, you're entitled to compensation for them. And the compensation that you receive is a trigger word or for the next to your property. So keep that in mind, that's a statutory issue. So, to manage to find that service right away. I hope that I could be the drugs coming out of your community, and forward to doing more. And if there's anything that I can do you can call me, you know, at my office at 718-855-3000. Our lines are always open, our doors are open, whatever community issues. Thank you very much for the time and they appreciate it. Thank you.

**Isis McIntosh-Green, Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's office**

I'm extremely happy to inform you about the New York State Assembly Budget is an update regarding the funding for excluded workers. So, the United States fiscal year 2021 2022 budget includes a \$2.1 billion for the excluded workers fund to provide aid for workers who will lead and qualify for any relief funding access. Every worker contributes to our economy and serves a helping hand, especially in times of crisis. So we're still waiting for the Department of Labor to actually provide us with any sort of application, either online or on paper so that we can assist the community. We are waiting for the rent relief program to the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance, as well. Thank you.

**Marissa, Project Hope, RiseBoro**

I'm with Project Hope, and I just, you probably have heard about us in a variety of mediums we're kind of popping up everywhere to let the community know what we're doing and who we are. I'm New York Project pope is a statewide crisis counseling program to help New Yorkers navigate their variety of pain as always, like, COVID, Newark Project HOPE is a program funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health, as well as FEMA, we support the public in three main areas through public education providing resources and emotional support, we're able to provide public education workshops in English and Spanish to organizations and community members on a variety of topics like coping with endemic stressors, grief and bereavement, I've only ever held one word trained crisis counselors can provide trusted referrals and emotional support to any community members and those are both in English and Spanish as well as I'll give access to other languages all of our services are free, confidential and anonymous, and I'm going to apply our

helpline number as well as our, our numbers to or information to be reached out with that in the chat. We are eligible and available to do public education workshops, I'm free of service to the community.

**Noel Allain, The Bushwick Starr**

No major announcements, we are still moving our theater to Eldert Street from 207 Starr Street. And that process will be a long one, over this next year we'll be producing shows, and other spaces as we build the theater as well as continuing to conduct our after school programs and our programs with their with the senior centers throughout the year but it's going to be a long process and I will certainly continue to keep the board abreast of the progress. Thank you.

**Celeste:** Thank you. Well, I don't see any other announcements, if I've missed you, board members, this is the time if you have anything. Announcements, going once, going twice. Thank you everyone.

**11) Second Roll Call**

Moving on now we have a second roll call.

Board members in attendance: Jo-Ena Bennet, Martha Brown, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Felix Ceballos, Louisa Chan, Daniella Davi, Freddy Fowler, Anne Guiney, Jose Guzman, Tanesha Honeygan, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Mary McClellan, Desmonde Monroe, Zulma Novoa, Acire Polight, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellen, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams

Excused: Rev. Grace Aytes, Joshua Brown, Barbara Jackson, Kristen Jock, Odolph Wright

Absent: Andrew Choi, Egaudy Gomez, Rev. Migdalia Gutierrez, Cheryl Jones, Samy Nemir Olivares, Julio Salinas,

**12) Adjournment**

Celeste: Is there a motion from the board to adjourn?

Annette Spellen made a motion and Jerry Valentin seconded it. All were in favor, so moved. Thank you, everyone. Good night.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm