

**Brooklyn Community Board 4**  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 6pm

Webex

Chairperson: Robert Camacho  
District Manager: Celestina Leon

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Meeting Start: 6:03pm

**Public Hearing**

**Public Hearing Item #1: Zani Ahmad, NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection** – presenting on free tax prep services.

**Zanib:** The income tax credit, and recovery rebate credit. Just set out to let you know and this is hot off the press, news. So as of today March 17 the IRS has decided to extend the deadline to file your taxes to May 17 of 2017. So, the IRS will provide informal guidance in the coming days, but feel free to reach out to me, either by email or phone, email, preferably just because right now we are in the middle of doing field outreach to some of our vendors in Brooklyn and in some of the other boroughs. So if you do have questions, if you want further information or the contact and site direction to the nearest site and for when you can always reach out to me. My number is 212-436-0159. And my email, [zahmad@dca.nyc.gov](mailto:zahmad@dca.nyc.gov). Thank you.

**Celeste:** Thank you. Any questions, board members?

**Anne Guiney:** Yes, and hi, thank you so much. I'm not sure if you're going to answer this question, but I saw that in the stimulus package that passed the other day, there was an exemption for a certain amount of unemployment that people had. So some of that is not taxable, do you know when that guidance will come down, how people have, you know if they've already started to prepare their taxes or somebody just if there's anything you can share on that.

**Zanib:** Sure, so our tax preparers can provide further guidance depending on your situation. So let's say that if you were furloughed or you had to apply for unemployment insurance, you can still help take a look at your previous your tax returns and help determine the type of refund you'll receive, of course, you know, knowing that we've had this recent change happen where the with the stimulus payment changes that occurred. You know we are still working with our community member community organizations to figure out the best option for folks, but we can still provide like further guidance on that if that makes sense.

**Celeste:** We will certainly pass along the information in our newsletters but thank you so much for joining us and sharing the info. All right, so let's move on to our second agenda item. So, we

have a few special guest speakers this evening. We're also joined by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. First, I'd like to acknowledge and thank Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, specifically Evelyn Chassagne, for helping us coordinate. So we're joined this evening by Dr Mir, and also Director Howe, and they're going to talk to us a little bit about what's going on in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the vaccine rollout at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

**\*Special Guest Speakers\*Dr. Tanveer Mir, Chairwoman of Internal Medicine and Eilaine Howe, Administrative Director for Ambulatory Services, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC) – providing and update from WHMC on COVID-19 and their vaccine rollout.**

**Dr. Mir:** I'm here with our director, Elaine Howe, and our associate director, Patty Bauer, I will give you a little bit clinical information, and then, Elaine and Patti will tell you about the appointment process and how to reach us. Good evening and thank you for giving us the opportunity to present. So, a year ago at this time, we have the first case in New York City. And a year later we are here celebrating our vaccination program, which is more of a healing of what we have lost in the past, and trying to save lives, that we desperately lost in Kings County and Brooklyn. The COVID vaccination program kickoff was on December 16. That was the first day where we offered vaccines in Brooklyn, to our employees, initially, and shortly we opened it up to the public, based on New York state regulations. We were able to provide Pfizer vaccines, and some Moderna vaccines, but we were able to procure a subzero refrigerator, which helped us in storing the vaccine at the required temperature, and the New York City and State Department of Health provided us with the vaccine allocations, based on use. We've been open since then, for the most part from 7am to 6pm, based on vaccine availability for the most part, and all our control clinic patients, our community was received, initially by appointment. But now we are able to take in some walk-ins as well because we do have vaccine available to us.

Next. Initially the takeoff of this vaccine was a little slow, because people had a lot of misgivings. They weren't sure it's a safe program, but very quickly within a week or two, we found that employees and our communities adopted the vaccination program very well. The two vaccines that are available to us for Pfizer and Moderna. We predominantly use Pfizer because that was available to us because of a subsidy refrigerator. Both vaccines are very good in the efficacy 95% and 96%, Pfizer is given in two doses, day one and day 21. Moderna is given in two doses that are 28 days apart. It's a minor difference but it's good to know. Both vaccines are well tolerated. With the Pfizer vaccine as I said we need to store it at a very low temperature and it is reconstituted and we offer it to our patients, and it's refrigerated at regular temperatures. Both vaccines have been delivered as per protocol and as per the New York state regulations, and we were able to successfully deliver both without any complications.

Next. We have offered 14,418 doses, those ones and those two combined. And we continue to vaccinate at the rate of a few 100 every day. And our hope is that by the end of this week, we may reach a really high level, which is, I would say about 18 to 20,000 doses that need to be given to all our patients. Now these are combined those tools, about 1100 of our employees got vaccinated. Some of them got vaccinated. Here we'll build one of those to some sizes some that Moderna, but

we continue to provide them, what is available to us. The rest of the doses are being provided to all eligible community members, as well as up patients that are coming in from clinics as walk-ins.

Next. Side effects have a lot of people who are concerned about the side effects both in Moderna as well as Pfizer and the side effects that we noted over 15,000 doses that we EPA listed were only low-grade fever, body aches. Nothing that a little psychological would not take care of. There were no major allergic reactions, there were minor issues that were violated. There was no hospitalization related to this vaccination and knock-on wood, didn't lose any patient to this vaccine side effects or allergic reaction. I know right now there's a lot of news about AstraZeneca, but as far as what applies to them, governance, that we have used. We are happy to report that we have not had any major side effects, and it was tolerated extremely well, and we feel very safe and often good to all our patients, above the age of 16 years of age.

Next, it takes a village to manage a vaccination program. We have a very large team of physicians, nurses, schedulers, house officers, security administrators support, nurse practitioners, housekeeping, engineering to ensure that we have PPE available, the environment is clean. Everybody has a safe distance saying all the surfaces are cleaned effectively, and everything else is disposed of, appropriately. Having said that, what I would like to do is hand off the rest of the presentation to Elaine and Sadie, to talk about the scheduling specifics or what else is necessary to manage this program. Thank you.

**Director Howe:** Good evening everyone. My name is Eileen Howe. I am director of our ambulatory services alongside my associate director Ms. Powell as Dr. Mir mentioned. We are open from 7am to approximately 5:30pm, taking patients in for scheduling, we have an appointment line. Our appointment schedule telephone number (718) 58-4618 for our vaccination site. You can also email us at [covidvaccine@wyckoffhospital.org](mailto:covidvaccine@wyckoffhospital.org) to request an appointment. We are accepting appointments, Monday through Sunday, depending on the amount of vaccines that we have we are vaccinated, approximately 300 to 500 patients a day that is the tubing dose one and dose to be slide that's posted is our COVID-19 testing site which is located directly across the street from the hospital. Here this site we are testing patients for the rapid PCR test, as well as the antibody test our rapid PCR test. We get our results back in 24 hours.

**Associate Director Powell:** I think you pretty much covered everything. Any questions at this time?

**Celeste:** Members, questions?

**Felix Ceballos:** Yes, I have a question. My name is Felix Ceballos and I have two questions. The first one is person doesn't have insurance is any charges for them and also if we have a person from another state, they can take it? **Answer:** We do not charge as per New York State guidelines we are allowed to charge for the admin fee of the vaccine. However, if a patient does not have insurance then, we don't charge them as far as patients living in another state as per New York

State guidelines patients that live in another state, as long as they are working, and New York they do qualify for vaccination. **F. Ceballos:** Thank you very much.

**Celeste:** Any other questions, board members?

**Question:** Are you accepting any walk-ins or appointments? **Answer:** Now we do except say our walk in, same day appointments. So yes, the potential presents so the hospital and vaccines are available yes, we will accept that.

**Mary McClellan:** I would like to ask a question about the walk-in. Do I have to have an appointment to just walk in, I could get a vaccine? **Answer:** Yes, when you present to the hospital you will go through a COVID-19 screening, all of our patients coming into the hospital, have to go through the screening. We will check you in and as I stated if we have vaccines available from vaccinate. In the event for some reason we don't have vaccines on hand and what we do we take your information down and as soon as we get a shipment. We put our patients on the waiting list, and we schedule them to come in.

**M. McClellan:** What usually is the waiting time is it, I would have to wait in a line maybe outside or inside.

**Answer:** For the most part be wasted, rather quick and it's inside of the hospital there have been an occasion where we vaccinated 163 patients and one day on that particular day it was outside. It did move rather fast I want to say, we had patients with approximately 30 minutes online but again, that was a one-time deal, and we vaccinated the journey 863 patients, from the time of 7am to 3pm. So I'm sure everyone could understand why we had a bit of other than that there's no wait.

**Felix Ceballos:** Thank you so my question is, what criteria do people have to me is this all from New York, New York state. For example, not for profit workers people caring for elders or is this just for 65 and over. **Answer:** No, I'm not currently for New York State, anyone over the age of 60 is entitled to be vaccinated, all healthcare sites responding, are also entitled, any as of today, all public facing workers are qualified to come in and get vaccinated, we send you a link if you like, you can log on and you will be able to view all of the New York state guidelines for vaccination, We do have a copy of the vaccine guidelines here for eligibility as well.

**Celeste:** I have a question here from Andres from the Assemblywoman's office. Is there a flyer that you can share? **Answer:** Yes, there is. Apparently, you have our flyer for our COVID-19 testing so we can submit the vaccine flyer to you can share that great.

**Celeste:** All right, I have another question here, it says are nonprofit or public facing workers eligible for the one shot or just the others through those options? **Answer:** We currently do not have Johnson and Johnson on hand right now what we are offering is Pfizer, which is a two-dose shot.

**Celeste:** I know we still have to hear from the Department of Health, maybe they can answer that question as well. But if there are no other questions here, Wyckoff Hospital, thank you so much for being with us this evening.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yes, yes. Thank you. And thank you do for our community, especially at times, when people that passed away and, or the hardship that has been going on and tip my hat to you guys because you guys are our heroes, you know, it is disheartening to see all that that's going on in the world, but we want to we want to thank you for helping everyone do this tough time.

**Celeste:** Now we have the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and just to note, if I missed something in the chat, I promise we will come back to you and we can always pass along your question if it hasn't answered today. Now I want to give Tejumade Ajaiyeoba, our liaison from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, an opportunity to talk a little bit about the city's response to COVID-19, and of course the vaccination rollout on the public side.

**Public Hearing Item #2: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – providing a COVID-19 vaccination update.**

**Tejumade:** Good evening everyone, apologies. I'm having some computer issues I'm not able to turn on my camera or share my screen. Hopefully, you can hear me good though. My name is Tejumade Ajaiyeoba and I'm with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Office of External Affairs. We can just jump right into vaccine and I could just give you an idea of what our supply is like. So to date in New York City we have administered over 3 million doses and we currently have a little over 416,000 doses on hand, and when we break that down into dose one and dose two, we have over 160/1001 doses and a little over 250/5002 doses statewide over 6.8 million doses have been administered and nearly 12% of New Yorkers are fully vaccinated.

There is a weekly tracker that is on the State Department site that lists the amount of doses that we have received to date is broken down on a weekly basis. We are expecting another allotment of vaccines this week. Previously, in the previous allotment that we received was over 795,000 And that's a big jump from our first week of allocation back in mid-December, and that number was 163,650, and this was an allocation for the states. Excuse me, as I mentioned, this information is available on the state website but if you are interested in receiving real time updates on vaccine district distribution you can receive those alerts to your phone, and to receive that via text message you with text COVID to the number 692692 once again that number is 692692. And you text the word COVID, and you will start to receive real time updates on the vaccine distribution.

In terms of sites that we have throughout New York City. There are 15 sites that are run by the Department of Health, and we also have sites that we work in conjunction with or be run jointly with affiliated physicians, you're also a number of city run sites as well as state run sites and private sites, and anyone eligible to receive vaccine should visit our vaccine finder and that address is [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) once again [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov). You visit that site to make an

appointment, or you can call 877VAX4NYC, that number is 877VAX4NYC, also, um, the good thing now we've been able to update on the website is that when you are searching for an appointment, you'll be told what vaccine is available is, as well as what dose is available, not all sites are doing both first and second doses, some are only doing second doses so when you go on the website, it will show you exactly what dose is available and what vaccine is available.

And as was mentioned, there are three vaccines that are now about people starting at Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson, and thankfully with the introduction of Johnson and Johnson, it is possible for homebound individuals to receive the vaccine easier. As was mentioned by the mayor, their effort that started sort of like a soft launch in a lot city and Bronx and Brighton Beach here in Brooklyn. And it was through a collaborative effort with NYU, sorry, the fire department and HPD, and that was specifically targeting adults age 65 and residential buildings. This is something that we are hoping to scale up in the next couple of weeks, but once again this is all determined based on the amount of being that we get available specifically from Johnson and Johnson, so folks who are interested, who are homebound and are interested in receiving the vaccine in their home, there is a form that they can fill out those that do not have internet access can also call the 877VAX4NYC number. And what happens when you fill out that form or COVID number, you're automatically given an appointment to basically submit information, if you do it online, you submit the form and someone will call you back, ask me some questions and then if you're eligible, you will receive an appointment. The same with the call the number, you'll be asked questions and then know right then in there whether or not you're eligible for the vaccination. And the goal of this program was to bring a vaccine to priority communities. So in addition with the homebound program. We also have a location to developments and naturally occurring retirement companies, and the goal also has been to have locations, and some of the hardest hit neighborhoods throughout the city.

We have a link on our website and if you'd like Celeste I can post all of these, I can either post these links into the chat or just send them to you just so that you have them at the resource, but it lists all of the neighborhoods that are part of it, and that our priority neighborhood that has been designated by the mayor and Bushwick, is on the list as one of the neighborhoods that are priority. As mentioned, when you make your appointment, you will be given a choice of what vaccine you will get but once again as mentioned that's going to be based on availability. We've often got questions in terms of trying to compare the Moderna with Pfizer with Johnson and Johnson, and this is something that we can't really compare because they've been tested at different times, and the pandemic, and they've been tested in different places. The Johnson and Johnson trials were conducted more recently when there was a high level of COVID-19 transmission. So it's really hard to do a comparison. For this reason with the vaccines, we've just been telling people that like every vaccine is available to you is the vaccine that you should keep. Of course there are age restrictions with Pfizer, you have to be at least 60 years old so someone wants that eligibility opens that someone within that age restriction should definitely be mindful of that but any other folks, when the vaccine is made available, we ask that you please take the one that is made available. There are some things that are currently unknown with regards to the sort of vaccine. And one of the things is that we're not sure how effective, any of the three vaccines are at preventing COVID-

19 infection without symptoms, meaning that you might still be able to get, and transmit the virus to others, even if you don't get sick, so that's still an unknown, another unknown is how long the protection from the vaccine lasts and whether a booster shot will be needed. We're not sure if this is a one-shot dose where you know you get your vaccine this year seeable future, or if this is something that you would have to get yearly similar sort of route so those are still some unknowns and things that are being looked at and we hope to have more information.

As time goes on, as was also mentioned in terms of the eligibility, starting on March 9 it will open up to people, ages 60 and older, and that includes with pharmacies they can vaccinate people 60 years and older and school faculty and staff and childcare workers, and starting today, it opens up more to include public facing government and public employees, nonprofit workers and essential in-person public facing building service workers, there's an extensive list of everyone who is eligible for a vaccine, on our website once again I could post that into the chat. One thing that I did want to note in terms of vaccine I think I've actually mentioned this once or twice already, but it bears repeating. Although our numbers of vaccine, from the federal government have been increased and still remains a limited supply of vaccine. As mentioned, you know when you go through vaccine finder, we'll be told what appointments are available and not available, but we need more vaccines in order for us to be able to open up appointments so it's 100% dependent on that, we have the location, because I mentioned our many locations throughout the city, but if we don't have the vaccine to supply the location, and it's, we can't. It can't be open, and the distribution right now based on what we have is being phased based on your risk categories and these are categories that are established by state and federal guidance. One thing that you can do is continue to check our website, the [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) to see what appointments are available or you can call the hotline 877VAX4NYC.

I just want to share some more resources for people who are who are ready to have scheduled an appointment, and they're having an issue with it like say for instance you got your first dose but left without getting your second shot or do you realize that the date is wrong but your second dose or you have to change the date, and any type of issues that she may have with your appointment. You can call 833-307-1678 once again that number is 833-307-1678 and this number is specifically for people who already have an appointment, they're just having issue with their appointment and they need assistance with it, another number that I will share with you this number to a state hotline. Many people ask us about eligibility requirements, when are they going to open up. Why are some people chosen and others are not? These are guidelines that come to us from the state. So if you have any specific questions about that, you can call 888-364-3065 once again that number is 888-364-3065. And lastly, I want to share with you a number and an email address that you can call or reach out to for any type of vaccine abuse or fraud. And that number is 833VAXSCAM, that's 833VAXSCAM. The email, [stopvaxfraud@help.ny.gov](mailto:stopvaxfraud@help.ny.gov) Once again, [stopvaxfraud@help.ny.gov](mailto:stopvaxfraud@help.ny.gov), and I'll wrap it up here. Thank you.

**Celeste:** Thank you, Tejumade. I know that was a lot of information everyone, but it's important to have reliable information from both our partners at Wycoff and also from the city, if there are questions, board members, this is the time.

**Mr. Camacho:** I just want to thank you for coming down because we've been wanting, Department of Health to come down to go presentation and keep us abreast on what's going on. And I know my district manager has been sending emails, and some of the some of the things maybe we can speak, emails, was I don't know if it was taken care of or we hopefully we have good contact if we need anything else. In regard to the shadow or finding any issues that we may have here. So, also, I'm not responsible for the schools that are having shots now give it to the people. We have locations in schools, yes, we have locations in schools. Okay so now you know that the high schools are our high school is, is starting on the 22nd is going to be kids coming in. Are you saving doses for the teachers that want to get there and then? Or how is it or do you just open it up because we have a location here, or, or maybe we can work something out in regards to Bushwick High School, saving doses because we've been getting a lot of issues and complaints, and we want to make sure that other people that go there that want to get this out especially, you know, seniors, or people that really want it, and don't want to get it, or set up an appointment, and don't go, and then they go there, or they don't have a computer, and they're trying to compute a little bit, And they can't get an appointment when they have no one to make sure that someone gets an appointment and if they do get appointment here, when they go to the school. They there, they prefer getting there, and if they sent them home, and then you give them an appointment. They might not want to come back, you know, you have people that have diabetes.

I had a senior that went there in a wheelchair into the school. And the doctor was also. It was empty with the door and they both wanted to get it. They were sent home. You know they shouldn't be sent home because now, these people that can need the shot. I don't know how it's any people that come to this community. This will be able to get the shot. I just don't know what all this red tape is or holding things when you have someone that's in a chair to go over the door. So I don't think that that I don't think they should be sent home because if you give him an appointment they got to come back, especially in Bushwick do you give me an appointment for x amount of days. But if you got the person there, why not take in the community? I know places that they come from all over the place. From chosen to print they come here, and they gave the shot to the people that he wanted to get the shot, don't get the shot. So there are a lot of issues that we ourselves and we will try to write to the commissioner. Why are even the charter schools are opened the 22nd the high school, and are they going to be shot for teachers that want to do is actually for teachers that one day they're going to come down to get a shot?

**Tejumade:** Alright, so thank you for sharing that and hopefully you can hear me clearly you were breaking up a bit. I'm not sure if it's my computer or yours. But the first issue that I want to address in terms of Bushwick or in any other locations that we have in high schools as you mentioned, they will be open soon so we are working to find other locations. To move the site to, and of course the concern is for people who already have appointments, and this happened previously I believe a middle school is open so we reach out to the people who have appointments, we send emails we make phone calls, we have people who are posted at the site, you know, once the site is moved, we have people who are actually posted at that site, just in case people show up and direct them to the new location. And our goal has been to find locations that are very near to the previous location,



so that if someone shows up, they don't have far to travel. So that's something that is, is being worked on. The second concern are to raise around, people being sent home. Unfortunately, the way that our sites work, and I know it's different. I heard them say that they don't work appointments aren't required, but for our sites, appointments are required still if someone were to just walk in, we would have to turn them away, and there have been issues of people who come from out of state or from New York City who have showed up to vaccination sites and I've heard that some people are getting vaccine. It's not something that's supposed to happen the way that these, these sites are run. There are no waiting lists, there has to be its appointment based and you have to live with the New York City, there may be instances one off at locations where someone who's leaving the site is not following the guidelines that was, was set out for us. But, in any instance when we come to one of our locations, it has to be appointment based, there are no walk ins.

**Mr. Camacho:** So if there's so there's extra at the end of the day, what do they do with them?

**Answer:** Well right now, there been at the locations, staff that works at the locations. The eligibility has also been opened up for staff to receive shots so at the end of this shift. If there is vaccine available, then staff who have worked at shift will receive doses.

**Louisa Chan:** If you have a better sense now that the vaccine availability for Johnson and Johnson was depleted to be able to vaccinate more people, you know, rather than before we require two doses, like, are there going to be any changes to the eligibility requirements, and opening it up so that more people are eligible and just curious because I'm like, you know, like I'm in my 30s so I'm pretty sure I'm like, to end the line here. But I'm just curious like how that might impact. Just eligibility for, for younger folks. **Answer:** Johnson and Johnson, we want to direct that to homebound specifically because with Moderna, Pfizer neither of those vaccines can be transported. They have certain refrigeration requirements but Johnson and Johnson that, that's mobile. So our preference would be to definitely reserve that for homebound individuals until we are at least able to vaccinate all homebound individuals. But to answer your question as someone in their 30s the eligibility is supposed to be opening up as of May. So I know we're in March and that that may seem like a long way ahead, but their eligibility will open up in a couple of months. It's also for someone in their 30s. There is eligibility if you have, depending on what your role is like, right, as of right now, home health aides, teachers, and education workers first responders, public safety workers, public transport, transit workers restaurant grocery, people with underlying conditions, people who work at vaccine locations, those who are homeless and live in a congregate setting, it's been opened up dramatically, and not short if someone does not fall in one of those categories by May, it will significantly have opened up to include you. **L. Chan:** Okay, great, thank you.

**Celeste:** I have a question from the Q&A. Are there locations in Bushwick that could help seniors or other individuals book an appointment to get the vaccine? **Answer:** So that is the question that the person needs help, booking the appointment? **Celeste:** they said yes. **Answer:** So for someone who needs help looking for an appointment we are working with videos I can find out what CBOs are working in this area so less and I could send that to you so basically what we do is we train

community members and walk them through the process of how to help someone schedule an appointment is called Train the Trainer. So we do work with CBOs and community members in this way so I can find get that information and pass it along to you, just you can share with folks who need assistance, making appointments.

**Celeste:** Okay, great. Any other questions, board members? Going once. Going twice. Okay, seeing none, thank you so much for being here this evening we will certainly follow up, and if there are any other questions, we will absolutely pass them along. Alright, thank you so much everyone.

**Tejumade:** Have a good night, and please continue to look to us as a resource if you need any additional information.

**Celeste:** Alright, so that officially concludes our public hearing for this evening. We will go right into our regular meeting agenda.

### **Regular Meeting Agenda**

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

**Celeste:** Give me one moment to pull it up, starting with our first roll call, board members, please be ready. And before I do that, I am having some issues just so everyone knows, for whatever reason, I'm not able to see some of the phone numbers for people that are calling in. I don't know why I was trying to fix it.

**Board Members in attendance:** Rev. Grace Aytes, Jo-Ena Bennet, Rawle Brown, Robert Camacho, Gardea Caphart, Melissa Carrera, Felix Ceballos, Louisa Chan, Daniella Davi, Elvena Davis, James Fitzgerald, Freddy Fowler, Egaudy Gomez, Anne Guiney, Tanesha Honeygan, Barbara Jackson, Kristen Jock, Virgie Jones, Luisa Jose, Mary McClellan, Samy Nemir Olivares, Zulma Novoa, Acire Polight, Raul Rubio, Julio Salinas, Barbara Smith, Dustin Sonneborn, Carlotta Williams, Odolph Wright (no sound)

**Excused:** Rev. Migdalia Gutierrez, Jose R. Guzman, Desmonde Monroe, Gladys Puglla, Eliseo Ruiz, Vernedeaner Shell, Annette Spellen

**Absent:** Andrew Choi, Cheryl Jones, James Wiseman

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

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

**Celeste:** Moving on to our second agenda item acceptance of the agenda, is there a motion from the board?

Elvena Davis made a motion to accept the agenda. Barbara Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

### 3. Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Celeste: Agenda Item number three, acceptance of the previous meeting minutes. Is there a motion from the board?

Robert Camacho made a motion to accept the previous minutes. Freddy Fowler seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

### 4. Chairperson's Report

**Mr. Camacho:** Hi. How are you? Thank you for everyone joining this evening. I just want to let the Asian community that we love them. And we also have board members that are Asian, and we do not wish any harm to any of them. It is tragic to see that this is going on; that they're getting assaulted and beat up for nothing and it's disheartening. We have a community they don't bother anyone; we support them. We love them, and we have a lot of people in our community that does a lot of work and we also have some on this board. And it's sad to see that you have characters out there doing this heinous thing, and that's not who we are. So we want to work with them, we love them, and we care for them. And we got their back. So, whatever we can do, we're here for them in any sense whether you understand or don't understand.

I also like to let all the board members know that it's an excellent time to join the ad hoc committee, the whole executive board. We have to get the ad hoc committee, hopefully, by April start. May is the election, and June starts the new year. So, we have to get our committee together.

Also, if any of the chairs that are doing their report, please give it to us in an early fashion; don't wait for some stuff we would have to table, because some things didn't come in, or if they did, I don't know if they did, we need to have these reports in for everyone can review it and read the report. If we are going to do it and say you're going to do it, or you're having a hard time or you can't or don't want to do it, you just let us know early so, the district manager, anyone that's in that committee, that works for the board can do it and make sure we have it at the earliest convenience.

I have been in a lot of Zoom meetings in February. Thursday at 6pm, I was at the Community Advisory Board meeting from 97 Wyckoff Avenue, that's the shelter on Hart Street on the corner, there's 40 males, 55 and over the services that they get there they have Woodhull and Wyckoff Hospital assisting them with any incident or situation if anybody lives around there see any kind of banding or things that is out of the norm, please let us know because we are, there is an advisory board there and we made sure that it's being taken care of.

On February 19 Friday at 1pm, I met with El Puente's new executive director there. He's going to try to work, and we hope that you know all the time you see new people come in here they come with different decisions and they get rid of the crew and so we want to make sure that they leave the same. We work with them and they do good work with us.

The same day Friday from 3:30pm to 4:30 we were in a Zoom meeting 1325 Broadway on Linden. We still maybe sell so for you and some other still fighting with a developer there. 1325 Broadway was Ms. Hansley's garden. On February 19 at five o'clock I was in Senator Julia Salazar's State of the District event. They were telling us that there's a right or right thing that you can fill out and tax breaks that they can give out for homeowners towards your family or for seniors. I think that date has expired for taxes. I think I'm not too sure. We'll get more info on it so let's put it also on the newsletter. Also on the 23rd Tuesday at 3pm they were surprised to see a video from the district leader, Samy, a Zoom meeting in regard to the food that they're handing out and giving out here in Bushwick and Williamsburg. On February 23 to the 6pm the housing and land use committee met. On February 21 4pm, there was Brooklyn Borough Board meeting. And at the Brooklyn Borough Board meeting was New York City Department of Veteran Services. We had the budget, there was a breakdown. I don't know if these numbers are correct or are, we still having \$122 million. Cut a budget cut to 1900 job losses, not too sure if they're going to know if we got any money for it or in a pass or I guess we'll find out about that now are the Chamber of Commerce. There was City Planning speaking about the ZAP search. It'll tell you who's applying for these permits. On March 3 at 6pm, the Executive Board met. On March 4 Shape-Up Bushwick, the sanitation working group. March 5, the NBK 5pm Small Business virtual event. On March 9 at 6pm, economic development and permits and licenses.

On March 10 at 5pm the historical preservation group met. On Thursday, March 11, public safety committee. Monday the 15th special housing and land use meeting at 6pm. Tuesday, the 16th from 11am to 12pm the Bushwick Community Partnership. I like to get in this meeting because they do before we even start when you relax and you breathe and you think, and you figure I'm just waking up and to relax and calm yourself down in doing these things because a lot of people that are already in their homes and stuck in their home, so they want you to relax, and it was a good meeting. They always bring people to speak because the community partners you guys can get on. Pretty good. Wednesday today, 6pm, the full board, and that is. That is all my meetings in my report.

**Celeste:** Thank you, Mr Camacho, any questions board members? Hearing none, we'll keep moving on with the agenda, we now have the introduction of elected official representatives.

#### **Introduction of Elected Official Representatives:**

Andres Aguirre, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila's office

We're located at 249 Wilson Avenue. Our phone number is 718-443-1205 Thank you.

Haris Khan, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office

Harris Khan here. I'm the Community Liaison for comptroller Scott Stringer, I just want to say good evening to everybody. Taeka used to cover these meetings for the office but she's on leave doing some stuff. So I'm chipping in and I'm going to be covering Bushwick for the remainder of the year, or potentially half of the year we don't not know but I'll drop my email, my number, feel free to reach out to me, always if there's any intersection that you think our office could help with,

or if you just want to chat about Bushwick, I'd love to learn more about all the great work that community members and board members have been doing here for years. So happy to learn from all of you and to work with you in any way to amplify community's concerns and resolve them. And I'll drop my info in the chat and during the Announcements section I guess I'll do a report out. Thank you.

Julio Salazar, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office

Good evening everyone, Julio Salazar Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez office. We're located over at 266 Broadway phone number is 718599365. Thank you.

Marcus Harris, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' office

Good evening everyone, Marcus Harris, Special Assistant for Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. We are at 291 Joralemon Street. Our main number you can still reach us on is 7182803700, or you can reach me directly on my cell phone which is 917-324-2680.

Jeanette Gonzalez, Council Member Darma Diaz's office

Good evening, everybody. My name is Jeanette Gonzalez, I am representing the councilwoman for district 37, Darma Diaz. And our address is 1945 Broadway, and the telephone number for our office is 7186428664.

**Celeste:** Thank you. Alright, so that concludes elected official representative introductions. We'll now move on to our community-based organizations and city agencies, I've made a list.

**Introduction of Community-Based Organizations:**

Sinthia Pena-Ortiz, Bushwick Community Partnership

(Had to leave the meeting)

Noel Allain and Modesto 'Flako' Jimenez, The Bushwick Starr

**Noel:** Hi this is the Bushwick Starr. Very happy to be here. And, yeah, we're glad to report from the Starr these days but we've been running our programs in our schools remotely these days. And we are actually in the middle of a movie with our theaters so that's something that will be 100 Going for the next years. **Celeste:** My apologies. I don't mean to cut you off but right now it's just name and contact info right now announcements are later. **Noel:** Thanks for clarifying that you caught me a little off guard. The number is 917608546, and the organization is the Bushwick Starr theatre, thanks for that. Sorry. **Celeste:** No problem, thank you for joining us.

John Stanesco, Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

(Brief technical/sound issues) My number is 929-276-7188. Thank you very much.

Roger Clemmons, Brooklyn Public Library

Yes, I'm representing the Brooklyn Public Library Dekalb branch, and the contact number is 347-403-8992.

**Celeste:** Thank you, again, if I've missed anyone it's not intentional, please just drop a line in the chat and there will be another opportunity for groups to speak later during announcements. Moving on with our agenda. We now have the report this evening from the 83rd precinct and I believe we have our captain joining us. Captain Sanabria, I'm going to make you a panelist, just give me one moment.

### **83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Captain's Report:**

Hello everyone, how are you? Just really quick, I just want to talk about crimes, going on. And the three were notorious for property crimes are burglaries are up and argued products grand larceny is down. Alright so burglaries. Please ensure that your front doors are locked, we're seeing a lot, a lot of unlocked doors. If you can, cameras, cameras, kind of, you know, make the bad guys go away. So if you could put up cameras in houses and get it out there maybe landlords, if they could put cameras out. That'll bring down our burglaries and, of course, the people who see something please say something, call 911. We don't want you to stop them. We want you to call 911. Give us a good description. Constantly be there when we show up and point out the person who's doing this, these problems. So that's, that's really been our big issue in regard to burglaries, but like I say grand larceny is down, which is great, grand larceny includes anything over \$1,000 in property or credit card crimes. So, those are those are down a lot. Another thing I wanted to bring up is domestic violence. We have seen a little bit of an increase of domestic violence in regard to being assaulted. So I want you to all know that you could always call the present. If you are involved in domestic violence, or you know someone who is involved in domestic violence, and I'm going to give you out there. I'm going to give the numbers for the domestic violence officers, we're not just here to arrest people, we're here to help you out. We're here to point you in the right direction. If you don't want them to be arrested, because there are ways for the, for us to get the family back together without anyone having to be arrested or go to jail. So, if I'm going to give out that number, it's 718-574-1830. Once again 718-574-1830 This number goes directly to our domestic violence officers. They've been doing this for a very long time, and they are good at what they do. So if you can do that, get that get that information out there, there is help. And we're here to help them.

So jumping to collisions real quick. We're down in collisions for the entire 83rd precinct. And we are especially down in our pedestrian struck and our bicycle struck, you wouldn't, you wouldn't believe that we're down in bicycles because there's bicycles, all over the place, but we are done in bicycles and as the weather comes out nicer we're going to try to be out there more in regards to educating bicyclists on the rules of the road, especially those who are delivering GrubHub, Seamless, Postmates, things like that to make sure that we are, that they know the rules of the road, they're supposed to abide by the same rules as vehicles, and that they need to be careful out there in regards to that. A lot of our pedestrian, a lot of our bicycle being struck is when the bicycle is not paying attention to the red lights, stop signs, things like that or not wearing, or not having the proper, not having the proper equipment on so that they can be seen at night, which is another issue. So if we can get that information out there, to our fellow community people out in Bushwick, that'd be great. So you're going to see us out there, you're going to see us giving out flyers, you're going to see us at intersections. That's just so that we can let everyone know that we're trying to do it as much as we can to make sure that the people who are walking and biking in Bushwick, are

as safe as they can be. Alright, so that's all I have. I don't know if anyone else has anything I don't know.

**Celeste:** Questions, board members? I see Samy had a question.

**Samy Nemir Olivares:** Hi. Yes, thank you, Celeste. Yeah, I have a question, I would like to see if you have more information regarding any removal of homeless people around Myrtle-Broadway. I saw on social media from reports so around 20 homeless people that were solicited by officers so I do know as a fact that some homeless people were removed with the Friends of NYPD and citations and DHS and the authorities are, you know, revising the protocol to ensure that the resources that are size, address team that is not, you know, NYPD or, or, you know, any, any sweeps that heartbeat seems that are being targeted on homeless population so all the information as to what if this is happening in Bushwick and why.

**Captain Sanabria:** So on Broadway in Myrtle, we are having an issue in regard to drug sales, that has nothing to do with homelessness. We did a quality-of-life initiative last Thursday, where we arrested, drug dealers, and people drunk buying drugs. So I know that on social media, they put out that we went out there and just swept up homeless people, that's not the case. And we're actually trying to combat burglaries and grand larceny is when we do that, not only do we take the drug dealers and drug users off the street. We also slow down the burglaries because of what we've been noticing is that are burglars are usually the local drug users, who go around and looking for anything that they can get their hands on breaking into apartment buildings, taking packages, things of that sort. Climbing fire escapes, breaking into people's houses to their windows. So that was what happened last week, nothing to do with homelessness, nothing to do with anything like that. It was just crime driven, so that we can continue to combat crime. Did I answer your question, sir?

**S. Nemir Olivares:** Yeah, so to confirm they didn't leave there, they were just based there, but they didn't maybe not leave there. **Response:** You talked about where we were, we made the arrests. Right now they were they were just selling and buying drugs. When we talk about drugs we're talking about heroin, things of that nature. They don't sleep in the area that I think that's the question. No I don't, I don't believe so they just go there to buy their drugs.

**S. Nemir Olivares:** Okay, thank you for that information.

**Mr. Camacho:** Yes and you want to present right because I, I walked through there all the time, and I see them, or they come from the other side of best and they cross over, and I have witnessed myself buying and selling there, and hanging out there, a whole bunch of the gang kind of ranting they right on the corner there, and I went by the other day and I see a couple of guys mocking each other, and calling each other over, and I see that there's a lot of activity and there's been a lot of problems there also, with y2k, and those same guys breaking into construction site and stealing the tools and stuff because I see a couple of them walking with this shop and cars and tools when they break into the construction site that they do in the new remark, building. So we really have to

watch that area because they, most of them come from the other side, and most of them come just only to pick up and they get on the train to the train station you see them, because when they see you guys come, they go on to the train station, and do the activities because when I go by then I see them going upstairs. So I want to thank you for helping us clean their place because that plays really nice for us it's been really bad, and if there's any issue with homeless services or people, you can contact the office, maybe we can get someone to try to take care of them. But in regard to homeless but I know that there's much more than just homeless there.

**Response:** Yeah, so we're definitely dealing with for that day we dealt with the crime of selling drugs and using drugs, but if we ever come across people are homeless, even when we found out if they are homeless, we refer them to a floor to breaking ground, which is a nonprofit, who helps the homeless so it's we're just not arresting them and putting them in jail. We actually want to help them, and we do refer them to lots of nonprofits that are willing to help that we work together with, and we've worked together for quite a while. So you know, so there's just much more than we do than just arrest people.

**Gladys Puglla:** Yes. Before you mentioned, are you try to educate people driving bicycle, but people driving bicycle in also electric bicycle motorcycle. Also when they don't have the equipment they have to use, that's a legal thing and also, they can get charged for that? **Response:** So the city is moving toward making electric scooters legal, and mopeds legal. So, at first, they weren't. And we were, we would enforce that violation, with a summons. Now they're making illegal. And now that now we got to deal with educating those people because we know those e-bikes can go pretty quickly. Pretty quick down the street. So, with education comes enforcement afterwards. So we do, we do both, but we're going to try to do the education, push the education more, but enforcement will always, you know when anything hurts the pockets. You know they're going to remember. In the future, so that you know that's the purpose of some is not to say you know bad on you, but hey, we're good, we're doing this so that you can know and so that push we can be safe in the future. So, just keep an eye out for these laws before we cannot register e-bikes. Now we can, and we want to push the initiative of registering e-bikes to make sure that we know where to stay in case it's stolen, we can find it, we can market and things like that. So there's a lot going on right now, especially with the push toward greener ways of traveling throughout the city, that you know that the city is pushing the least cars, the better you see it with the bike lanes, you see it with all the city bike docking stations around.

5. District Manager's Report

6. Committee Reports

### **Economic Development + Permits and Licenses**

**Melissa Carrera:** DorDor is a gallery event space, their hours are 12:12pm to 8pm, seven days a week. We have Cherry on Top located at 379 Suydam Street, new wine bar. The owners have previous experience, owning establishments in the city, beer and wine, only they do have a rooftops include, and they did provide us with some drawings. They did mention to us that they will have



no amplified sound outdoors if anyone has any questions on the establishment, feel free to reach out to me or Celeste. This is close to Wyckoff which already has a lot of life, and a lot of movement happening. Then we saw Bushwick Friendship at 941 Willoughby Avenue. They're opening in the spring, their desired hours were a bit interesting, it was 4pm to 4am every day of the week, on a residential block, which was, you know, I was taken back by that, but we talked through it with them, and they are interested in working with mutual aid groups and organizations in the community. Then we had Petrani Corp which is located at 128 Central Avenue, the former Archie's, this owner has experience running a pizzeria business, they will be taking over the location and rehiring all of the former staff that was let go at Archie's which is really beautiful, to give people their jobs back, and their hours were also from 11am to 4am, which was the hours from the previous establishment. Cornelia cafe at 523 Evergreen Avenue was an establishment, they came to us a couple months ago and they returned requesting for us to modify their hours until 2am Sunday through Thursday and 4am Friday to Saturday, so I can talk more about that. Once we get to recommendations and let me know if I missed anything.

**Celeste:** No, I think that that covers permits and licenses, and just to provide an overview of the economic development portion, we invited the New York City Housing Authority. They have a team within NYCHA that was able to provide an update on Section Three and MWBE hiring within the RAD program at Hope gardens. So there, there was a presentation that they shared with us and there were also a question-and-answer portion. I encourage all board members to take a look at the report as it went into detail. As we all know Desmonde is a small business owner, you know he's very aware of the technicalities and I think that there was even some feedback that came from both Desmonde and Mr Camacho that really tried to hold NYCHA accountable, not just for hiring within the community, but of course making sure that right we're seeing what PACT or what RAD is right as a resource, as a tool, as an economic development engine within Bushwick, So, I don't want to take too much time with the report this evening but please take a look and read it. If anyone is interested in a copy of the presentation, whether you're a board member or the public, I'm happy to pass it along.

### **Housing and Land Use**

**Anne Guiney:** Good evening, everyone, the Housing and Land Use Committee has had two meetings since last month, the regular meeting, one on February 23 and one, just on March 16, which was a special meeting. There's so much going on that we had to schedule a second one. Also, Celeste, Mr Camacho have both detailed in their respective reports a lot about what's going on with preservation. There is a growing group of people who are really focused especially on Bushwick Avenue, but other parts of Bushwick as well. If that is something folks are interested in, please reach out to either me Celeste or Camacho, and we can connect you to the organizers of those groups.

Also 1325 Broadway which is, you know, it's near and dear to all of our hearts in a lot of ways that Ms. Avellar Hansley's old garden, and the idea of a 20 story as of right building going up on top of that and I think, you know, we are still very much trying to figure out what tools we have, and to make sure that we are using every tool we have to the best of our ability. But that's both of those

are ongoing situations and we'll just keep reporting every meeting. And again, if you have specific questions or just want to learn more connect to one of the three of us, we will.

So I'm going to start with the February 23 meeting, which had two items. There's an informational piece by Ramon Pebenito from Senator Salazar's office, and it was about the hardship declaration for small homeowners who are having trouble paying their mortgages for COVID related reasons, either because they have lost income, or they have tenants who have not been able to pay because of the you know the pandemic. And what this would do as Ramon reported to us would stop civil actions. Ramon explained that there wasn't a specific and remedy yet, but it would stop. And the hope was that this would fall some time for legislative action at the state level or, you know, who knows. This was before the stimulus bill came through.

So, hopefully, or other tools that can be brought to bear, but it would stop any civil action until May, we can share with you the very specifics of that anybody who's interested and send that out. So that was that was incredibly helpful, and I think it was an issue. A lot of people, people have a lot of questions about it. The second item was 18 Stanwix Street right at Melrose and Jefferson. This was a Board of Standards and Appeals variance application. This is for anyone who's familiar with it, it is right. It's that sort of right where Bushwick Avenue Stanwix it's all this sort of triangular that corner, it's an unoccupied site, has been for about 20 years I believe according to the attorneys who presented names of Todd Dale and Brenda Miller, and what they are applying for is a BSA variance to change it from M1-1, which is manufacturing to R6A, which is residential. The argument, they are not applying they're not applying for a zoning change which they would have to go through ULURP for and I think we're a lot more familiar with your applications than we have been with the BSA variance applications, because that what their argument is that they want to get an exemption for this project, not change the zoning on this site. And so that's why you go for a BSA various application for just an exemption for a specific site as opposed to changing in perpetuity going forward the zoning for that land.

The argument is that it is historically residential it's mixed up all around there some of its residential some of its manufacturing, and that it is too small to be economically viable, as, as a residential, I mean as a manufacturing or commercial site. So we had a lot of questions as you might understand. So we asked about the possibility of having a could it be all manufacturing, and if not could at least the ground level be manufacturing. The representatives Todd Dale and Brenda Miller said that they would go back to the owners that they did not think that was viable. We did discuss the difference between variances and rezoning, and they explain their rationale on that, we then said, you know, have you looked at the Bushwick Community Plan because the district community plan comes up pretty strongly against manufacturing to residential conversions. They have looked at the city's version, the Bushwick Neighborhood Plan. So we asked them to go back to look at that. There were also questions about affordability, they, their responsibility was too preliminary in their process to actually go into, you know, to figure out things like that. They, they did reveal to us that their preliminary BSA hearing was that morning and that there will be a second hearing a continuance of that. So, in our discussions, we, we really, we felt strongly that there is a

precedent, or sticking to our guns in terms of no end to our, as detailed in the Bushwick community plan so we can go into that in the recommendation section.

Alright, then on to the March 16 meeting yesterday. So it was Asher Freeman from Council Member Reynoso's office, and Annie Levers from Council Speaker Cory Johnson's office. Asher began the discussion at my request by framing the larger conversation around comprehensive planning, which is legislation, which is outstanding in the city council right now. The whole idea behind Council of comprehensive planning as I think we've mentioned it in a few previous meetings is that instead of having individual communities, either work on plans or respond to plans that the city prevents to present to them, the city as a whole would develop a plan based on where is the need, where's the capacity, who has already had a lot of housing built, who hasn't had any who has too much of one thing and not enough of the other. And so as your frame this for us in terms of the Bushwick Community Plan, and the idea that the Bushwick Community Plan was always supposed to be about much more than housing. It wasn't just zoning or housing, it was about wider community needs infrastructure parks, community health. And that had informed Council Member Reynoso's thinking on the Comprehensive Planning legislation. According to Asher he is a primary sponsor of this bill. So then Annie Levers just explained for us the whole process, what that would look like. And there were as Celeste mentioned in her committee report, it was a huge amount of information to take in. There is a transcript of that March 16 meeting, I definitely recommend folks read it, but what I would also like to do is send more of a bullet pointed version. That's just a little easier to take in. We will also include the presentation from Annie Levers and Speaker Johnson's office, just so that we can start to all get our heads focused on this because I think it's very important, and it is something that we will be asked to present our recommendations on in the next couple of months. But there are two interesting things that I just want to flag for people as you start to learn more about this is that two important things they're going to be looking at are a displacement index, and it is basically, or the short version is looking at which neighborhoods, increased development would threaten the existing community and population, and I think everybody in Bushwick realizes that we have seen incredible amounts of displacement, and that is something that we feel very strongly about and maintaining, you know, maintaining our community and making sure that people can stay here. And the second thing was something called an access to opportunity index, again we have to learn a lot more about these and as we learn more, we will share them. But the idea for that is that if you have a lot of transit you have a lot of a lot of good things, as defined by the city then you can take more development. So one of the questions that struck me is that another neighborhood, so hope is fighting a rezoning, at least as I understand it as I've been following in the newspapers. They score very high on the access to opportunity index, and probably pretty low on the displacement index, which would mean that a community like Soho would be more likely to be targeted for development. We said, you know, we have already had a lot of displacement, and we have seen a lot of housing, get built here. So what would that look like for us and while they Asher and Annie were not able or willing to speak specifically to our community. What they both reiterated, was that the plan in its current form would at least allow for it would allow for communities that have rejected or have not had to take any of the burdens of development that they would be higher on the list of priorities. So again this is a longer conversation that we're going to be having, we will be sharing a lot more information.

Definitely recommend reading the transcript if you have the time to do so. If you do not have the time to do so please reach out to all of us, it's, it was just a meeting on yeah it was yesterday, so still a lot going on in terms of figuring all out. But if you have any questions please do reach out. If anybody has any questions about either meeting, fire away.

**Joshua Brown:** Hello, I want to just give context, just with the Stanwix variance. I want to give the whole community board context. We decided not to vote in support of that variance, on the basis that since we don't have a current plan in place, we don't want to open the door to an avalanche and have multiple developers come in requesting variances as somewhat of a step around to an actual formal Bushwick development plan so that's the reason why the committee denied that. Moving forward, we will act in a similar manner until we get a formal plan. **Anne:** Thank you, Joshua, I appreciate that I was going to leave that for recommendations but I'm glad that you brought that up because you were the one who very rightly pointed out in this that, because, and I think you know the comprehensive planning this, if, if that goes forward, and the Bushwick Community Plan, you know, we're not able to go forward I think we are going to see an avalanche of variances just as you're saying, and that is, that's a real issue that we need to be aware of and to be very watchful about that so thank you for raising that.

**Barbara Smith:** asked about community members in attendance (difficult to hear her).

**Celeste:** we have about 25 people. I haven't counted them, but yes, we have other people on the call, aside from board members. **B. Smith:** she had a lot of input in absence Absolutely 100%. And, you know she's going back and forth to the district plan and be on the table before and then she's moving forward with something else, and she keeps saying we. The Community Board has to understand you can't, we will we say we. Do you have to have the community input on all of these decisions? Are we going to vote on and stuff like that? We have no outside people, this, this is very important for this stuff that's going on now, you got to have some new engaged from the community.

**Anne:** I absolutely I could not agree more, Ms. Smith. I speak, when I say we, I'm speaking for the community board and in light of meetings that we have had, I am not speaking as a past participant in the Bushwick Community Plan, I am speaking as a member of community board and I'm speaking based on the discussions at the meeting, that's all. So that's what I am talking about. And I hope that you understand that a bit I'm saying we need a lot of community visit. That's not on the board this year. We don't have a lot of community participating, that's what is actually exciting is that more and more people are starting to participate, both in the questions around 1325 and the questions around landmarking and in the questions around that we're having more and more people participate in the HLU meetings. One, what we have had a problem is when we have to have a special meeting. It's not on the regular schedule we need to do more outreach for that, but then our regularly scheduled HLU meetings, we're having a pretty good participation from members of the community who are not on the community board, I think you are 100% right. I totally agree. And I think that we need to do more robust, stronger, and I, you know you are always welcome and everybody, everybody on the call, I believe there are 55 people I see as participants,

and I hope every single one of them is able to come to the next HLU meeting on the 30th, because these are hugely important issues, hugely important issues. And I think that everybody needs to participate in.

**Mr. Camacho:** yes, what it is. There were 25 people there but in regard to the recommendation only the committee can vote on them. They brought the info they brought everything. And that's what was said there. Only when it came to the vote in regard to the committee. You can make you say you can, and once the committee makes a recommendation, then that's how the procedure went. So in regard to, in regard to making a recommendation. I'm not, you know they can bring input data to pick a say and then they made the board committee made recommendation.

**Celeste:** And so just, there's a question in the chat regarding all of this and I want to address it and say a few other comments. So the question is if there are 25 community members in this call. Why is it only show up as though I'm the only attendee? **Answer:** So attendees have limited access to some of the features that panelists have access to so if you're an attendee, you won't be able to control your video or sound and we do that to better manage the meeting and to avoid having to deal with a lot of technical issues, you know we already have about 40 I would say 43 board members I believe at this point. So it's very difficult for one person myself to manage behind the scenes making sure that folks are muted. And of course, running the rest of the meeting so we chose this format, and that's why it may look like that so, but we do have 54 people when we did our first roll call there were 28 board members present so if you do the math, that the remainder our members from the public, and I just want to say thank you. You know, this includes agency representatives, community-based organizations you're all taking the time and I want to also acknowledge that meetings aren't a possibility for everyone. And so we want to find a way to make sure that we get the feedback, regardless of whether or not someone can come to a meeting. If you can make it, we encourage you to make it and I do want to say as someone who is in the majority of committee meetings, we do have increased public participation. Some folks just choose to listen in. But as was the case on Monday we had folks actively, you know, asking questions. You know and I really appreciate it because we're getting a deeper perspective and I think that, for some folks, we know it's easier doing a virtual meeting, but we also know it's difficult for others. So my suggestion, board members, you are all ambassadors for the community board, encourage people to join our email lists but also if there are seniors that we know that don't have access to a computer please give me their name and number and I will add them to a call list and I will personally call them every month and give them the access information as I do for some of our board members.

**Anne:** Absolutely. I would like to second that. I'm sorry, Miss Smith, I didn't mean to cut you off. Thank you so much. I think that you raise a very important point and I absolutely encourage everyone on this call, whether you are a member of the board or not, whether you're a member of housing and land use committee or not to join the next meeting on the 30th and all meetings going forward. If you have questions about landmarking about 1325 Broadway, about the comprehensive plan about 18 Stanwix and about sort of any of our processes, I can put my number in the chat, my email, whatever you prefer. We want to make sure that these are as open as possible to everyone.

**Mr. Camacho:** We also have a newsletter this is open to everyone that wants to go to any committee. We also put every committee in the day the committee's there and we put it all on a newsletter and if you want to get on you have to register, and they'll open up, if not you get called the office at 7186288400, you can join any committee meeting, nobody stops. Everybody can join in, only thing you can do is vote on a thing. Yeah, that's it thank you.

**Celeste:** Alright. And I just had one other comment and as it relates to HLU, and this is for your feedback actually I can share the thriving communities coalition FAQ, if you think that that would be a helpful summary for folks. **Anne:** I think it is. The thriving communities summary just to give a little context on what to let's just mention, it's a group of community organizations that we have worked with its communities resist, like Bruno and Greg a lot of the housing lawyers that have come before the community board, it is ANHD, who are planning professionals, it is a lot of it's a consortium, I believe about 20 organizations around the city who are working on these issues, and they have come up with a three page, sort of explainer of, you know, what makes sense about this, and questions that they have I think it's a really good distillation of some of the issues that, and that would be great thank you so yes, of course.

**Youth and Education** (Virgie Jones briefly had a sound issue)

**Celeste:** I was at part of the Youth Education Committee meeting, but I can try to summarize until Virgie can join us. The meeting was held on February 22. The committee invited the leadership for our high schools, both the executive Superintendent of all high schools for North Brooklyn, as well as our local superintendent, that's Karen Watts and Janice Ross joined us and they provided a really extensive presentation on how they frame learning, and of course their COVID response during these times and what exactly is happening in our high schools.

The committee requested information as it relates to attendance, you know, as it relates to COVID, as it relates to learning, and they were able to summarize within this presentation, and I have to say I was sad to have to go in the middle of the meeting because it was just getting to a point where I was like wow, you know, we don't hear from our high schools as often as we hear from you know our elementary and middle schools, and that you know it, we only have I believe six high schools within the district. However, we know it's so important to build those relationships, you know, they've always been responsive whenever we have issues, but we know that it's easier right for us to do the work that we need to do to support our parents you know parts of this community and vice versa, right, making sure that the board is able to advocate for our schools for our high schools and for our students right the future the next generation. So I know that they had an extensive conversation about those priorities, and of course COVID response and all the health guidelines and the changes that the schools have had to go through with learning, I encourage everyone to take a look at the report, and I want to thank Virgie in particular as a committee chairperson for taking the time to review her report you know working with Sharon. I want to thank Sharon as well for her work on her assigned committees and for this report, and I know Virgie usually has some other updates as it relates to her activities for the committee, I don't have a list of those to share, so I don't want to misspeak but perhaps she'll be able to fix the sound by the time we get to announcements.

**Virgie Jones:** I am sorry. Good evening everyone and thank you so much. Like you said, we had a good meeting with the high schools. And kudos to Karen Watts, who's the Executive Superintendent. So I'm just going to go over the goals that they were talking about that they had. And one is to ensure that board is accomplished through patience, understanding, and flexibility and with critical love, and equity and social justice. And that's the, that's what the mantra is critical. Love is your blended and remote model leadership expertise is all levels, and also to ensure that all students who graduate and for your college and career readiness, and their that's in alignment with districts operate in college and career ready. And the last one is to provide feedback. Digital to all the resources which they do an excellent job of providing resources to empower in partnerships with community stakeholders, and students. They also went over some of the programs that the events that they had coming up, and most of them have passed and I was able to attend some of them. They talked about graduation and attended. And they thanked everyone, and I brought up a question about guidance counselors, because I know normally there's only one guidance counselor and the elementary, and the middle schools, and they said that what they are getting extra additional guidance counselors, social workers, and the parents coordinators and they're meeting with them at least once a month, and also some of the schools are bringing in social workers intern. Further, including the ratio of students who need guidance and support. And I think that's an excellent night. So we actually did about how many middle school districts 32, which they were not able to provide an answer for us on that. I don't know if we've received one yet. And they talked about college, office of post-secondary readiness, it was a question about the college have been working closely with that.

And then Martha did a wonderful presentation of the School Construction Authority, and that was their January 12 I believe meeting, she put up a nice overview of some of the projects that have been done in the schools, the air conditioning, computer upgrades, new cafeterias, but she's, and we all agreed that we strongly or requests now elected officials to, you know, help us with the funding of these projects, which they are on a tight budget, and things of that nature. And that was on contract for excellence which I was able to attend. And also, the Association for Black Educators of New York, offering a Human Service Award. And that's available to our public elementary and middle and high school students eligible and I did get that out to them today. And secondly, ABENY is not having an annual luncheon, but if you want to get information on scholarships, you can go to their website is [www.abeny.org](http://www.abeny.org). And our meeting adjourned at 7:36pm and we thank all that took the time to come to our meeting. And once again and sharing the work that she's doing with us collaboratively. Thank you so much.

**Mr. Camacho:** Thank you, Virgie Jones, because without you. Are those people on the superintendent's column, they will come to the meeting and they will give us a report in regard to our kids, and what's going on with our kids and what's going on with their education. And what's the status in regard to funding and issues that they may have, and they've been right on point man. So I want to thank you and all you do for helping us work on our case and make sure that we get the best for our kids get the best education is meant like everywhere else.

**Celeste:** So I do have a request from one of our elected official representatives, I'm not sure what it's regarding but they did ask to speak.

**Jeanette, CM Diaz's office:** Hi, I was just listening to all the information that you guys provided and given, and I see your hard work that you guys are doing. And as I can see you guys are just not committed with the community, but you guys are passionate and doing really like from the heart. I see the love that you guys put in the effort that you guys are putting in each in each service that you guys are providing and information, so I just wanted to say congratulations. I am very proud to have people in the community of district 37 like you guys, this is a tremendous more congratulations and keep up the good work.

**Celeste:** Thank you, thank you so much, and welcome. Thank you. Alright so moving us along if there are no other questions as it relates to us in education. Going once, going twice. Okay, that closes out our committee reports this evening, and we'll go into recommendations.

## 7. Recommendations

**Celeste:** So I believe we have both a recommendation from housing and land use regarding 18 Stanwix as well as our recommendations from permits and licenses. And I don't believe I've missed any others but if I did, please forgive me, and we can discuss them now, recommendations.

**Anne Guiney:** Our recommendation as Joshua started to explain, and maybe I will. I'll make the recommendation, but I think Joshua you made the original, you raise this in the meeting, and I think that you did it really eloquently just before, so I'd like to hand it over to you after that. But our recommendation is to not give a letter of support in terms of this variance for 18 Stanwick.

**Joshua Brown:** I will uphold the committee's recommendation to not allow a variance where their property at Stanwix, and that's that.

**Celeste:** If I may, this is Celeste everyone, and I know I mentioned this, I wasn't there. During this part of the meeting, but just for some context, and a suggestion for the committee members to consider I know earlier in the meeting, it was discussed. One that this individual should review the Bushwick Community Plan. They had failed to do that. And then also there was a question if they'd considered putting manufacturing on their ground floor, and if I recall correctly, they said that they hadn't looked into it, but that they could. So, just being mindful of the four options when the community board just says no, it basically doesn't come with any other guidance or mechanism to really provide the, you know, the BSA or this applicant with any feedback, so they may kind of squeeze past accountability, when we know that those are things that we are the committee really discussed. So just food for thought, I don't know if that was discussed at all, but I just wanted to put that out there.

**A. Guiney:** It was actually, thank you, so that's I think that's it some important context, there are a couple things that we did discuss that the BSA is a variance not like ULURP, there is no formal role for the community board in this process, the BSA is going to decide it. We can give a letter in



support, or a letter against, but that is not necessarily going to, you know, hold tons of weight. I think it's important that we express our opinion on this, but we should know that it's different from the ULURP process. So we did talk about that. We also talked about the fact we had asked them about affordability and about putting in manufacturing. None of that is, those would be optional things on the part of the owner slash developer, not things that could be put into the approval of the variance, again because it's a slightly different process. And then I think the point that Joshua made that was so compelling to the committee. And if other committee members just want to weigh in with some context, please do, is that in the lack of sort of clear guidance going forward for zoning in this community or any changes to it, we are going to get a lot of variance, applications, and that the housing and land use committee in our discussion said that we should stick to our guns that for a variance for manufacturing to residential, you know, while we recognize, of course, the owners, you know, that is their right to do to make changes to their property that they, if they are asking us for our approval, we don't necessarily have to give it. So I think those were some, those that was some context.

**Mr. Camacho:** and, you know, it's fair to say that we choose No M to R. Exactly. So if you want to put that on there as one of the reasons why we're saying no is that because Bushwick means jobs and no, they indicate that they say. But they know then they say that they don't have room to do or they, you can do manufacturing, it can be done, and you can do housing. So I feel that we should stick to our, to our guns and what we want and let the chips fall where they may for because they're going to know that we're going to set a precedent that we said no M to R. And that's basically it.

**Anne:** And again, the BSA variance process is not like the standard you lurk you know rezoning process there are different mechanisms, and they have different ways of, you know approval processes. But I think that's what we could say we say, we could say no, because we requested no MTR. And one of the things just for the wider conversation here. We what one of the arguments was the site was too small to be economically viable. So we had a big conversation about that, and we said, let's get more information about that let's reach out to Evergreen Exchange, who works with manufacturers in the community, to explain to us what is economically viable and what is not so that we can be better informed on those issues. And then, you know, judge things for ourselves, so that was part of the conversation as well. Obviously, it's not necessarily part of the recommendation, but we'll share that information as we get it as well.

**Celeste:** And I'll just note that the BSA did reach out to us on this asking for the Board's recommendation. **J. Brown:** I wanted to comment just to echo what Camacho said we denied the variance based on Bushwick's policy of not supporting projects that convert land from M to R because that's our blanket policy that's currently in place, so our reasoning is simply the policy that the community has agreed to.

I second their recommendation. Okay. All in favor, so moved.  
Thank you everyone.

**Permits and Licenses – Melissa Carrera**

DorDor gallery located at 45, Irving Avenue, the committee's recommendation is for the establishment to comply with the stipulation of no sales of alcohol after 12am On Sundays, you know, hours are as is 12pm to 8pm, seven days a week.

Cherry on Top at 379 Suydam Street this is the wine bar located right off Wyckoff, near that corner. The committee recommends for the hours to be for Friday, Saturday, up until 2am and then Sunday through Thursday 1am with no sales of alcohol past midnight on Sunday, and also with the prospect of no amplified music outdoors.

Bushwick Friendship LLC, located at 941 Willoughby Avenue, and the committee is recommending for the hours of 4pm to 2am Sunday through Thursday and Friday and Saturday 4pm to four, eight, and this is just being, keeping in mind, they're in the corner of that like dead end on Myrtle and Evergreen. So it's like primary residential you already have Birdie's and other bars within 500 feet. So we want to also be mindful of that and our neighbors, and also within agreement of the board stipulation of no sales of alcohol past 12am on Sunday.

Petrani Corp at 128 Central Avenue, the former Archie's, hours Sunday through Thursday, 11am to 2am. And then Friday and Friday through Saturday 11am to 4am, and with the agreement of no sales of alcohol past 12am on Sundays.

Cornelia Cafe located at 523 Evergreen Avenue. The owner asked for modification and the hours and the committee recommended the hours of Sunday through Thursday until 2am, Friday and Saturday to 4am. Also with the agreement of the bands DJs and no use of the subwoofer in their stereo system, which was also explicit in the meeting that they came to in December. And that sums up the recommendations for committee.

**Anne Guiney:** I'm sure there, I can't remember the address, but the one with the rooftop bar or the hours for the bar, the outdoor bar, 379 Suydam Street. There's I mean, there's a lot of residential right around there so if, if there's a rooftop bar open till two, I would just I would flag that.

**Melissa:** Yeah, I think we have here in the notes of putting looking at the notes we have here, that they agreed to no amplified music outdoors and then also to work with the board on, you know any noise complaints going forward I know during the committee, and we discussed having them open until 12pm, rather than the 1am or 2am. And also you know being mindful of neighbors, being mindful of the noise that might spill out from the outdoor rooftop.

**Anne:** The only thing I would is, but if, well, I guess. And this is a question for you since you've been running this committee has that ability to say work with people after the fact, after we grant them the license. Has that been as effective as just sort of putting stipulations at the beginning? But I defer to your experience on that.

**Celeste:** I would say, recently, and it could be related to the pandemic, although we do have one example of a bar that was, you know, essentially, causing a lot of issues for a particular resident, this person notified us, it was a non-issue once restaurants basically quote you know closed again

for in-person dining, but once they announced that restaurants were going to reopen, they were very concerned and they didn't know what the hours for the backyard, were going to be there was no specific stipulation on this backyard. They had been closing I think prior to the pandemic probably like 11 o'clock to midnight, and it was incessant. So this person had asked like about when are they closing, you know, is it going to be 11 Is it going to be 10. I reached out to the owner. And I let them know what was going on, got back to me right away, and they said you know they wish that the person would have reached out to them which we understand why that doesn't happen sometimes. But basically, it was faster than some of the other responses that I've gotten granted this is one person. Some people aren't as polite and willing to work with the board but they did actually come to the board like semi-recently like within the past year so I think that that there could have been a willingness just based on previous conversations, but certainly not everybody does that, right, some people will just say oh my license says this I don't care. Granted, they don't say it just like that, but it's more of the tone of their response and just you know, but I think we've seen a little bit of improvement in terms of folks wanting to work with us and we always suggest some of the tools from the Office of Nightlife now which include the MEND program, which is supposed to be designed specifically to help residents that are having issues with these establishments and that's when they will step in, like if we're not effective, then the Office of Nightlife will step in and try to mediate like with mediation tools a solution.

**Melissa:** Yeah, it just to add on to that, Celeste. I know that the folks over at Cherry on Top did share with us that they're willing to work with the board if the noise did become an issue right and they feared also the drawings etc. I don't know how helpful those would be like the kind of wall that they're creating for them and the building next door, but, you know, having them, you know, own previous businesses and also you know, share all of that with us. It's something I think worth talking about in our next meeting, so we can set maybe a stipulation or something and agreement, going forward with any businesses having rooftops or outdoor spaces. I think it's something worth talking about. Yeah. Yeah, go ahead, Barbara.

**Barbara Smith:** You have a lot of applications, you know, this is probably the first one in the last, I would say two years and probably just because of the pandemic that people have been doing sidewalk, you know, and outdoor stuff now besides that it has not been something common. It's very rare, because I'm getting a lot of complaints about five work, because they are disabled outside the hospital for the day space downstairs, and over your establishment people live. The cables are blocking the entrance to the building. Nicely because when they come home, they got to tell whoever sitting at the table, excuse me, so they could get to the end, did you have any complaints about. This is a lot of value. And you know what I think it should be a nice day, feet from the doorway to pitcher playable. Because nobody's people assigned to make money in a hardship, they cannot stop the people that live in the building for having. Okay, everybody. Thank you.

**Melissa:** I appreciate that feedback, I would love to know that the establishment that's having issues with people getting, you know, to their home, without having to bump into any tables or chairs. I know that the committee has done their job of looking at you know drawings outside what that looks like that there's enough square footage, between people that there's enough pathway for

them to make it home and to actually walk, you know, down the street without any problems. So I think it would be great to know the business, and just figure out what we can do to support them. support. Sometimes, sometimes they do it upon their own selves to you definitely. You know what, they just don't care about the building now to have a good time, you know, so we'll get to add just get to play some we'll make sure that we'll check out the day that they don't do that, and we'll let them know that they can block the front of the apartments where people got to go when they.

**Celeste:** Well, it was a while back ago we yeah, we spoke directly to the, if it's, I believe it was Gordo's Cantina. I spoke directly to the owners and since we put in that information. I have not heard back. I believe the person who was complaining to us about that specific location, ended up moving anyways. I went by personally twice once on a Friday night once on a Saturday night just to get a better sense after we spoke to them to make sure it wasn't just like lip service. And I didn't there wasn't anyone while I was passing by there that was audibly speaking very loud, it was very calm. So, it was also getting colder so we know what the warmer weather, you know, folks are going to be out they're going to want to talk, but we have to take complaints as they come in so absolutely if we hear any locations we always contact them directly and give them a chance and if not, there are regulations DOT will send an inspector, and if the regulations aren't corrected, they may get a violation, you know, so. Oh yeah, last meeting we made. But let me say nine years ago, nationality was the one that started the liquor license because they came to the board wanted to assess, the establishment. And it was so many people coming to the board decided to open up the committee that mailed to them. So it's not open enough data wants to open the door for new beginning.

Yeah, it's, it's amazing you know how they were so humble when they came to us to serve wine and beer, like, eight, nine years ago, and now look there, you know, they were pushed to the side now they're opening up bigger spots before with like a little storefront something to have wine and beer and it was so many people that came and it was wonderful that we had to stock them with the license committee, you know on the board, that's how we got started.

So, if there are no other comments or questions about the recommendation. Going once, going twice. May I suggest the blanket vote to cover all of the recommendations for establishing. Melissa Carrera made a motion for a blanket vote. Raul Rubio seconded the motion. Jo-Ena Bennet abstained. None opposed. So moved.

**Celeste:** Is there a motion for the committee recommendation?

Melissa Carrera made a motion in support of the Permits and Licenses Committee recommendations. Egaudy Gomez seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

## 8. **Old Business**

None

## 9. **New Business**

**Barbara Jackson:** Go follow elected officials. Primary coming up. The rank choice voting fight. There's not been given out, letting us know how how's it going to be in a poll worker, there's confusion with normal voting, something different. So many of the new elected officials, what are they doing?

**Samy Nemir Olivares:** Yeah. Hi, this is basically there's, I mean me Samy. So we're doing a lot of things. We sent a letter, this week to run nice, pay, pay, blah, who is the Commissioner of the Board of Election, asked him precisely this, what, what training and how our poll workers are going to be trained to being educated about rank choice voting, And they responded that we're basically pressuring them, because we don't see as much movement and require for something that is so historic consequential so we're pressuring for training so that trainings are better for co-workers. Assemblywoman have analyzed the female distributor and on the other disagree there, we will be working to the list of our poll workers to make sure that they understand the new system ranking coding as well. In the next two months we will be three months we will be doing public forums to educate the community about how run choice voting work for the voters so both working with workers and walking with the voters, but I agree. I feel that the city's not doing enough. But there's a lot of bills and push for elected officials to the board of elections to increase the budget and make sure that they are announcing and educating the public. They have already started doing radio spots and TV and other newspaper location but of course it's not enough because of COVID. And we expect that they will be suddenly mailers closer to the election with information on how to work so I will be as a district leader doing, you know forums in Bushwick about that so look out for that. So close to the primaries.

They need to pin down because you have a bias thing to do get out and vote for you. Before the primary and say, Oh, this is how we're going to do it. Oh, I agree, and we and we send them, we, we contact the commissioner directly. And because we're not satisfied with their response. We are actually going to increase escalate our tactics and we might be sending a public letter, or other measures necessary so I agree it's too late, actually they need to start doing it now. See anything oh yes, I did but I received a phone. Ah, friendly, friendly, send me information. Again, anything else.

Okay, so we'll see if we can get someone because they, we really need education for regards to this new procedure that's going on. And not only the 53rd the 54th because we have an election and a 54th, and they're going to give it. What I didn't win everything everybody don't know how to do it, and that one, us, us and we need the representation, you're going to have people that are not going to be in regard to our agenda and push our agenda. We're going to go with their personal agenda so we really need to follow up on that meet our follow up and find out what's the status in regards, when people send you stuff early in that at the time when people have voted that they don't know that that's what they normally do when they want to sneak in their goodbyes or their or whatever it is how we will find out. Thank you. Let's move either boride reciting we can invite the Board of electron or unknown party center organization that can give a small presentation before the June primaries as well. I can connect that so I will share some resources. Okay, sounds good.

**Celeste:** Thank you. Is there any other new business, board members? I do have a question here in the Q&A so I'm not sure if this individual from the public would like to speak on it, but I wanted to make sure it was addressed. I'll read the question and then I'll come if the board says it's okay and opportunity to speak on the question is working me express. One moment please. Just a reminder to please mute. Hold on one second. All right, where can we express concerns about garbage and cleanliness in front of businesses and trash bins, my children to comment every single day we walk outside and how do we not take care of our Earth, then ask Why is everything so dirty. So this is coming from a member of the public, I'm not sure if they would like to speak a little bit more on this, but just to give them the opportunity is that okay with the committee, briefly, or the board, excuse me. Okay, one moment, and my apologies if I mispronounce your name, either ADIA or ADEA. I'm going to mute you know, you should be able to say, yeah, yes.

**Adia, Bushwick Resident:** Thank you. Yeah, I was just asking because I live near Myrtle and Knickerbocker in that area, and I just I've been here for almost, almost two or three years, and it's just really the trash is in front of the stores. When I'm walking with my children, like it's pretty gross. And I just, and I lived in other neighborhoods and I've seen other businesses in other neighborhoods and it's not as dirty for the lack of a better way to describe it and I just want to know, what can we do and what can I do to improve it for business owners, or I don't know who handles that where they're cleaning the area for our children.

**Mr. Camacho:** So yeah, if you know locations and places we normally like to educate because they're supposed to storefronts are supposed to be cleaning 18 inches over the curb, and they're supposed to be doing their due diligence. If they're not, that we will educate the first, and then they should be getting some answers. And that's what they should be getting because it's not fair, or that the storefront should be dirty, and we shouldn't be looking dirty just like to say like any other to mean. And sometimes we see ourselves our own people, instead of putting the stuff in the can and they throw it in the floor. So we've been waiting, it's in the cans are, they're so full that there is just all over. It's, it was done like if you have a location given location on Bleecker and Knickerbocker it's discussed okay. And then, and then Knickerbocker that next were that right before the Met foods. It's like what the train station, that it's like between a restaurant, I don't know if that buildings abandoned but it's just it's like birds. It looks infested, and I'm just like, they have we have gotten several complaints we went to MTA they put the net, but you know that, are there people sitting there feeding the birds to pieces when they're not supposed to be feeding the pigeons. So, that's right. Like that's on the corner where Tom has his new restaurant. And of course. Yeah, I know where it's at by the plaza. By the new restaurant that they are opening. Ah, yeah, yeah that area. Yes, for sure until the time I seen it I know what we'll take care of it.

**Adia:** Yeah. And so, thank you. The city bank that's right around the corner, right, this is I mean, it's almost like you know I property manage the building I live in, so I've cleaned the bill material in our building, and I get frustrated because I'm like wait, how are we getting a chicken for a cup and Citibank has like tracks all over and it's, it's just not being claimed, I guess they can afford it, I can't. But yeah, if there's something that can be walked by that point those corners every day with my kid.

**Celeste:** Okay. Absolutely, thank you. And just for folks to know whenever you have issues like this you can always contact us in the board's office. I wanted to give her a moment to speak just because she's waited throughout the meeting, but absolutely we continue working with sanitation, the sanitation working group, who address this particular area's sanitation enforcement. But what can community members do? Speak to your elected officials, let them know this is important, make sure that they know, right, that they need to fund sanitation to be able to do the work. We are seeing the impact of budget cuts. We are seeing the impact of so many things and often we don't know what's going on, but we can tell when we notice garbage isn't being collected. So I know we've gotten a lot of complaints within the last several weeks there have been some slowdowns. So just being mindful of all of that, please let us know when you have a problem, we will pass it along and we will continue to put pressure, and of course support sanitation to have the resources they need to do to do the job. Okay, if there's no other new business, the next item on the agenda is announcements, a minute and a half.

#### 10. Announcements

**Celeste:** I believe all of our elected officials, you should be able to unmute yourselves, I'll just go through the list and then you tell me if you have anything.

**Haris Khan, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office:** Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Chair for calling this home; definitely feels like it after today and we'll be here, attending these meetings and in that spirit, you know, you mentioned. There was some talk about rank choice voting and I know in other community boards I cover the Campaign Finance Board and other agencies have done presentations for board members. And even that is not enough, we totally understand that in our office that the outreach has been lacking, but I know the district leader mentioned he will reach out but if we can also play a role in that, or if you think that's necessary, we're always here to help make those connections possible. But the more the merrier, or I'll contact the district leader we'll do it together, but yes, I actually do these trainings myself but in the weekends in my personal capacity for some democratic club that I'm part of, and it's definitely very important to understand and figure out because like you said, the people who will understand this will be at an advantage versus those who don't. And then in terms of the Comptroller and the work we're doing. I'm going to drop in the chat, our community newsletter for spring. It highlights some of the work we've done to respond to this pandemic. It talks about food insecurity, the need to make community colleges, tuition free. And also, we've supported a call to move that forward to all four-year colleges as well. There's a bill in the state called the New Deal for CUNY. We've also called for tax breaks and tax incentives for small businesses that are in high corridors, you know, the major corridors and throughout our city when those corridors go dark. That leads to public safety risks, and also hurts our neighborhoods. And we've also divested \$4 billion from our pension funds, and that's the largest divestment in the world. So I'll share that in the chat and I'll also share our MWBE University series. We just announced that last week and that's part of our work to support small businesses it's a yearlong programming series, a bunch of different workshops. We'll be attending several because government contracting isn't something, I'm familiar with so I encourage anybody interested to feel free to attend to those and participate in those, and language translation will be available I believe in 10 or 11 languages for that and if

there's others that are not you could also let us know. And I will drop, both of these into the chat, and as always feel free to reach out there any issues we can assist with and I'll definitely follow up on that ranked choice. Thank you.

**Julio Salazar, Congresswoman Velazquez's office:** Hey, good evening, everyone. Thank you. Thank you, Celeste and thank you to the board, just a quick update. One thing I'd want to share is the Congresswoman's office is still working remotely so I do urge anyone to please feel free to reach out to my email. If you guys are having any issues or concerns with any federal programs or agencies but I do want to say with the American Rescue Plan, signed into law. Just a few days ago, it made, I'll save you, straight the details on a lot of it because there's a lot, but made progress on the front of stimulus checks, Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, SNAP benefits, and it includes money for cities and state, state governments, and some of that money is of course going to go to some of the issues that has been discussed here, we'll be talking about sanitation and we're talking about law enforcement, and in the areas of quality of life, you know, that's the, that's where that money is the right to that's and that's what that's for to help cities and help states, fill in that gap, that, that they need to provide that quality of life. But I would say, a lot of information is posted on the congresswoman's website. Again it's a, it was a big bill, a big package so there's a lot of details but I just wanted to share that with you. If you're having issues with the latest stimulus check if you're a non-filer, you know, please contact me if you don't receive it in the next few days. We can help you guys as possible, but other than that, thank you so much, and please feel free to reach out to the Congresswoman's office. Thank you.

**Marcus Harris, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams office:** Everyone just FYI on Wednesdays Borough President Adams will be doing Wellness Wednesdays, this coming Wednesday, actually next Wednesday and the following week, there'll be a focus on dementia. So those people who are caretakers or know someone who's experiencing that you can join the Wellness Wednesday, you can go to brooklyn-usa.org for the information. Also, just as a reminder that the IRS on tax deadline has been extended to May 17 instead of April 15. So just for those of you who are trying to get that we're trying to work normally we have people do tax preparation in our office. We're trying to see how that can be done at this time, so I'll be able to give you more information a little later. One of the last things I have is just we also have a Parent University. If you go to NYC classes and stuff for parents that they can take. Um, last thing is just I want to make sure that we understand March is Women's History Month and so definitely want to celebrate all of our women, it's Colon Cancer Awareness Month, and most of you know that four years ago at the age of 37 that got diagnosed with colon cancer. So we just want to make sure that even in the midst of the pandemic, people are still checking their health and making sure that they're following up with their doctors to make sure that they're safe. That's it for me.

**Mr. Camacho:** When you're going to do the taxes, please, you do have we want to wear masks, we want to get the shield in front to protect because now what they want you to do is do an appointment. They want you to give you their personal stuff, you give it to them and then they will do it. People not dropping off no taxes if they miss papers, or God forbid something goes wrong, then the sponsor will for free. That's what they're doing, and people are not dropping them things.



**Marcus:** Oh, yeah. I'm with you I work in the building and I still wouldn't want to drop off my personal information and leave it with anyone. So that's one of the, one of the simple trials, we're trying to get over right now. The hurdle. **Mr. Camacho:** That's why I summarize seniors, the people that are retiring their own home, they're saying I'm not dropping that off over there because I don't know if I might get my paper back in a fall, the one thing you want to work with the person right there, make sure everything is done. **Marcus:** And that's the way it should be done, but we'll do that. Oh, I'm sorry I did forget I did mention about Broadway, and Ralph and Lexington Avenue as far as the crosswalk DOT has said that they are putting it on their schedule, I'm just waiting to follow up to see, as you guys know I'm on the other side of Broadway so that's right, but I still go to the supermarket, so I do see that. So we're just waiting to hear back from them.

**Joshua Brown:** Quick question Marcus, Joshua. Hey, when is our borough president coming to see CB4? I'm just following up from my March question. **Marcus:** Oh you know what, that's a great question. I know we were supposed to do it earlier and I apologize I was supposed to follow up, and I do apologize, I will put that request and ask him if April is a good one. I want to give him as much time as possible so that way we can put it on the calendar.

**Celeste:** All right, thank you, Marcus. **Marcus:** No problem.

**Noel Allain, The Bushwick Starr:** Yeah, I just wanted to let everyone know, I started to say this prematurely earlier in the meeting, but we are, you know the Starr lost its space earlier this year, and we have been undergoing the process of finding a new home for the theater, and I'm happy to say we've found a location that for 19 Eldert. It's a dead-end block right off of Wyckoff. We are just, you know now undergoing the long process, now that we've gotten deed there, of building a new theater. It'll take a while, but I wanted to just announce to the board that that has happened that we'll be undergoing this move and I'll certainly be communicating and working with the board throughout the process of putting this new facility in Bushwick. We're very excited because it will be a permanent, you know, a permanent home for the theater and therefore you know permanent art space in the neighborhood that we're excited to continue our work at. And that's all. Thank you.

**John Stanesco, Coalition for Hispanic Family Services:** Okay, wonderful. Hello everybody. So, as always you can talk to me about free after school services, as well as our daytime Learning Lab programs offering childcare for children on their remote learning days. But I'm also excited to tell you all about a couple special events we have coming up for the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services, community programs. Spring break is coming up March 29 to April 2, and we are offering a free Spring Break day camp for elementary students that's grades K through five. And so, you know, we would be offering free childcare as well as two other events, this Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Women's History Month, we are hosting an outdoor fitness workout and luncheon from 11am to 1pm at IS 291, which is 231 Palmetto between Knickerbocker and Wilson. Also, next Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> at Hope gardens Community Center, we are hosting a family night for all ages and that's from 6pm to 9pm at 422 Central between Palmetto and Woodbine. So if you're interested in any of these events, I can share some of these flyers with Celeste and I don't know if you might be able to distribute them. But if you or any parents, you know, could use

childcare services we have both in person and virtual programming. We've got your back and just let us know. Thank you.

**Dara Ruiz, ASPCA:** I'm here. Wonderful, thank you so much and thank you, Celeste, Community Board for having me here. We are opening our Brooklyn Community Veterinary Center. March 30 is our grand opening and normally we would have more fanfare, but due to the pandemic we're on the ground doing outreach but we're also attending, of course community meetings and community board meetings to let you know, our Community Veterinary Center is going to be offering low cost and fully subsidized vet care for all Brooklyn residents and their pets: dogs and cats. So that means vaccinations, flea and tick medicine, basic medical care. Additional pet care information as well as spay and neuter services were at 464 New Lots Avenue and East New York between Livonia and Bradford streets, and our hours are Tuesday through Saturday, nine to five. We're closed Sundays and Mondays, and to make any appointments medical appointments I can put the number in the chat, it's 844-MYASPCA, and again we are here for all Brooklyn residents that have pets, dogs and cats, low cost, and fully subsidized services. So March 30 is our grand opening, and we would love to have you and bring your pets for care.

**Raul Rubio:** thank you, question this is Raul Rubio. I got a tortoise. So we got nothing for those guys? **Response:** So, I can actually connect you. We've got a couple of veterinarian partners in some of different boroughs for exotics and I would be happy to connect you. Unfortunately, our Community Veterinary Center just sees dogs and cats. But again, I'm happy to put my information in the chat and we can connect offline. I'd be happy to connect you with another veterinarian partner. **Raul:** That'd be great because I need to take her in for a checkup. So,

**Roger Clemmons, Brooklyn Public Library:** Yes, we currently have grab and go and BPL patrons will have access to 15 Select branch lobbies for quick transactions holds pickup and return bins will also be available. Masks are required for both patrons and staff materials that are checked out and during this time will not accrue fines for the time being on items checked out before the closure. And while our in-person events are on hold, we are offering virtual programming via Facebook live broadcasts, zoom meetings, and streaming from our branch staff.

**Samy Nemir, CB4 Board Member/Male District Leader – 53<sup>rd</sup> AD:** Yes, I want to remind everyone of tomorrow's Community Education Council meeting that was previously mentioned on the youth and education committee, super important, the conversation about elementary and middle schools, but my main announcement comes from, as a member of the Bushwick Civic Political Club that many of you are also members to announce and next in line of the rank choice voting and on the, on the upcoming June primaries, we are going to host in Bushwick. The first forum for to hear from the city council candidates that will be representing Bushwick, from District 34 which represents Antonio Reynoso seat and district 37 current Councilwoman Darma Diaz. Those two seats are open for election in June. So it's Thursday. Thursday March 25 at 6pm to 6:30pm, and I'm going to put the link in the chat where you can register. If not, you can reach

out to me if you want to get the registration. This will be an opportunity for the community to ask them questions, see what are their plans for our community, both super important so we can know our plan to, to lead our committee probably for the next 10 years, because this new term will last, you know, the next council members could last there for the next eight years, so come by if you cannot attend please send us the questions and we will be happy to ask them. Thank you.

Thank you, Samy.

**Virgie Jones, CB4 Board Member/YEC Chairperson:** Okay, so one of the announcements was already made about the 291 on Saturday, from 11am to 1pm. The next one that I have is that ABENY is hosting their herstory on Saturday from 12pm to 2:30pm. And the website is you have to register [www.abeny.org](http://www.abeny.org). And that Saturday we're having young people, poets, singers, and things of that nature. Thank you.

Thanks for last call announcements. Hearing none, we'll move on with our second roll call please be ready. Yep.

**Barbara Smith, CB4 Board Member/83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Council President:** We set up a new thing with the NCO, but we'll talk about that another time. Thank you.

### 11. Second Roll Call

**Celeste:** Before we do the second roll call I'm going to unmute--I had to mute some of the callers that had some feedback on their lines. I'm just going to unmute you all to make sure you can participate in the second roll call. Alright, please be ready.

**Board Members in attendance:** Odolph Wright (technical issues – no sound), Jerry Valentin, Barbara Smith, Julio Salinas, Raul Rubio, Acire Polight, Zulma Novoa, Samy Nemir Olivares, Mary McClellan, Luisa Jose, Virgie Jones, Kristen Jock, Barbara Jackson, Tanesha Honeygan, Anne Guiney, James Fitzgerald, Victoria Fernandez, Elvena Davis, Daniella Davi, Melissa Carrera, Robert Camacho, Rawle Brown, Joshua Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett

### 12. Adjournment

Raul Rubio made a motion to adjourn. Zulma Novoa seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:13pm