

**PUBLIC HEARING AND GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEEITNG  
MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**Attendance:**

Kwame Afreh  
Tiffany Anderson  
Berlotte Antoine  
Hassan Bakiriddin  
Celia Belyn  
David Boatswain  
Theresa Brereton  
Venancia Colon  
Rodrick Daley  
Natasha Duncan  
Rose Graham  
Doris Jones  
Trisha Louison  
Edith Mark  
Daniel McCabe  
Donna McLean-Grant  
June Persaud  
Deborah Pointer  
Carol Reneau  
Bernadette Selby  
Antoinette Smart  
Tyron Stearns  
Symone Sylvester  
Marguerite Vigliante  
Kenrich Wescott  
Melanie Wilkerson

Asshur Cunningham  
Hermina Daniels  
LaShawn Freeman  
Charles Galbreath  
Gail Grandison  
Ronald Greene  
Michael Hill  
Whitney Humphrey  
Kevin Jason  
Nicole Julius  
Brandon Mathurin  
Jibrill Morris  
Fatima Muhammad  
Khadijat Oluwo  
Monzurat Oni  
Kadidiattou Ouedraogo  
Aron Roth  
Kimberley Shelly  
Kamara Swaby  
Heslat Tursun  
Ivor Wood

The meeting of the Public Hearing and General Community Board was called to order by Chairperson, Rodrick Daley.

The meeting discussed various topics including improvements to the meeting experience, community initiatives, crime statistics, property issues, and license applications.

He introduced Seargent of Arm Ms. Melanie Wilkerson who greeted everyone and announced New practices are being implemented to improve the meeting experience in person and online.

- Seating arrangements have been designated for different groups, including elected officials, agency members, and community board members.

- Time constraints will be enforced with a timer system for speakers, with different time limits for elected officials, agency members, and members of the public.

## Committee Report.

Budget: It was announced copies of the Board Priorities were emailed to members and the Board will be voting on the Letter of Comment for FY'26 Budget Priorities.

Commerce: Quorums are needed to address license voting, not discussing previous license discussions.

two on site visits are scheduled with two different establishments. Committee members are encouraged to participate.

The business networking breakfast was postponed, the approval for the location was late and pressure placed on some vendors who were sponsoring the breakfast, they couldn't meet the time, the event will be re-scheduled.

The committee is also working on the Sumptuous Sampling event. This will be in conjunction with East Flatbush Restaurant Week.

Discussions are on-going for a small business expo for the community. This will be in partnership with the mayor's office and council member Farah Lewis.

- Zaria events and Club Julian are recommended for approval by the committee.
- Legacy Lounge, an adult use dispensary, has been presented to the board multiple times.
- The owners of Legacy Lounge express frustration with negative feedback from the community board.
- Founder of non-profit organization GMAC Incorporated credited with reducing gun violence and stopping motors in the community.
- New York State has over 300 dispensaries and has generated over \$1 billion in tax revenue.

Community Board 17 is considering an application for a license for a dispensary on East 59th Street

## Other reports include:

Community center partnership for cleanup

- reach out to Chair Antoine for more information.
- Personnel report on the probation extension of one year for one staff to improve attendance.
- \$750 million has been allocated for the improvement of downstate, with a focus on staffing and infrastructure.
- Board members are encouraged to apply for a free summer camp program for their children.
- NYPD Overall crime has decreased by 10%, but there has been an increase in reported rapes.

- Robberies have increased by 21% in the past month, with half of them being domestic incidents.
- The closure of prohibition of youths being allowed into Target without parents is in effect.
- Community organizations working to save homes on NYC lean sale, offering assistance and door knocking.
- The Department of Finance sends notices about leans to homeowners, but absentee owners may not receive them.
- Generational wealth is important and support for family members is encouraged.
- Efforts are being made to address tax liens and prevent properties from being bought by others.
- Community members should take action, including door knocking and contacting the Department of Finance, to prevent property issues.
- The new community center, "The Yard," is opening with free events and resources for the community.
- The office is working on updates regarding the costal waste transfer station and lean sale outreach.
- Target and McDonald's implemented a policy due to safety concerns, and meetings with property owners are planned.
- The mayor's office is focusing on the Every Black count Initiative to reduce crime in the community.

### **Action items**

- Organize a community walkthrough of the DeCostole facility
- Distribute dates for the tax lien sale and notify affected community members
- Stay updated on capital improvement for Railroad Park and other activities
- Coordinate the annual Park and Beautification Committee event in August, including a plant swap
- Contact Linda Turner to express condolences
- Work on improving Downstate with a focus on staffing, infrastructure, and access to better care
- Invite Clear Patterson Mona, the community liaison person, to the next meeting or social services meeting for questions and comments
- Appoint Daniel McCabe as the interim acting treasurer and hold an official vote next month for the treasurer position
- Work on the move and address any issues with Miss Louison
- Discuss any urgent issues related to licenses from previous meetings
- Contact the NCO sergeant in the back to get in touch with someone from the Precinct who can answer questions about the closure of the prohibition of youths being allowed into Target without their parents
- Attend the door knocking sessions at the Clarendon branch library to help property owners get their properties off the New York City lean sale list before May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Inform community members about how to check if they are on the lean sale list through the Department of Finance website

- Encourage community members to support their family members and think of generational wealth
- Provide information on organizations with remaining funds for utility assistance grants
- Follow up with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the coastal waste transfer station and ensure community engagement before moving forward
- Provide information and support regarding lean sale outreach workshops and assist property owners with resolving their leans
- Collaborate with Brooklyn Level Up to address the impact of lean sales on black and brown constituents in Community Board 17
- Conduct a site walkthrough with community board members, PS 109, and local stakeholders regarding the coastal waste transfer station
- Coordinate efforts to address tax liens and reach out to property owners
- Follow up on the progress of Every Black Count Initiative and its impact on crime reduction
- Plan and organize the monthly community advisory board meeting on Sunday, March 30th
- Schedule appointments with immigration attorneys for community members in need
- Provide assistance in addressing existing housing issues and navigating the housing connect system
- Refer constituent issues with city agencies to appropriate resources
- Address any potential noise concerns from neighbors of Club Julian
- Provide security at Club Julian
- Resume port cleanups starting in May
- Confirm if there is quorum for voting on licenses
- Vote on the recommendation for Legacy Lounge
- Confirm the correct address for the dispensary application (5901 and 5911)
- Attend the co-naming event at 3521 Utica Avenue on Saturday
- Submit requests for funding for any projects

Votes:

Vote on Club Julian Inc. 23 Yes

Vote on Zuriah Event LLC – 24 Yes

Vote on Legacy Lifestyle Cannabis LLC – 20 Yes, 4 No 2 Abstention

There being no further issues or questions, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, (motion inaudible)