

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Report

April 16, 2025

Before the Meeting

- Lieutenant Schack and Sgt. Carolina noted that the 72nd Precinct has a new commanding officer, Captain Mobeen Yasin, and took questions from those assembled.
 - Katie Walsh noted that a cyclist was hit at 56th St and 4th Ave, in an area that was supposed to be daylighted but was blocked, and urged enforcement of this issue.
- Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes provided an update on the NY State Budget.

Opening of Meeting

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

- Moved to adopt – *Pat Ruiz*
Seconded – *Sam Sierra*
Passed by unanimous consent.

Approval of March 19, 2025 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – *Karen Rolnick*
Seconded – *Gladys Bruno*
Passed by unanimous consent.

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY State Senator Steve Chan – *represented by Ray Morales*
- Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso – *represented by Alicia Rey-Miller*
- US Representative Dan Goldman
- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Edward Cerna*
- NY State Assemblymember Robert Carroll – *represented by Sean Gurl*
- NY City Councilmember Shahana Hanif – *represented by Iara Shafik*
- Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez – *represented by John Watkins*
- NY State Senator Zellnor Myrie – *represented by Anthony Gay*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- NY State Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes – *represented by Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar*

First Public Comment on topics covered on the agenda

- None

Committee Reports

Joint Committee on Housing and Land Use/Landmarks – *Antoinette Martinez*

- Antoinette Martinez discussed the Committee’s recent meeting, which included representatives from the Fifth Avenue Committee and Councilmember Hanif’s office. They joined to discuss the Arrow Linen Community Benefits Agreement (CBA).
- Residents provided feedback about the project and the agreement, noting concerns about participation and transparency.
- The CBA includes 250 units of housing, green space, and commitments for providing community space to a daycare, a domestic violence prevention organization, a South Asian Community organization, and a construction task force.
- 100 units of the housing will be permanent affordable housing, as low as 30% AMI, which complies with Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) I regulations.
- The committee will soon meet to discuss a project at the St. Rocco’s Church site.
- While a rezoning is expected, this meeting is not part of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process and the ULURP clock has not started on any project at that location. The project as filed would replace the current buildings with 13, 8, and 7 story buildings, as well as retail space.
- The Committee will host an informational event with Department of Homeless Services and the non-profit organization Help USA regarding a 200-bed homeless shelter planned for 225 25th St.

Education, Health, and Human Services – Rosy Mota

- Rosy Mota discussed the upcoming Community Education Council vote on April 25.

Joint Committee on Transportation and Land Use/Landmarks – Diana Gonzalez

- Diana Gonzalez provided a recap of the joint committee meeting, where representatives from the Department of City Planning (DCP) discussed a proposed amendment to define and regulate last-mile warehouse/trucking facilities.
- While the proposed amendment will eventually go through the ULURP process, right now it is in the Environmental Scoping Process, which determines what is studied in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- There are two upcoming meetings regarding this proposed amendment: an April 24 information session and a May 6 scoping meeting.
- At present, public comments on the scoping meeting are due on May 16. The Committee urged DCP to extend their deadline so the board can weigh in after its May meeting.

Chairperson’s Report – Julio Peña III

- Julio Peña III reported that he, Jeremy Laufer, Katie Walsh, and John DeLooper met with Councilmember Avilés to discuss the 3rd Avenue redesign and lack of progress on so far. In addition, Peña will meet with members of the BQE Visioning Council’s BQE South Community Partner Program to gather updates on the status of 3rd Avenue, as well as to discuss how members can plug in on advocacy and develop a response.
- Peña recently sent a letter to the Brooklyn Marine Terminal Task Force. While the Board has not taken a position on this project, the letter highlighted the Board’s 197-A plan and described how market-rate housing along the waterfront could have a negative impact on the 197-A plan.

District Manager’s Report – Jeremy Laufer

- Laufer stated that preliminary work for the construction of the 36th Street train station elevator project will start soon. As part of this, National Grid will begin to relocate gas lines to provide space for the station’s construction.

- Brooklyn Rise Charter School will occupy the former site of the BP gas station on 4th Avenue and 40th Street.
- The 2026 City Council Charter Revision Commission has begun meeting. Among other items, they will discuss proposals from the Brooklyn Borough President's Office including: 1.) a central office for community boards, 2.) a budget increase of 80% for all community boards citywide.
- Several streetlights will be installed by the NYC DOT as part of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC)'s Made In NY (MiNY) campus.
- EDC will announce the groundbreaking for the Pier 6 construction over the summer.
- Laufer mentioned to DOT that they should speak with EDC about possible locations on EDC properties for electric vehicle charging stations and for the DOT's carshare program.
- DOT has proposed the sharing of an MTA bus stop with a private coach company on 8th Avenue between 60th and 61st St. CB7 is accepting comments about this proposal.
- CB7 has received 10 new/renewal liquor license applications.

Old Business

- Councilmember Alexa Avilés spoke about the pending closure of the United Senior Citizens of Sunset Park senior center, air tags for senior citizens, and a lawsuit brought by the City Council against Mayor Adams regarding the presence of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Rikers Island.
- Katie Walsh spoke about the special project fund held by EDC that has monies that are to be discussed by the Sunset Park Task Force on how to allocate those funds for the community.

Public Comment

- Cynthia Jeffers stated that the Lions Club Community Resource and Health Fair will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on April 27.
- Ling Ye stated that she was asked by several 8th Avenue business owners to speak about enforcement actions by the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY). DSNY has confiscated many items, sometimes without providing tickets, citations, or receipts. Business owners are losing thousands of dollars of inventory. Vendors acknowledge that some of their actions have not been "by-the-book" but now know that there are rules and want to engage with and learn from city agencies to get into compliance. Meetings should be scheduled at different times, as the Community Board's January 28 Public Safety meeting was held on the eve of Lunar New Year, which meant nobody could attend. A follow-up meeting focused on 8th Avenue should be held, and the Board should take the lead on this issue.
- Taina Evans from the Windsor Terrace Library provided an update on upcoming library programs.
- Mayra Molina introduced herself as a community member in Community Board 7 and discussed her previous experience working with and on the Board in the past.
- Jerry Chan highlighted issues surrounding the street vendor and small business enforcement actions being conducted by the Department of Sanitation on 8th Avenue.

Adjournment