

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Report

October 9, 2024

Prior to Meeting

Public Comment

- Joseph Estrella expressed concerns about public health and safety concerns on 5 Ave. Is concerned about food vendors and the usage of gasoline and propane. Asked the board to create a food truck zone. Concerned that trucks are taking parking spots.
- Kerry spoke about a shelter at 25th St anticipated to open next year. The City and DSS have not been forthcoming with information about the shelter. To her knowledge, nobody opposes shelters. Shelters are necessary and should receive support. Supports fairness, transparency, and accountability. Shelters are a reflection of systemic issues, and our community has been disproportionately chosen, creating an unsustainable situation. City should follow 1989 fair-share policy. Shelter at 25th St will be one of largest ever, and is near pre-k and schools, and in a contaminated warehouse. The developer has a history of lawsuits and unethical practices including stop work orders.
- Don Gabour is concerned about a shelter between 24th and 25th St. He noted concerns about the impact on residents and businesses, as well as police, FDNY, and Greenwood cemetery. Why is this being proposed in our neighborhood? 300 people will be put in a building that is unfit for habitation. Urges board to help fight shelter.
- Kristen has communicated with DSS regarding a shelter, and they've been opaque about what is being built. Research into nonprofit-run shelters has shown alarming details. A shelter in Gowanus pays \$4000 per person per month but the number of sheltered individuals is 60 to 100 at a time or \$16,000 to \$20,000 per person per month. These costs are exorbitant and a misallocation of resources. We must invest in affordable housing and mental health instead of a shelter system that doesn't serve taxpayers and the community. This system exposes misuse of taxpayer funds through lack of oversight or corruption. Wants plans for 25th St stopped and contract transparency.

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III*

- Julio Peña III thanked the new Committee Chairs and mentioned that there are some vacancies for Vice Chairs. Those interested should email the board or contact Julio directly.
- Emphasized importance of quorum at committee meetings, public hearings and board meetings.

- Peña met with the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) concerning 3rd Avenue safety improvements. The District Manager, Katie Walsh and John DeLooper were also in attendance.
- The City DOT announced plans for BQE North and South on the same day as this community board meeting. Peña provided an overview of CB 7's advocacy for 3rd Avenue safety improvements and an update on DOT's study schedule. DOT said at the meeting there will be further delay due to its seeking additional outreach from businesses. DOT did not commit to a timeline for this outreach process.
- NY Wine and Food Festival giveaway announced. Board members and close associates were not eligible.
- Early voting begins October 26.

District Manager's Report - *Jeremy Laufer*

- Peter Lin resigned since the last board meeting.
- The Borough President is holding their public hearing on Arrow Linen on October 9 (same night as this meeting) and will host an air quality monitoring meeting with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the following night. Areas being studied include most of the western sections of the district.
- District Manager Laufer, Julio Peña, and Diana Gonzalez met with Council Member Shahana Hanif to discuss the Arrow Linen project to discuss our experience, and the testimony received as she determines how she will approach the issue.
- The District Manger will meet with DSNY, the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU) and the 72nd Precinct about a possible Neighborhood Support Team for clean up on Third Ave, as well as enforcement efforts beneath the expressway.
- The Annual Fire Department Open House will take place on 10/19 and 10/20.
- 6 new liquor license applications and 0 cannabis applications were submitted since last meeting.
- Small grants for local organizations are available from Equinor. See Board office for additional details.

These Elected Officials Reported:

- Councilmember Rita Joseph
- NYC Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Edward Cerna*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- US Representative Dan Goldman – *represented by Mayra Molina*

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024

Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

Moved to adopt – *Pat Ruiz*

Seconded – *Sam Sierra*

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of minutes of the September 9 and September 12 public hearings

Moved to adopt – *Pat Ruiz*

Seconded – *Damien Andrade*

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of minutes of the September 30 public hearing

Moved to adopt – *Pat Ruiz*

Seconded – *Sam Sierra*

Passed by unanimous consent.

First Public Comment on topics covered on the agenda

- None

Committee Reports

Finance and By-Laws Committee – *Nicholas Jackson*

- Nicholas Jackson reported that the committee held a public hearing on September 30 to discuss the Capital and Expense budget priorities for fiscal year 2026. They reported that a few changes were made to some of the priorities, which Jackson highlighted. The Finance and Bylaws committee met immediately after the public hearing and voted to approve the Capital and Expense budget priorities.
- There was discussion on the motion. Peña called the question on voting to adopt the fiscal year 2026 Capital & Expense budget priorities, which passed via unanimous consent.

Public Safety Committee – *Cynthia Jeffers*

- Cynthia Jeffers reported that the committee met to discuss an adult cannabis retail dispensary application from DISPO BK LLC to be located at 584 4th Avenue.
- Jeffers stated that the committee expressed their concerns about the delivery and security plans for the business. The applicant provided the committee with an executed lease from the property owner, the filled-out questionnaire, and shared their business plan.

- Cynthia Jeffers made a motion to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Barbara Lee. A hand vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- The committee reviewed a liquor license and temporary retail permit application for La Café Nostra & Lounge located at 4106 2nd Avenue.
- The applicant did not show up to the meeting to present their application. Cynthia Jeffers made a motion to disapprove the application. The motion was seconded by Sam Sierra. A hand vote was conducted, and the application was disapproved unanimously.
- The committee also discussed the following applications:
 - New liquor license application from M&M Deli Restaurant Corp. located at 5001 4th Avenue
 - New liquor license application from El Quetzalito 5 Corp. located at 5507 5th Avenue
 - New liquor license application from El Quetzalito 6 Corp. located at 4803 5th Avenue
- The applicants attended the committee meeting to make their presentations and answered the questionnaire. Damien Andrade made a motion to approve these applications. Sam Sierra seconded the motion. There was a discussion on the motion. A hand vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment