

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
(DRAFT) M I N U T E S
December 4, 2023, 6:30pm**

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Co-Chair, LaQuita Henry, with a quorum of Committee Member.

Members Present: Hon. Elizabeth Eastman, Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hon. Heather Jason, Hon. Amir Sadeghi **Excused Present via Virtual:** Hon. Clotilde Monguya, (Belgium, conference abroad). **Absent:** Hon. Patricia Ramos.

Official Leave-of-Absence: Co-Chair, Hon. Dr. Edwin Torres.

The Co-Chair spoke of the importance of being physically present at all meetings and having one's camera on "live face," if virtual.

II. Adopt Agenda

Amir moved to accept agenda, and Monique seconded that motion.

III. Adopt Minutes

No minutes were available for a vote.

V. Presentations

**A. DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION PROMOTING RESIDENTIAL PARKING FOR
COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH CONCERNS**

Invited guests Phillip Maikowski of Transportation Alternatives) and Sarah Lind (Open Plans) spoke about opposing residential parking. Found no residential permits in cities as viable equity middle ground.

In reference to gas emissions, he says that only problem is if more permits are given out for those circling around, giving out more than 5,000 permits for people circling would be significantly more spaces than actual cars and possible more increase in permits. Sarah Lind stated that it would encourage more people, incentivize people to get parking permits. District 9 is relatively dense neighborhood, therefore any increase to have a car would be problematic. Was congestion pricing part of the decision? Yes. She believes that congestion pricing will not resolve the issue.

Monica Dula felt naive on this community –number of students take up parking spaces, people from outside community who drive in and take train further downtown. We pay taxes here and parking permits should be free to our residents. Our community does have one of the biggest increases to those who own cars because they work outside district and buses, public transportation is not available 24 hours. People in the community already pay for spaces, car or no car –city and state taxes.

Victor and echoed Ms. Dula's statements on paying taxes and reminded of rat retention program which takes up many parking spaces; in Weehawken NJ, there is residential parking, so he must leave that space by a certain time. Congestion pricing will increase the number of people wanting to park in this area. Every gallon of gasoline, we pay taxes... He uses a bike and public transportation also.

Heather referenced this is a complex issue --property owners not able to park near the homes or in area; people who live in their cars; people who leave cars idling is also issue; people who attend churches most live outside church; arts and events to attend in our community.

Amir – most people do not have cars, most use public transportation, fewer bus and bike lanes in our area; privatizing the public use of space, residential parking incentivizing people to buy cars. He repeated no urban planners support residential parking,

Sarah stressed important discussion and that they want to help people not have the burden of having a car and what that costs,

B. NYC Department of Health and Mental Health

Pauline Ferrante (INVITED)

Manhattan Community Liaison, Office of External Affairs-DOHMH

No report. Pauline Ferrante not present

**C. THE NYC CLIMATE DASHBOARD,
OFFICE OF THE NYC COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER**

“To track the City's progress toward meeting its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050”

Stephanie Fox

Strategic Organizer for Environmental and Climate Justice

Climate change highlights racial and ethnic disparities. The dashboard shows what's happening throughout NYC communities. Goal to go net zero by 2025. Dashboard shows air pollution and water pipes, levels in the communities over the course of an entire year. Some data is more available in a granular way like water, but not for air to show what's going on in our district. Related to lead, the map is granular and shows down to local buildings- chemical storage facilities, e.g. -- what the lead levels are. Can empower us to advocate for ourselves.

Resiliency highlights coastal flood risks and high it will advance over the course of decades – shows flash flood risks, coastal flood risks, areas most at risk for moderate and extreme water floods.

Can see where agency is expanding investment or under construction.

Heat risk, where City has more vulnerability. Vegetative risks also show what communities need to plan for.

There is a link to a website. Training on climate data dashboard is available. Just contact her. The presentation is about an hour.

D. CONFERENCES INFORMATION

Clotilde Monguya, MD, Member, Community Board 9

In Belgium now, however, attended important conference in London on Sickle Cell Disease. It is a genetic blood disorder of red blood cells which carries oxygen throughout the body, in sickle cell the flow is blocked. The disease is inherited and primarily effects AA and people of color descent. Can cause severe anemia and pain. **BREAKTHROUGH ANNOUNCEMENT** - Now there is a cure through gene therapy and blood transfusion. The disease has been misunderstood as patients seeking help may be confused with drug users because of how they present when at ER. With this new breakthrough – the information has to more widely circulate... And it is important for more people in the community to be involved with clinical trials. Important to know info on our community so that culturally competent care and resources to our community.

Saudi Arabia was a platform for the role of AI in healthcare, data and confidentiality. I always bring the perspective of the underserved. Lot of Americans there. This year Africans and Indians – often overlooked – were in good attendance. The pharmaceutical firms have seen an interest and want to bring more accessibility to them.

E. THE WEST HARLEM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION GRANTEES

1. African Services Committee

Amanda Lugg, Executive Director, africanservices.org

2. Exhale to Inhale, Inc.

Aditi Davray, Chief Program Officer, aditi.davray@exhaletoinhale.org

3. Broadway Housing, Inc., Isaac Adelstein

F. REPORT FROM HARLEM STRONG ON ITS INITIATIVES

Deborah Levine, LCSW, Director, Harlem Health Initiative

City University of New York The Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy (CUNY SPH)

Tomisha Hicks, MPH

Program Manager - Harlem Health Initiative

- i. Breaking Barriers through Leading with Justice webinar series - January 3rd, 2024, from 12 - 1:30pm – Flyer attached and Registration
Link: <https://breakingbarriersthroughleadingwithjustice.eventbrite.com>
- ii. Narcan Training with NYC DOHMH- January 11, 2024, from 2-3pm -- Flyer attached and Registration Link: <https://HHI-narcan-training.eventbrite.com>

VII. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024