



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

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November 21, 2025

New York State Office of Cannabis Management
W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus, 1220 Washington Ave.
Albany, New York 12207

Attention Cannabis Control Board:

At its regularly scheduled **General Board Meeting held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, Manhattan Community Board No. 9** passed the following Letter of Comment re: Part 117 Cannabis Showcase Event regulations by 32 in favor, 1 no, and 2 abstentions.

In accordance with the Marihuana Regulations and Taxation Act (MRTA), signed into law on March 31, 2021, legalizing adult-use cannabis (also known as marijuana, or recreational marijuana in New York State), Manhattan Community Board 9 (MCB9) is submitting comments on the proposed **Part 117 Cannabis Showcase Event regulations** published in the New York State Register on September 24, 2025 during this public comment period.

As one of the most diverse and exciting communities on the island of Manhattan, CB9 includes the neighborhoods of Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights, and the historic Sugar Hill District. Within CB9's boundaries are world-class institutions – Columbia University, The City College of New York, and Riverbank State Park, the third-most-visited state park in New York State. When you add the new Harlem Piers on the stunning Hudson River waterfront to that monumental mix, you begin to understand why West Harlem is one of the most unique neighborhoods in the world. For more about MCB9: https://www.cb9m.org/about_cb9

As a community board (CB), we seek to directly input on all matters that impact our community and its constituents. While our comments are advisory notes, they come from our Cannabis Task Force, formed in January 2022 to focus exclusively on the new industry. Our CB is committed to transparency and to providing the community with the information and access it needs to make informed decisions about its future, in this case, a brand - new industry.

We commend the Office of Cannabis Management and the Cannabis Control Board for advancing a regulatory framework that supports community-based commerce, equitable participation, and responsible public health education. The inclusion of pop-up markets and farmers' market venues creates important new pathways for small businesses and social equity licensees.

Below in **BOLD**, following the proposed regulation, are our comments relating to: § 117.2 (b)(13) Cannabis Showcase Event Permit Eligibility and Application Process

(2) A cannabis showcase event permit must be located at a pop-up location, farmers' market, or public

market. (b) Required Application Information. The applicant shall provide the following information for the proposed cannabis showcase event permit:

(13) an authorization from the municipality where the event is proposed to take place, which shall:

(i) be signed by an official of the municipality where the cannabis showcase event is to take place; (ii) include the cannabis showcase event location, days, and times at which cannabis products are being offered for sale or sold; and (iii) state that the municipality approves or authorized the event

In the aforementioned regulation, the word “municipality” refers to whole jurisdictions like Poughkeepsie, Buffalo, or New York City as a single entity. Because community boards are unique to NYC’s government structure, we urge OCM to redefine what “municipality” means across all cities in the state and strengthen the role of Community Boards within the Local Authorization process outlined in §117.2(b)(13). While the proposed language requires written municipal approval of each event location, dates, and times, it does not specify which municipal entity provides this approval or how public input will be integrated.

In New York City and other municipalities with structured community governance systems, Community Boards are uniquely positioned to review Cannabis Showcase Event applications, solicit resident feedback, and provide formal recommendations prior to municipal approval, similar to the existing process for liquor license applications under the State Liquor Authority.

Additionally, we recommend that the final regulations include:

1. **Mandatory Notification:** Require that Community Boards be notified in writing of any proposed Cannabis Showcase Event within their district boundaries prior to municipal authorization.
2. **Review Period:** Establish a defined period (e.g., 30 days) for Community Boards to review and provide advisory input to the municipality or Office of Cannabis Management.
3. **Transparency and Public Engagement:** Encourage municipalities to maintain accessible public records of proposed and approved events to ensure transparency and community trust.

Community Boards serve as a vital link between local residents, small businesses, and government agencies. Their inclusion strengthens community confidence, ensure local safety coordination, and promote equitable implementation of the cannabis law across diverse neighborhoods.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and respectfully request that the OCM incorporate these recommendations into the final rule.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me and/or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor Edwards".

Victor Edwards
Chair

Cc: Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member