



Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Morningside Heights

**CB9 Cannabis Taskforce
Thursday, February 23, 2023**

MINUTES FROM ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT

CB9 Members: Miriam Aristy-Farer (Co-Chair), Monique Hardin-Cordero (Co-Chair), Carlton Davis, Sean Farrow, Daria Hardeman LaQuita Henry, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, Edwin Torres, and Illana Mercado

PUBLIC: Stephanie Algarin, Santiago Jeffrey Hoffman (CAURD Attorney), and Vanessa Milu,

MEETING COMMENCED: 6:35 Quorum

Deirdre approves agenda, Miriam 2nd the motion

WELCOME/UPDATES

Miriam/Monique provided an update on last month's public forum and the letter of comment on Enforcement and Regulations submitted by CB9 on February 13, 2023

Miriam: provided an update on OCM/SUNY Compliance and Mentorship program as a member of cohort 266, training legacy grower, edible makers, and body care brands on all aspects of the cannabis industry, preparing to apply and enter the NYS market. This is the first cohort and a continuing program for small businesses entering the cannabis space. In addition, she shared:

- raised concerns about high operations/logistic entry costs; even with social equity measures, entering and setting up operations is a capital-heavy market.
- concerns given the possibility of the market not making as much as it costs to invest.
- compliance & 280E are real and require money to ensure you are not fined when audited.

Jeffery: Larger scale facilities:

- minority micro businesses will fail
- processor reachable start-up costs for minority business
- micro-business, cultivating is impossible for small operators

Daria: reso - need for a coop space, community-driven proposal. We should consider the Marine transfer station as an option. We need an equitable solution for space/investment/facility

We **need to move seriously and quickly** with asking regs to be accommodated

- everyone wants access to the Marine transfer station

Monique: bought up at Marine Transfer at the Strategic Planning Committee

- Suggested it can be used as a hydroponic growing facility, which was well received at the Strategic Planning, Committee Meeting

COMMENT:

- The current laws mandates 25 miles to grow - for cultivation in micro business, connect with eco developers

- We believe a new company (MFP) is set to take over the marine transfer station - city land/parcel

ACTION ITEMS:

- Find out who is in charge of the Marine Transfer station.
- Meanwhile, we should draft LOS proposing to use this space for cannabis growing.
- This is TIME SENSITIVE. Utilizing this space in this way is a practical solution.

Happy Munkey was not present. They had another event same time. Miriam met with them, and they shared the presentation with the curriculum on 2/17. The task force reviewed their presentation on screen.

- During the presentation, there was a concern about the language "Cannabis and Latino Community"- what this means? Is it about immigration? Then clarify to make it say just immigration

Laquita: formerly incarcerated, need more support for them. Concern: we need additional outreach

- we will keep the CB organized and updated on the developing curriculum
- goal to educate and increase awareness in the community
- Monique: reiterated the event would be free and accessible to involve more CB9 residents

JEFFERY: We have many justice-involved and equity clients. They would welcome the opportunity to work with CB9 to ensure they are part of this industry

1. Six licenses at half fee; for delivery, nursery, and micro the fee is waived (he can show you in the law why this should be the case)
2. Don't make the micro cultivate
3. Let delivery licensee hold their own inventory
4. Large facilities to incubate cannabis and support entrepreneurs. Thank you, and happy to connect to discuss these ideas further.

125th Street BID LOS - CB10 stay. We are awaiting their response before we finalize our response.

Daria: motion needing coop space at Marine, Miriam: 2nd motion

ACTION ITEMS:

Work on writing **three** letters that address:

- BID cautionary tale: we can write a letter that states the importance of engaging with communities early on in the decision-making process when deciding on the establishment/location of legal dispensaries.
- A letter that includes Jeffrey's points (see above) about equity concerns for small businesses
- Use of the Marine Transfer station as a hydroponic growing facility/coop

Vanessa: the legal dispensaries are NYS regulated now, but what are the statistics of this business lasting more than five years?

- CAURD now, but the leaseholder might not be in two years or ten years. So, it needs to remain a CAURD space for legacy.
- Further discussion on long-term CAURD investment past ten-years

NEXT REGS REVIEW:

- [Part 130 - Cannabis Laboratories: Emergency Lab Testing Regulations Re-adoption \(Laboratory Oversight\)](#), Due April, 12, 2023

ADJOURNED: 7:58 pm