



Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Morningside Heights

CB9 Cannabis Taskforce
Thursday, January 26, 2023
MINUTES FOR ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT:

CB9 Members: Daria Hardeman, Deidre Brown, Miriam Airsty-Farer (Co-chair), Monique Hardin-Cordero (Co-chair), Erik Cuello - MBP, Carlton Davis, Sean Farrow, Victor Edwards (First Vice-Chair)

Community: Julia Ross - Columbia Spectator, Esther Leilievre - Cannabis Education Org, Kyshia Smith - MBP, Ramon Reyes - Happy Munkey, Vladimar Bautista - Happy Munkey, Nicole Doring - community member, Vanessa Milu – community member, Annie Reynoso – community member, Martina Puchita,

MEETINGS COMMENCED: 6:35 PM

WELCOME: Monique and Miriam

REVIEW:

The task force chairs reviewed the OCM two-page document that outlines the roles of municipalities or community boards in the Cannabis Control Board's process to issue certain types of cannabis licenses that apply to legal dispensaries and registered organizations with dispensing and on-site consumption licenses. Municipalities or community boards are given an opportunity to express an opinion on whether or not they support or oppose an application for these licenses.

RECAP OCM EVENT

Scheduled on 1/19, We must review regulations and submit comments due by Mon, 2/13, and our letter will address valid CONCERNS such as the 25-MILE RULE ON MICRO-BUSINESS - FOR MANHATTAN

Daria Q: Do 25 miles include water? NYC is island

Indoor growing- CB9 issued a letter on 1/13, which contained concerns with public safety and electrical (shared letter with other CBs)

- To find buildings to grow in NYC, commercial cultivation will be a challenge, especially for anyone in CB9
- Ramon mentioned a company that builds, "Temeka" company that builds out 350Square foot facilities
- Manhattan needs real estate support or abatement/incentive buildings for indoor commercial grow

Miriam states: NYS has no money to buy property, and only turnkey retail dispensaries are CAURD; every other dispensary has to pay for their location and set up.

Suggestion: A concession made for Manhattan real estate to grow.

Concern: assisted living Section 8 - cannot consume, residents can get evicted.

Action Item: Revisit the marine transfer station-create a resource to invest in the marine transfer station to be a CB9 cooperative hydroponic hydrophobic, grow/education site?? Talk with Joyce Adewumi, Co-chair of the Economic Development Committee.

Action Item: Create a flyer with a QR code to inform the community about upcoming enforcement regs. Get posted on the Link NYC Kiosk to educate the community about the upcoming virtual meetings to discuss and collect feedback from community members. The QR code will go straight to OCM site.

- Daria shared: CB2 opened Smacked Village, the first Conditional Adult-use and Black Owned Retail Cannabis Dispensary. The owner is planning to write a book for CBs.
- Asked Kyshia to inform the MBP to offer more training for CBs. We want to ensure every community board member understands their responsibility in helping approve licenses.
- Ester Leilievre mentioned her work in communities on cannabis education and is willing to work with us
- Community events: partner with MBP

HAPPY MUNKEY PRESENTS:

- Ramon: background Legendary legacy consumption lounge midtown from our community, proposal to produce/collaborate with CB9 on 4/20 for an educational event under the viaduct. They are working with Masc Hospitality (i.e., Uptown Night Market) on all permits/logistics, curated by Happy Munkey
- Wants to include CB9 and wellness brands

- Educate on legacy to compliance and include OCM in the event to provide additional education
- 4/20 festival - bring it Uptown, mix it with educational groups
- Goal: represent health and wellness and ensure this event is focused on EDUCATION. People should be talked to, not talked down. Activate education activation stations.
- Demonstrate to the community and the city how to do a compliant event. NOT for kids: 21 and over. GET local businesses to support (i.e., Cantina Restaurant)
- CB9 should be part of this event and have a station present so that we can introduce ourselves to the community. In addition, residents can get to know us and use this as an opportunity for additional education on the benefits of cannabis and possibly convert some nay-sayers.
- REVERSE what they have done in the past regarding free events. Businesses that want to come into our community must pay to display. Community residents attend for FREE. Industry education - aid by MSOs. The people make this industry. We can educate the community about workforce support options as well (job fairs, Busta Rhymes is on Board, and Mesia)

Daria Q: what can we do to support?

- Work with Masc Hospitality, their event themes curated by Happy Munkey
- Deirdre, Miriam, Daria, and Monique support this type of event that focuses on education
- Carlton supports the elevation of cannabis knowledge
- NEED a letter of support from the Board. Daria stressed that we have to present to Board ASAP
- Present a letter of support for the 4/20 education event to Executive Board scheduled for 2/9
- Daria: agreed to prepare a letter

Community member Vanessa: voting rights for those recently expunged

Q: expunged records: how do they know their records are expunged? Sean Farrow shared:

- Feb 5 expungement day event
- misdemeanor conviction automatically expunged
- felony not automatically expunged, 440 motion to vacate filed in court
- people must contact clerk's office to find out

Julia: Columbia Daily Spectator present to record comments.

Nicole is a community member who has attended various Manhattan CB meetings and expressed concern that most do not know the regulations or understand the MRTA

Daria shared that 1,200 illegal, 1 legal dispensary is a problem.

Action Item: we issue an advisory letter to OCM and electeds on illegal dispensaries. Is it more strategic to get all Manhattan CB's to weigh in as a block? Create Google doc as we work on drafting a letter

CB10/CAURD DISPENSARY DISCUSSION

Vanessa: good location, a good thing for the community, more concerned about Starbucks as a big chain, CAURD is a justice-involved family and mom and pop Harlem business. It comes down to what the community values. This dispensary is a small business

Daria: concern with the language being used by CB10/BID, such as "Marijuana is a gateway..." sets us back. The community needs reeducation; even consumers and adults have not received a proper education. There are concerns, but we are trying to figure it out. We are still in the experimental stage. The new Victoria Theater, is this a good idea?

Miriam: shared that the first dispensaries in lower Manhattan were not placed next to national/community Landmarks (i.e., Carnegie Hall or Lincoln Center), so why do they in Harlem?

Action Items: Daria will reach out to the 126th Street BID, write a letter on behalf of CB9 and have it ready for the Executive Board meeting scheduled for Thurs, 2/9. Share this DRAFT letter via email the week of 1/30 to involve the Economic Development Committee chairs

ADJOURNED

The meeting ended: 8:45 pm

CONTACTS:

Nicole Doring: nicoledoring@gmail.com - community member

Julia Ross, Columbia Spectator, covers the cannabis beat and will attend more meetings