



Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights and Sugar Hill

## Cannabis Task Force – VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 27th, 2024

6:30 pm

### MINUTES FOR ZOOM MEETING

#### In Attendance:

**Members:** Hon. Vanessa Caughman; Hon. Carlton Davis; Hon. Daria Hardeman; Co-Chair: Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero; Hon. Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, and Hon. Solomon Prophete

**Office Staff:** Eutha Prince

**Guests:** Lt. Gerard Salvia, Tomisha Hicks, and Vanessa Milu

#### Welcome

Meeting Commenced: 6: 45 pm

#### Welcome

#### Call to Order

#### Adopt Agenda

#### Adopt Minutes

- May Minutes

#### Updates:

##### Enforcement efforts regarding illegal cannabis establishments – Lt. Gerard Salvia, 30<sup>th</sup> Pct

- A smokeshop task force has begun enforcement with a focus on integrity and seizure of property. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for product seizure and padlocking the premises. The Department of Finance will determine when a premise will reopen once they pay their taxes. Eighteen smoke shops were targeted in the 30<sup>th</sup> precinct.
- Planning for July 4th and want to remind residents that sidewalk BBQs are illegal.
- Community Affairs Officers want to engage more in the community. The next Build a Block event will be hosted at the Boys and Girls Club on August 21st, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.
- There is a concern about the number of vans present in the community that are disseminating illegal cannabis products. There will be a focus on these types of vehicles.
- National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6th, 2024.

## Discussion:

- There is also a fear that cannabis product is laced with crack, which is causing people to die. People need housing and are getting high to escape.
- Working on the removal of the abandoned newsstand located between 136<sup>th</sup> and 137<sup>th</sup> Streets and Broadway in Montefiore Park.

## Harlem Health Initiative (HHI)/CUNY - Tomisha Hicks

### Cannabis equity in Harlem is

- There is a need for medical cannabis providers, especially providers of color in Harlem. Providers can get certification from OCM. CPH CE credit is available for those taking the National Board Public Health Exam.
- There is a discrepancy in the number of people in our community with access to a medical card. Dr. Maurice Hinson, MediRootz Medical Group, does telehealth sessions. One suggestion is hosting a medical card drive.
- HHI continues to host their virtual sessions. On June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, they addressed [Therapeutic Applications of Cannabis - Cannabis Corner](#).
- There are concerns of the misuse of cannabis in our community, so more education is needed.

## **Discussion:**

### Ideas for engaging and educating the community

- There are concerns of the misuse of cannabis in our community, so **more education is needed**. Vanessa (CB9 member) shared that she is willing to use the bulletin board in her building to help promote events and share information.
- Deirdre shared that we have to meet people where we are and rotate where we hold our meetings (i.e. Manhattanville, empty storefront, church, etc.)

## **Meeting Adjourned: 7:53 pm**

### **Future Meeting Dates: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month**

Next Meeting, **Thursday, September 26th, 2024 @ 6:30 pm**

**Monique Hardin-Cordero, Co-Chair, MCB9 Cannabis Task Force**