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Cannabis Task Force Meeting (CFT)

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Task Force Members

In attendance: Monique Hardin-Cordero (Co-Chair),

Excused: Shaunte Styles (Co-Chair)

Absent: Daria Hardeman, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown

Community Board Member: Heather Jason

Guests: Leonel Arias (Owner Midnight Moon), Carolyn Brown, Dasheeda Dawson Geraldine Gregg, Arielsela Holdbrook-Smith, Randy Vasquez (new applicant, AR Goat, LLC)

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:48 pm

Adopt Agenda

Adopt May Minutes

Summary:

The Community Board 9 Cannabis Task Force held their final summer meeting to discuss medical cannabis access in the community. Co-chair Monique Hardin Cordero welcomed attendees and provided updates on recent letters sent to the Office of Cannabis Management regarding proposed medical cannabis program regulations and a letter of support for AR Goat LLC dispensary applying for a new license application. Dasheeda Dawson, CEO of Wave Holistic Health, presented the company's plans to establish New York's next medical cannabis dispensary in Community Board 9, focusing on Harlem. The meeting ended with updates about new OCM forms for pop-up events and plans to revise the task force's questionnaire to better address temporary cannabis events in the community.

Updates

Letter of Comment on [Proposed Updates to Part 113 – Medical Cannabis Program Regulations](#) Comment Period Deadline: May 25, 2026. Submitted and attached

- Monique focused on a letter of comment regarding proposed updates to Part 113 medical cannabis program regulations by the Office of Cannabis Management. The task force had submitted six recommendations plus an additional seventh one regarding caretaker age requirements, specifically recommending that the age remain at 21 rather than being lowered to 18 as proposed by OCM.

Letter of Support – AR Goat LLC Dispensary located 1342 Amsterdam Avenue (125th Street) – submitted and attached

- Monique shared that a letter of support for AR Goat LLC Dispensary. Heather raised concerns about

ensuring balanced representation of all viewpoints in future letters and emphasized the importance of transparency in allowing applicants to directly answer questions without interference from board members.

Presentations

Wave Holistic Health (Black-owned business), Dasheeda D. Dawson, Co-Founder and CEO

Dasheeda explained her background and connection to Harlem, noting her professional ties to the community through her work overseeing the cannabis industry in New York, where Harlem was identified as an underserved area. She clarified that their company plans to open four dispensaries across New York State, including two in downstate New York City and one each in Brooklyn and Harlem.

Highlights:

- Dasheeda shared that the company plans to establish medical cannabis dispensaries in Harlem and East Brooklyn. She outlined two potential locations in CB9, with the preferred option being a 7,500 -square-foot space at 3332 Broadway that would require a public convenience and advantage waiver due to its proximity to another dispensary. The opening could potentially happen in the fourth quarter of 2026, pending approval from OCM and the Cannabis Control Board, as well as completion of the PCA waiver process.
- Dasheeda emphasized their commitment to being responsible neighbors, including civic engagement and meeting security requirements, while noting their intention to serve underserved communities as required by licensing regulations.
- Highlighting their team's expertise and focus, she explained the differences between medical and adult-use cannabis, noting that medical cannabis requires a pharmacist on site, serves certified patients managing conditions like sleep, pain and anxiety, and is subject to different regulations than recreational cannabis.
- Wave Holistic Health is one of eight new companies recently approved to operate medical cannabis dispensaries in New York State, with plans to create community wellness hubs focused on education and comprehensive patient care. She emphasized the importance of education regarding cannabis potency and dosage, noting that required labeling and a pharmacist on site will help address these concerns.

Questions:

- Dasheeda addressed questions about pharmacist requirements at medical cannabis dispensaries, explaining that New York's law mandates on-site pharmacists
- Task force members raised questions about product safety, dosage regulation, and the need for more medical provider education, while Carolyn shared concerns about recent research suggesting potential mental health risks associated with cannabis use.

Old Business

The meeting ended with reminding members about new OCM forms for pop-up events are available. The forms can be accessed by clicking on the following links below

- the [Cannabis Showcase Event Municipal Approval Form](#). This is the application municipalities will receive from the licensees.
- The [Events Permits Overview](#) outlines the procedures local municipalities will follow when deciding if they will authorize an event.

New Business

Community Board 9 will work on updating current **CB9 questionnaire to include pop-up events**. (attached)

Next steps

- Carolyn: Send articles to Monique https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/12/health/medical-cannabis-benefits.html?unlocked_article_code=1.1A.ZgXY.mOk7R9Z8iHDY&smid=url-share for inclusion in meeting minutes. (article also attached).
- Monique: Correct minutes to reflect Heather's attendance and remove "public member" terminology
- Dasheeda will:
 - Continue discussions with Community Board 9 regarding potential dispensary locations at 3332 Broadway and other sites in Harlem.
 - Reach out to Midnight Moon dispensary owner regarding potential collaboration
 - Continue negotiations with 3332 Broadway landlord regarding dispensary lease terms
 - Return to Community Board 9 after summer break to provide updates on licensing progress
 - Develop educational initiatives in partnership with CUNY School of Public Health and Harlem Health Initiative

Meeting concludes: 8:15 pm

**Monique Hardin-Cordero and Shaunte Styles, Co-Chairs
Community Board 9 – Cannabis Task Force
Summer Recess**