



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

**MINUTES FROM ZOOM MEETING**

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**Present:** Miriam Aristy-Farer (Co-Chair), Monique Hardin -Cordero (Co-Chair), Daria Hardeman, Sean Farrow, Carlton Davis, Ilana Mercado, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown.

**Guests:** David Hernandez Happy Munkey (HM) , Ramon Reyes (HM), Vanessa Perez (HM), Jesse Campoamor (HM), Yuien Chin, Vanessa Perez (HM), Barbara Askins (125<sup>th</sup> Street BID)

**MEETING COMMENCED:** Quorum 6:36 pm

We voted to modify the agenda to add a new item – Updates on the 125<sup>th</sup> BID cannabis dispensary.

**UPDATE: PLANNING: – 4/20 COMMUNITY EVENT**

**Presentation**

**Miriam:** introduce background information and shared that Columbia University provided the Forum to host our community event now being hosted on Tuesday, 4/18

**David:** shared run of show

**Jesse:** via video tape, he shared

- the welcome/intro
- health wellness: session moderated by Council Member Shaun Abreu
- Dr Rachel Knox out of Oregon, and Miriam
- Budding Opportunity Panel will be moderated by MBP: Panelist: Dasheeda Dawson, Vikia Reyes, and Tanisha Robinson (**see draft program outline attached**)
- Last panel meet Happy Munkey team shares their story of how they worked to become successful

**Discussion**

**Miriam:** states not comfortable with how it was rolled out. Educational component around medicinal cannabis - 1st panel needs to be developed more.

**Monique:** Did you contact other presenters, especially from CB9. For example, Columbia University – Dr. Fullilove? I think it should be more of a panel discussion vs. a presentation.

**Daria:** original run-of-show was a cannabis 101, and she was very interested in that piece. Prefer informational presentation. Look at various titles, which create interest. For example, *Budding Opportunities* and making sure it is more of a community board event. Community members might want to know more about cannabis than smoking weed. Personally, I liked the original incarnation. It feels a bit political

**Ramon:** before we pick it apart, look at the 10 organized participating

**Daria:** supports as is but loved what they originally supported

**Vanessa:** work with us to provide infographics/information which will be displayed the day of the event had to condense due to space and Columbia University mandates

**Jesse:** Politicians have more presence. We needed them. A lot of planning and back and forth with Columbia University

**Next steps:**

- share list of 10 vendors, need a sign-off, identify 2 charities to receive proceeds
- come up with 2 organizations to donate
- Revise run of show: to include CB9 in opening remarks

**Comments:**

- flow is good, but add more legacy folks from CB9, a list of 8
- Thank you reach out as soon as possible to increase awareness
- the why: a community event, people are welcome

**NEW ITEMS**

**Update Regarding 125<sup>th</sup> Street Legal Dispensary**

**Daria:** -Inform members that the BID leadership would join us to provide updates. She introduced Barbara Askins, President and CEO of the 125th Street Business Improvement District

Barbara has been leading the fight, but not against cannabis. In fact, she has communicated with CB10. Since there was nothing in writing. She went to NJ to learn more about how they rolled out their legal cannabis program. Barbara then spent time writing the social equity piece and getting it on paper. Minority Alliance connected with folks for Cali-Barbara believed. Did not pay attention how things are run

On Dec 10th found out CAURD dispensary was going to be established on 125<sup>th</sup> Street near the Apollo Theatre. Her argument is not with the cannabis dispensary itself. Her concern is outside on the street where there have been arrests of people with loaded guns, and the presence of street vendors seems out of control, especially since the sidewalks are small. In addition, there is a concern the dispensary location will attract crime and theft, being all cash. There are 3 schools less than 300 feet, (i.e., suspended kids, homeless youth) Young people also frequent local establishments such as Chick-Fillet, KFC, Blick (art supply store). Children's stores such as Carter's and Lazarus attract families and will expose young children. There is also the Touro College of Medical.

She does not think that 125<sup>th</sup> Street across from the Apollo Theatre and the New Victoria Theatre is the right location. At the last meeting, there was no negotiation/discussion with NYS beyond making the quality of life better - felt a compromise could have been made.

BID Board should not roll over and say nothing but let the state know why we feel this way. We are concerned about the lack of transparency/communication from NYS. We are not against cannabis, just want to suggest a new location. We recommend the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building on the plaza level.

The DMV opened 2 weeks ago, and there is no place for people to wait in line - The BID is left dealing with problems and putting out fires by other's ill-planned decisions.

### **Additional Comments**

**Yuien:** received emails from OCM directed to faith-based coalition meeting members. Julian Vicent is the liaison trying to build support amongst faith-based organizations. The benefit of locating a legal dispensary in communities is the 40% tax revenue raised from cannabis sales

Only one other time has BID taken this stand regarding street vendors. We are at a tipping point and can go backward. There are 32 vacancies on 125 right now to be addressed.

**Barbara:** She understands how this works. The state DASNY appointed lead to roll out CAURD. 150 million from the state, 50 million Chris Weber, contract with CDRD with the orgs to find location from there DASNY signs the lease for location- Applicants select location gets sublease they get sublease to buy products. They generate a lot of money, and the state takes taxes and comes back to the community. What is the mechanism for that money how is it going? who is choosing who decides how it will be used? - trying to meet with Gov all ministers to deal with all issues in Harlem

**Yuien:** 125 Street is a mess – One way to build a community is to continue to work on fixing 125st to maintain the Harlem experience. ELECTEDS needs to come together to re-envision what 125<sup>th</sup> Street must look like. Everyone worked hard on the 125th Street rezoning.

**Sean:** has concerns about the new hotel being built. All it takes is one incident outside the hotel to ruin the opportunity for other social equity applicants. No effort by the state to come to CBs and adhere to their written rules, communicate with the residents building this community, or try to change the mindset about cannabis. Instead, they want to us telling us what we need

He suggests the next letter we write needs to issue flood gates. We need OCM to protect our community from MSOs. Those who enter and apply for licenses in the 2nd round will we be able to invalidate MSO (big players)? How will this look like for our community? When we draft letters, how do we improve this so that it does not result in failure?

**Daria:** Does not think we are failing miserably. We do not know what it is. It is a blessing and a curse. A lot can go wrong, and to complain about not finding the funds.

Two lawsuits: social equity applicants before everyone, courts will fix not favorable don't have the funds, we did not learn from California no incentive

**Ilana:** She is trying to learn more about cannabis and suggest we do not want to end up like California where their legal businesses are not thriving. High taxes are a problem. We should, as a CB clearly voice our concerns and issues.

For OCM, DO we need a taxation information to operate letter that defines the expectations and what we can be done better? We cannot fail. Let's stop complaining. we need to stay here and resist that thing we all tend to do. We still have legacies in our community. Review the guidelines even if it fails next month, its legacy moving forward

**Daria:** Speak to legacy guys assuring them that they are not criminals. But this can be hard if they do not know anything else. We are creating something bigger and better

### **OTHER FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

- Marine transfer station as an opportunity for economic development Monique will reach out to co-chairs to schedule a meeting to discuss updates

Do we want to execute another event? For example, focused on legacies and inform them about the resources that are available. Less of a forum, but more of a community block party. We manifested a community event at our May 26, 2022 meeting

### **Action Items**

- Cannabis Task Force descriptor: give us ideas to promote our task force share back by Monday **(attached)**
- Resolution letter regarding CB5 Guidelines: Look at the guidelines from CB5 and modify language that includes our commitment and concerns about high taxes as a barrier to entering this business (the tax burdens are well known)? Or focus on something else?

Daria: limited time - perhaps a very long document is not the best thing. Opinion - include stakeholders

- Miriam shared the [SLAP Resolution - Cannabis Guidelines](#) from CB5 and asked members to review it and see if we could adapt it for CB9.

### **OCM REGULATION – LETTER OF COMMENT**

#### **Action Item:**

Due Wed, 4/12, need to review the regulations and submit comment if needed.

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

## **REQUESTING FUNDS**

- We can ASK for up to \$2K to work with CUNY and do something educational. Ask task force members to think on it and share your idea via email in the next few days, We can also get request business cards that describe the purpose of the task force.

Vanessa: doesn't appreciate the government handling of CAURD rollout. DANY has not raised money and the necessary money to help support the CAURD applicants.

**ADJOURNED:** 9:13 pm