



Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights and Sugar Hill

Cannabis Taskforce (CTF) Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026

MINUTES

Task Force Members

In attendance: Daria Hardeman, Monique Hardin-Cordero (Co-Chair), and Shaunte Styles (Co-Chair)

Absent: Deirdre McIntosh-Brown

Community Board Member: Victor Edwards (Chair); and Heather Jason

Public Members: Ted Anastasiou, ESQ (HiCaliber Consulting LLC), Kristen Bacorn, Megan Bennett, Carolyn Brown, Joshua Davies (Strains for Life), Fab Five Freddy, Geraldine Gregg, Ramona Grey Harris, Donna Moseley (The Haus of Collectives), Mohammed Musleh (Manager, HiCaliber Consulting LLC) Jasmine Smith, Arthur Spears, Nadia Swanson (Ali Forney Center), Dashawn Wilson

Elective Officials: Reuben Mitchell (Assemblymember Micah Lasher's office)

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm

Adopt Agenda

Adopt January Minutes

Discussion

New Applicant – HiCaliber Consulting LLC, 747 St Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10031

Summary

The meeting opened with a discussion of the proposed cannabis dispensary application, including discussion of regulatory compliance, site suitability, the dispensary's ownership structure, proposed operating hours, and community concerns related to safety, accessibility, suitability, proposed operating conditions, and neighborhood impact.

Mohammed was asked whether he had secured their license, and he stated, "Yes." Community members asked whether the Board had submitted a position on the dispensary opening. The Cannabis Co-chairs stated that the Board did not submit any comments to Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) until further discussion could take place with community members (scheduled today). The Board did stress that the OCM ultimately approves the licensing of new locations.

Highlights:

- HiCaliber Consulting LLC is supposed to take possession of Devon's location on or after June 1st. We asked Mohammed to keep us posted regarding his official opening.
- They plan to hire people locally, ages 25 and up, who are certified in the cannabis industry.
- Security Concerns: the subway entrance on 148th is isolated due to the lack of MTA presence. Meeting members expressed concern about people possibly hanging outside the dispensary. Mohammed ensured that his dispensary would have bright lighting and security to monitor activity outside his establishment, which is near the subway.
- Broader considerations regarding cannabis business operations and community engagement. The proposed hours of operation are from 11:00 am-11:00 pm. Concerns and recommendations regarding proposed

operating hours and neighborhood conditions were raised for further consideration, with the option to close at 9:00 or 10:00 pm.

Comments:

- Joshua is a Harlemiter and works at Strains for Life (legal dispensary). He shared that dispensary owners are concerned about community safety and take all precautions. We want to educate and remove negative perspectives. He extended an invitation to visit his shop.
- Daria shared that we are from the community and care. We want to encourage our neighbors to join us when we schedule our cannabis meetings.
- The dispensary is near the subway, so this adds to the security concerns. There will probably be people from outside our community coming to the dispensary. We will continue our discussion with Mohammed regarding foot traffic to his new establishment and also reach out to the 30th Precinct.
- Community members also expressed concerns about the over-saturation of supported housing and homeless facilities in our community, and feeling like we are a dumping ground. We are concerned about the livability of our community and want to ensure we are working with a strong community partner.
- Having a legal dispensary ensures that people are purchasing clean products.

Presentation:

Women History Month: Celebrating Women!

The Haus of Collectives, Donna, Founder/Owner (see presentation attached)

- Donna shared information about her business concept as a consumption-aware creative space designed to support entrepreneurs and artists. Her presentation highlighted the organization's focus on providing a safe and inclusive environment for creative expression, programming, and small business development. She extended an invitation to those in attendance to visit her location.

Nadia Swanson, Director of Advocacy and Global Services Ali Forney Center (see presentation attached)

- The Ali Forney Center is the largest program providing supportive services to the LGBTQ community with a focus on runaway and homeless youth and young adults ages 16-24 yrs. They started with a 365/24/7 drop-in center in Harlem, where it was one-stop shopping established to address the needs of youth. Now, they are in Midtown Manhattan and will hopefully return to Harlem. They have six to seven transitional sites in Harlem. A new one will be open on Convent Avenue and the 140s. Working on future capital projects in Harlem. She was encouraged to return and present before our LGBTQ Task Force and our Youth and Education Committee.

Old Business

- Cannabis Tax Revenue: Reuben Mitchell from Assemblymember Micah Lasher's office provided a brief overview regarding the allocation of the 13% excise tax (9% is state and 4% is local taxes). Regarding the state tax revenue, it is divided into three categories statewide: 40% for education, 20% for drug treatment, and 40% for the Community Grants Reinvestment Fund (CGRF). This can range from \$5-\$15 million allocated to the CGRF.
- The Community Grants Reinvestment Fund (CGRF): Applications are now open and must be submitted by Wednesday, May 13 at 5:00 PM ET. Organizations that work with youth, housing, engage in job training/workforce development are encouraged to apply.

Question:

- how can these grants be directed to specific communities? The goal is to give back to communities that were most negatively impacted by past cannabis enforcement.
- The Board plans to support continued engagement with community-based organizations, including encouraging eligible groups to pursue CGRF grant opportunity.

New Business

Meeting Concludes: 8:39 pm