



Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights and Sugar Hill

Cannabis Taskforce (CTF) Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

MINUTES

Task Force Members

In attendance: Shaunte Styles (Co-Chair)

Absent: Daria Hardeman, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown

Excused: Monique Hardin-Cordero (Co-Chair)

Community Board Member: Victor Edwards (Chair)

Public Members: Carolyn Brown (resident), Dr. Maurice Hinson (guest speaker)

Meeting called to order: 6:23pm

Adopt Agenda

Adopt April Minutes

Summary:

The meeting focused on medical cannabis dispensaries in the community, recent changes to New York's medical cannabis regulations, youth-related health concerns, grant opportunities, cannabis event approvals, and a guest presentation by Dr. Maurice Hinson on medical uses, risks, education, and access.

Highlights:

- Cannabis Task Force and Carolyn reviewed updates to Part 113 of the medical cannabis program, including changes affecting designated caregivers and implementation dates.
- Carolyn raised questions about the accuracy of research related to cannabis use among teenagers and young adults, and Manhattan encouraged sharing current articles with OCM.
- The Task Force received information about the Community Grant Reinvestment Fund extension through May 21, 2026, for youth services and related community support programs.
- Manhattan reviewed the new Cannabis Showcase Event Municipal Approval Form and explained expectations around event approval, age restrictions, and security requirements.

Presentation:

Benefits of Medical Cannabis, Maurice Hinson, MD, Founder, MediRootz Medical Group

Dr. Maurice Henson introduced his medical background, discussed medical versus recreational cannabis, highlighted risks related to high Delta-9 THC exposure, and emphasized the value of education, affordability, and equitable access.

Comments:

The discussion emphasized the importance of evidence-based education, youth safeguards, physician awareness, and the need for broader community engagement, including faith-based organizations, in future cannabis education initiatives.

Dr. Maurice Henson will send his PowerPoint presentation on cannabis to Manhattan.

Updates:

- Carolyn will share cannabis research articles with OCM for follow-up review.
- The Task Force will continue following pending legislation on cannabis education and affordability in the Assembly and State Senate.
- The Task Force will explore ways to support social equity in medical dispensary development and do a final outreach regarding the Community Grant Reinvestment Fund youth services application before the May 21 deadline.

Old Business

Will look for ways to continue discussions regarding the potential role of a medical cannabis dispensary in Harlem and the need for better education on medical cannabis access, patient protections, and community impact.

New Business

New business included the rollout of the Cannabis Showcase Event Municipal Approval Form and outreach around the Community Grant Reinvestment Fund opportunity for eligible community-based organizations.

Meeting Concludes: 8:38pm