



Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights and Sugar Hill

**Cannabis Task Force  
MINUTES  
Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 6:30 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**Members:** Co-Chair: Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero; Chair: Hon. Victor Edwards; Madison Ayala

**Guests:** Deborah Levine (Harlem Health Initiative); Vanessa Milu, (CB9 resident)

**MEETING COMMENCED:** at 6:40 pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

Monique introduced herself and asked others to do the same

**Agenda:** Adopted

**Updates from the summer/Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)**

Monique shared the following:

- The task force's successful activities to engage the community and increase awareness (see attached notes)
- Alerted the members that there would be an expansion to approve more retail licenses – October 4. With this pending event, she stressed the need for our CB to establish regulations and guidelines to help control the flow of new legal dispensaries in our community.
- Attended the Uniform Services & Transportation to initiate the discussion and followed up with Carolyn Thompson to review and discuss the DRAFTED Regulation and Guidelines. Edits were made (see attachment) with the understanding that we need to follow up on some items with someone from OCM or the Cannabis Control Board. Members expressed concern about the presence of illegal dispensaries in the community. We will find out who the local enforcement in our community is and invite them to join us at future meetings to answer questions and address these concerns.
- Attended the Economic Development and West Harlem Piers Committee Meeting and engaged in a brief conversation with the Chairs about the Marine Transfer Station. The goal is to work with a member of their committee to solicit feedback to finalize the DRAFT LOS and to move forward the development of the valuable space on the Hudson River.

## **Discussion: Community event or a workshop**

Monique asked members to think about our taskforce's next steps/activity in the community to:

- Increase visibility and awareness about the legal opportunities associated with the cannabis industry
- Breaking the stigma: re-educate seniors, youth/parents

Comment: the way we proceed will depend on the group we want to target, which will dictate the approach we will use.

## **CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy Cannabis Equity Research**

- Monique reminded those in attendance to complete the Cannabis Equity survey available: **September 7th, 2023 - October 7th, 2023!**
- The community perceptions from this survey will add to a larger study assessing the impact of cannabis legalization. Below, please find the links to access the survey:

### Surveys

- Link to the English version of the survey: [https://cunysph.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ehDnMnTbbKllqH4](https://cunysph.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehDnMnTbbKllqH4)
- Link to the Spanish version of the survey: [https://cunysph.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eEB0hau0qwaQC90](https://cunysph.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEB0hau0qwaQC90)

We will ask someone from Deborah's team to share the survey results.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 7:05 pm