

SUMMARY OF MARCH 2, MEETING MANHATTAN CB 9 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

ATTENDANCE

Co-Chairs: Hon. Cameron Clarke, MPH (**Zoom**), Hon. LaQuita Henry **Members:** Hon. Elizabeth Eastman, Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hon. Heather Jason, Hon. Lenna Nepomnyaschy (Zoom, excused), Hon. Jordan Scherer

Public Members: Monica Dula, Esq. (**Zoom**), Edwin Torres, PhD, MSN, EMBA, MS (**Zoom**)

The March 2, 2026, meeting was called to order by Co-Chairs LaQuita Henry and Cameron Clarke (on Zoom) at 6:39 pm.

This document summarizes the meeting of the MCB9 Health and Environment Committee, covering public health updates, housing and healthcare initiatives, legislative efforts, and community engagement plans.

Public Health and Housing Updates

- The committee discussed the appointment of new Health Commissioner Alistair Martin, ongoing respiratory illness trends, vaccination efforts, and Legionnaires' disease cases at 3333 Broadway, including remediation and sampling plans.
- Concerns about Legionella surveillance in other buildings and documentation of cooling tower cleanings from summer were raised.
- Cameron presented a housing and supportive resources analysis for Manhattan CB9, emphasizing affordability issues and decision-making frameworks.

Healthcare Resources and Legislation

- Updates included finalizing a housing resource guide linking health outcomes to affordable housing and promoting the New York Health Act as a universal healthcare solution.
- The Act aims to provide comprehensive coverage, reduce costs, and make private insurance less profitable, with reintroduction in the current legislative session and increased co-sponsors.

- Plans include drafting a resolution supporting the Act, engaging key legislators like Senator Gustavo Rivera, and preparing for a public forum on April 11th focusing on health topics in the context of the 250th anniversary of independence.

Community Engagement and Event Planning

- The committee is organizing a health equity event (“The 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence: Tracking a Path to Public Health Equity”) covering vaccines, women’s and sexual health, youth mental health, and pharmaceuticals, collaborating with CUNY School of Medicine and securing translation services.
- They are also identifying top community health issues—mental health stressors, substance abuse, diabetes, heart and respiratory conditions—and considering the social determinants of health, such as poverty and genetics.
- Future meetings will address community concerns, including a potential dispensary, and involve outreach to health professionals and community stakeholders for speakers and informational materials.