



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
 MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
 Manhattanville
 Hamilton Heights

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ZOOM MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021, TIME: 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Committee Members: Miriam Aristy-Farer (Co-Chair), Monica Dula, Jenny Garcia, Monique Hardin-Cordero, LaQuita Henry, Heather Jason, Padmore John, Indiana Porter, and Edwin Torres (Co-Chair)

CB9 Members: Victor Edwards, Signe Mortensen,

I. Called to Order at 6:35 pm

II. Adopt Agenda: M Hardin-Cordero moves, L Henry seconds adoption of agenda, motion carries

III. Adopt Minutes: M Hardin-Cordero moves, L Henry seconds adoption of minutes, motion carries

IV. Old Business:

Last Meeting Follow-up

COVID-19 by the numbers

Edwin shared:

- that the COVID positivity rate is dropping (1.1% from 4/24 – 4/30) due to more community members getting vaccinated. See NYC DOH website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>.
- There were 21 new cases in CB9 diagnosed as of 4/24 compared to 32 cases for the City. **We want to continue to increase the vaccination rate in our community.** More COVID-19 vaccines and testing centers are becoming available in CB9. People still need to practice good hand hygiene.
- Vaccination rates within Manhattan are disparate. For example vaccination rate on the upper westside is 70%, and on the upperside eastside, the rate is 85-90%. These are primarily affluent areas.
- We are encouraging CB9 members who got vaccinated to share their experience by recording a 20-sec video. Monique, Anita, LaQuita are collaborating with other CB9 members to develop a series of PSA
- We have conducted six health walks in the community and have partnered on some walks with the Harlem Health Initiative to disseminate PPE. In the past, we have partnered with Columbia University and hosted a health forum where Dr. Fullilove presented.

Padmore shared:

- Cases and deaths are down
- Increases in vaccinations, now 50-75 years
- Hard to reach populations are 16-24 years. Will conduct training to recruit people to help contact hard-to-reach populations.
- Most NYC DOH sites are walk-in
- J&J has resumed vaccine development. Women of childbearing age are at higher risk for blood clots, but it is still considered safe. This vaccine is targeted for the homebound program.

Walk-up vaccination site (new location)

City College of New York - North Academic Center

1549 Amsterdam Avenue

New York, NY 10031

Dates: May 6 - 9

Thursday - Sunday, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

New York State legalizes Cannabis: How do we educate our community?

- What role will NYC DOH play? Are we applying the same rules as cigarettes? NYS DOH is supposed to be formalizing a plan to address the legalization of cannabis and reach out to community boards.

Monica stated:

- People are not supposed to get arrested unless they are carrying over one pound of cannabis. They should get a summons. Weed arrests are supposed to be expunged, but Cyrus Vance will not move on this.
- People under 21 years old are not permitted to smoke weed.
- It is legal to smoke, but you cannot gather in front of buildings. You also cannot smoke near schools.
- No smoking in bars or the establishment will lose its liquor license.
- We need to work more closely with the 30th precinct and host a forum to help the community understand the regulations associated with cannabis use.
- We should also consider creating an educational PSA.

LaQuita moved that the Health & Environment Committee establish a task force to address education on the regulations associated with the cannabis legislation. Victor second the motion, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

V. New Business

Team Up to Clean Up West Harlem event on June 12, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Signe shared:

- Clean up in our neighborhood.
- WHDC will become a hub where people can register and get supplies.

Epidemic within a Pandemic: Overdose deaths in New York City

- Increase 21% during COVID pandemic
- People are dealing with tremendous stress
- How are people in our community fairing? We should contact NYC DOH, the FDNY, and the local hospitals to learn the stats in our community. Padmore can contact someone at NYC DOH to get the numbers and more information.

FY22 Capital & Expense budget

- Committee members should review the budget.

Open Discussion:

The City Reopening

- The mayor expects city employees to return to work by July using a staggered schedule.

Nursing Staffing Ratios: Jeremy Markman, Caitlin Ervin (NYSHA)

- Asked for committee support and guidance for writing a resolution that addresses nurse staffing shortages at Mount Sinai. By the way, these shortages are an issue everywhere.
- Shortages mean higher patient mortality rates

We suggested they draft a resolution and present it to our committee to review, and then we would forward it to the Executive committee and eventually to the general board. California developed standards that have resulted in increased patient satisfaction and decreased mortality rates. Many medical providers do not accept coverage from the health exchange, which reduces access to care for many people in the community.

Meeting Adjourned: M Hardin-Cordero moves to adjourn, L Henry seconds, meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Monique Hardin-Cordero**