



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10027

T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

Website: <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb10/>

Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

Manhattan Community Board 10 (MCB10) Champions Equitable Growth and Empowerment in Central Harlem

Harlem, NY, August 15, 2023 – Manhattan Community Board 10 (MCB10) announces that on August 10, 2023, the board passed a monumental resolution focused on equity, empowerment, and economic progress within Central Harlem. The resolution addresses the establishment of Gotham Buds Cannabis Dispensary at 248 W 125th Street, marking a significant stride towards rectifying historical injustices and propelling the community towards a brighter future.

MCB10 has been steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the well-being, safety, and equitable treatment of its Black & Brown community members. The resolution reflects this commitment by addressing the deep-rooted disparities and racial discrimination associated with the history of cannabis legalization in New York State.

Historically, communities of color, particularly Harlem, have been disproportionately affected by unjust cannabis enforcement policies. The Marihuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) signed into law in New York State offers a chance to right these wrongs and create opportunities for restorative justice and economic advancement within these communities.

This resolution represents the culmination of years of discussions, forums, resolutions, and community engagement initiatives undertaken by MCB10. It acknowledges the historical injustices tied to cannabis enforcement while recognizing the potential positive contribution of a legalized cannabis dispensary to the community.

MCB10's resolution extends support to the establishment of Gotham Buds Cannabis Dispensary, contingent on a set of conditions that prioritize transparency, community engagement, and responsible business practices. These conditions include regular updates to the Economic Development Committee, local hiring with a focus on individuals adversely affected by harmful cannabis-related laws, engagement of minority-owned security services, diversity in the workforce, investment in training programs, and partnerships with institutions integral to the fabric of Harlem.

"Considering the intricate landscape of 125th Street, it is clear to me as the Chairperson of Manhattan Community Board 10 that existing concerns regarding safety and the proliferation of substance users/seekers contribute significantly to the complexity of this issue. I want to emphasize that our Board is acutely attuned to this complexity, and we acknowledge that achieving unanimous agreement on this matter might not have been feasible," acknowledges Chairperson Marquis A. Harrison.

"In our steadfast commitment to a comprehensive approach, we have charted a deliberate course to gather insights and feedback directly from our community, a pivotal and meaningful stride forward. This outlined process serves as a cornerstone for enhancing community engagement and understanding. As we chart the path ahead, I urge both DASNY and OCM to embrace a similarly inclusive stance. It is imperative that we prioritize collaboration with the community, seeking their input before any decisions are made about the allocation of locations for cannabis dispensaries. This shared journey towards inclusivity will undoubtedly enrich our efforts to address the nuanced challenges that lie ahead," Chairperson Harrison concludes.

MCB10's dedication to transparency is further underscored by its survey conducted prior to passing the resolution. The survey targeted members of the community board district, revealing that 54.7% supported a legal dispensary on 125th Street and 65.5% supported its presence within the community board 10 district. Respondents also expressed support for dispensaries being at least 1,000 feet away from schools and other dispensaries or consumption lounges.

The resolution also emphasizes the importance of addressing conditions and safety on 125th Street, with the funds generated from cannabis sales reinvested to enhance the community. MCB10 urges the Governor, the Mayor, and relevant agencies to continue focusing on creating a safer, cleaner, and more welcoming atmosphere along this vibrant business corridor.

This resolution stands as a testament to MCB10's unwavering commitment to justice, equity, and inclusivity. Adopted on August 10, 2023, it will be shared with pertinent parties and institutions to ensure effective implementation.

*Full Resolution will be available on the MCB10 website.

For media inquiries and additional information, please contact:

Email: Mn10cb@cb.nyc.gov

Community Board Office: (212)- 749-3105

About Community Board 10

Manhattan Community Board 10 is a local government agency of the City of New York, encompassing the neighborhoods of Central Harlem in the Borough of Manhattan. The Board serves in an advisory role in long-term community planning, Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, reviewing liquor license applications, sidewalk café applications, street activity permit applications, and street closings; and assessing community needs in the city budget. Community Board 10 is mandated by the City Charter of the City of New York. The Board consists of fifty members who are volunteers appointed by the Borough President.