



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY
BOARD No. 4
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March 2023 Full Board Minutes

Meeting Date / Location	<p>The Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) Full Board met at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, in a fully virtual meeting format.</p> <p>The meeting was accessible via Zoom webinar and live streamed on YouTube. It can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ0yTWWO1ZY</p> <p>A third-party draft transcript of the meeting can be found by selecting the MCB4 March Full Board Meeting at: https://blockparty.studio/Archive</p>
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Public Hearing: Pier 94	
Jesse Bodine, District Manager, opened a public hearing on Pier 94 in Hudson River Park.	
Benjamin Gonzalez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of safe biking infrastructure near Pier 94
Catie Savage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of accountability of Vornado and development of Pier 94 for park as greenspace with amenities for park-goers
Christine Gorman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of safe crossing between Pier 94 and the rest of Manhattan east of 12th Ave and holding Vornado accountable for repairs to the pier
Public Session Speakers	
Molly Harris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to announce the newly-formed block association on West 22nd St and shared email: 200w22streetBA@gmail.com
Marissa Yanni (Department of Sanitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced new set-out-times for trash from the Department of Sanitation
Kennan McClung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to express concern about NYPD Strategic Response Group
Catie Savage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to express concerns about safety issues and accountability following a fire at 764 Ninth Ave
Bobby Vangelatos (Chelsea Recreation Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to share information on upcoming public events at the Chelsea Recreation Center
Jess Wei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of an additional dog run replacing the Chelsea temporary dog run
Elke Fears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in opposition to the siting of casinos on the Western Rail Yards and Times Square

Priscilla Serrano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in opposition of closing of Guardian Angels School in Chelsea
Christine Gorman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in opposition to casinos in midtown Manhattan; spoke to concern over drug use and used syringes and needles on W55th St
Lisa Arongino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of new Chelsea dog run
Lisa Wager (Fashion Institute of Technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to share information on current exhibitions at the museum at FIT and upcoming events
David Stuart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to raise concern over demolition by neglect at 410-412 W46th St and other buildings in the community district
Shelli Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of a new Chelsea dog run
Mary Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke in favor of a new Chelsea dog run

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Remarks from Elected Officials and Representatives		
Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gun violence: City-wide, shootings and homicides decreased in 2022 compared to 2021 by 20% Robberies and grand larceny auto crimes in our district are also decreasing Hate crimes: increased in 2022 compared to 2021, so our office has grown in size and our prosecutions of hate crimes are up 20%. The biggest uptick in hate crimes is against the following three groups of people: LGBTQ, AAPI and Jewish people. Housing and Tenant Protection Unit: we started it in 2022 and already it is very busy prosecuting developers and landlords who are violating the law. The unit also has a hotline to call to report landlords and developers who are breaking the law. Smoke shops operating without a license: we've sent letters to 400 in the city, putting them on notice that the DA's office can initiate commercial evictions if they are operating without a license. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental health initiatives: Community Navigators and Courtroom Navigators. ● Harlem Hub: great pilot program focused on 125th Street that addressed the combination of open-air drug use, mental health issues and homelessness. This program should be scaled up and brought to other neighborhoods.
Deputy Manhattan Borough President Keisha Sutton- James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Million more trees initiative: thanks to CB4's WPE for drafting a letter to support our initiative. We hope the letter is approved tonight. ● Community Board Application Process: open now, and will close on March 17th. Please help us spread the word! ● Composting: we are working with DSNY to try to roll out more composting bins.
City Council Member Gale Brewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Glad to be working with DA Bragg to address illegal cannabis sales ● Super excited about pilot program at Amsterdam Houses to hire people to canvas the community to identify concerns and possible solutions ● E-batteries: proposed legislation to ban the sale of secondary e-batteries ● Advocating for evictions only with good cause ● Clinton Towers has lots of issues ● ID NYC application process needs to be improved
State Senator Hoylman-Sigal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduced legislation that will require social media platforms to clearly publicize their content moderation practices. ● Proud to be part of the group that fought for expanded hours at the Midtown Community Court. ● Introduced legislation to ensure that eviction proceedings are put on hold if a tenant doesn't have legal counsel. ● Working on the issue of good cause eviction ● Also focused on LGBTQ nightlife issues, including recent thefts.
NYC Mayor Adams' representative Robin Forst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer Youth Employment Program: deadline is the end of March. This year the program will include SYEP Pride. ● Free tax prep being offered throughout NYC. ● One-time amnesty program offered right now for property owners who are in arrears for overdue interest on their property loans.
State Senator Liz Krueger's rep Dana Schmerzler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Senator is Chair of the Senate Finance Committee so she is very involved in the state budget negotiations and hearings. ● Also working on legislation re: climate crisis, lithium batteries and illicit cannabis sales
State Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal's rep Donna Shashoua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocating for Housing Access Vouchers to be included in the state budget, similar to what is available in NJ and CT. ● Also advocating for legislation that would penalize landlords who overcharge tenants ● Universal Pre-K in NYC is in crisis, including the fact that Pre-K providers are not getting paid in a timely fashion. Affordable childcare is vitally important, so we are focused on it.

Board Reports & Business	
Adoption of Agenda and Minutes	Agenda Item 16 was tabled. The Agenda as amended was adopted unanimously. The February Full Board Minutes were adopted unanimously.
District Manager Report	<p>The District Manager gave the following update:</p> <p>In-person meeting update:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently the City E.O. for COVID-19 remains in effect. Per the board's determination we will remain 100% virtual until further notice. <p>March/April Committee Schedule changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All March Committees meet at their regular scheduled time April Full Board will be meeting on Tuesday, April 4th at 6:30pm due to Wednesday being the first night of Passover
Chair's Report	<p>The Chair gave the following updates:</p> <p>Working Groups\Small Meetings\Other Points of Interest</p> <p>Small Meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HHHS and Elected Offices met with new owners of Hudson Hotel for briefing of their residential conversation. MCB4 Staff attended the ongoing West 28th Street MTA Substation CAC meetings CHKLU reconnected with owners of 343 West 47 Street re their special permit application. MCB4 members and MCB4 staff attended Precinct Commanding Officer Candidate Forums for 13th Precinct and MTS. Chair and HHHS briefed on Chelsea NYCHA Update <p>Task Forces & Working Groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> MCB4 will be starting a By Laws Task Force Port Authority Bus Terminal Replacement Working Group Penn Station Area Redevelopment Project Cannabis Working Group – Public Forum in the end of March NYU Capstone Project <p>Points of Interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10th Precinct significant coordination and arrests related to Nightlife robberies targeting members of the LGBTQ community LPC calendaring of 128 West 17th Street - Former Colored School #4

Meeting Agenda

Business License & Permits Committee (BLP)

Item 01: BLP Letter to SLA re 458 9th Avenue – The Wrecking Club LLC - Serial# 1342197- **APPROVED**

Item 02: BLP Letter to SLA re 474 9th Avenue – Camapa Ltd. – Serial# 132379- **APPROVED**

Item 03: BLP Letter to SLA re 515 W 18th Street - 515 W18th Street Eatery LLC - Serial# 1334474- **APPROVED**

Item 04: BLP Letter to SLA re 59 Chelsea Piers - Golf Lounge - Konkapot Entertainment Inc. - Serial# 1323087 - **APPROVED**

Item 05: BLP Letter to SLA re 72 7th Avenue - District 727 Inc. - Serial# 1314390 - **APPROVED**

Item 06: BLP Letter to SLA re 500 W 33rd Street aka 20 Hudson Yards, Unit RU507 - BSTHY LLC- **APPROVED**

Item 07: BLP Letter to SLA re 635 W 42nd Street – LGY Concepts Inc.- **APPROVED**

Item 08: BLP Letter to SLA re 773 10th Avenue – Frena Mediterranean LLC - **APPROVED**
Item 09: BLP Letter to SLA re 25 11th Avenue, Market 57, Kiosk 16 – M.R.R. Restaurant LLC. - **APPROVED**

Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee (WPE)

Item 10: Letter to USACE re Coastal Storm Protection Project - **APPROVED**
Item 11: Letter to NYC Parks re Chelsea Park Dog Run - **APPROVED**
Item 12: Letter to NYC Parks re Hell’s Kitchen Park Renovations - **APPROVED**
Item 13: Letter to MBPO re Million Trees Initiative - **APPROVED**
Item 14: Letter to HYDC re Bella Abzug Park – Blocks 5 & 6 - **APPROVED**

Arts, Culture, Education, and Street Life Committee (ACES)

Item 15: Letter to DOE re: Need for permanent Principle at High School for Environmental Studies at 444 West 56th Street - **APPROVED**

Transportation Planning Committee (TRANS)

Item 16: Letter to DCAS re Municipal Fleet Safety and Emissions - **TABLED**
Item 17: Letter to DOT & PANYNJ re Alternative Locations for Intercity Bus Permit Application – Eastern Coach Inc. – W. 31st Street - **APPROVED**
Item 18: Letter to Cushman & Wakefield re Moynihan Train Hall Taxi Stand at 31st Street - **APPROVED**
Item 19: Letter to SAPO re Support for Muddy Paws Block Party Event on May 13, 2023 - **APPROVED**

Chelsea Land Use (CLU)

Item 20: Letter to LPC re 296 9th Avenue – The Church of the Holy Apostles for Lamp Post Installation - **APPROVED**
Item 21: Letter to ESD re Repair and replacement of Terra Cotta Plaques - **APPROVED**
Item 22: Letter to LPC re Request For Evaluation of Church of the Lady Guadalupe 229-231 West 14th Street - **APPROVED**

Housing, Health & Human Services Committee (HHHS)

Item: 23: Letter to DSS, DHS & Mayor re 305 W39th Street, The Artel Hotel Notification - **APPROVED**
Item: 24: Letter to Health & Hospital Corporation re Family with children shelter at the Watson Hotel – 440 West 57 Street - **APPROVED**

Executive Committee (EXEC)

Item 25: Letter to EDC re Pier 94 – **For Ratification - APPROVED**
Item 26: Letter to Independent Redistricting Commission re State Assembly Redistricting - **APPROVED**
Item 27: CHKLU\CLU Joint letter re Public Bathroom Task Force Proposed Text Amendment - **APPROVED**
Item 28: Letter to Mayor and City Council re support of existing zoning and development plan for Western Rail yards. - **APPROVED**

New Business

N/A

See appended vote sheet for complete details for each item’s vote

Meeting Resolution	
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm
Next Meeting Date and Location	6:30pm on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Virtual Meeting

As recorded by Roberta Barnett and Katy Stokes

