



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

**LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Susan Filburn  
Acting Executive Director  
NYS Office of Cannabis Management  
Harriman State Office Building Campus 1220 Washington Ave.  
Albany, NY 12207

Jessica C. García  
Chair  
Cannabis Control Board  
Harriman State Office Building Campus 1220 Washington Ave.  
Albany, NY 12207

RE: Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensary Renewal Process

Dear Ms. Filburn and Ms. García

Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) voted by 42 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining, and 0 present-not-eligible to ask the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to review its process of adult-use cannabis dispensary renewals, whereby improving the opportunity for the public to weigh in on the operation of the business.

Background:

Manhattan Community District 4 recently reached the two-year milestone of its first legal cannabis dispensaries operating within its boundaries, the very first licensees have begun being up for renewal. Two years ago, MCB4 had provided a statement of support for Soodaks Inc. d.b.a. Verdi at 158 West 23rd Street. This December the business came

before MCB4's Cannabis Task Force to present for the license renewal only to inform MCB4 that OCM, due to statutory regulations, had already granted their renewal. The licensee stated they were required to provide a Community Impact Plan as part of their renewal process. Additionally, the licensee informed us that the ownership composition had changed and while the original Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries (CAURD) licensee still maintained majority ownership, there was a change in minority ownership as well as management. Essentially, from a community perspective this is a new business.

Communities need to be part of the process for license renewals in their neighborhoods. Many factors are taken into account by the community at large including the location of the proposed business and proximity to conflicting interests, the experience of the operators and the saturation of businesses that may be disruptive to the quality of life of the surrounding residents. MCB4 is advocating on behalf of all communities for OCM to develop a clearly defined Adult-Use Recreational Cannabis Dispensary license renewal protocol which includes community input. MCB4 is highly concerned that the renewal process in place does not ensure there is community input.

Additionally, a trend is emerging where licensees will hold a 51% stake in a dispensary and minority stakeholders are managing and operating the businesses. How can OCM and the community fully know who is engaged in these businesses and if the ownership composition changes, is the license holder required to disclose to OCM or anyone?

Communities should be given every opportunity to review a pending license renewal and as such, MCB4 would request the following of OCM:

- Before approving renewals that do not have a comment from the local municipality, conduct outreach to that local municipality.
- Require renewal applicants to share the Community Impact Plan with the Community Board.
- Institute a requirement that any changes to ownership\management composition be publicly disclosed and submitted to the community for comment.

OCM should view community boards as partners in the renewal review process as community buy-in is a strong component for success of these small business owners.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghasian Murphy  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Cannabis Task Force

cc: Hon. Tony Simone, New York Assembly  
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Segal, Manhattan Borough President