



## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 June 9, 2025**

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Waqil Ahmed	Lisa Derrick	Donald Loggins	Bazah Roohi
Gregory Alvarez	Roisin Ford	Melissa Minnich	Nina Sabghir
Hindy Bendel	Jerrell Gray	Ephraim Nierenberg	Joel Siegel
Binyomin Bendet	Moussa Hassoun	Aasma Nuzzi	Gail L Smith
Davina Bholanauth	Ian Haynes	Eric Ost	Alexa Summers
Christopher Bromson	Mordechai Husarsky	Ornella Parker	Tova Szenberg
Karl-Henry Cesar	Kirsti Jutila	Susan Phillip	Rolanda Telesford-Hastick
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Nicole Levenson Angulo	Tzvi Plotsker	Abraham Treff
Yvette Clairjeane	Alex Lesman	Barden Prisant	Deborah Valentin

### **DISTRICT OFFICE**

Shawn Campbell, District Manager  
Patricia Olender, Community Coordinator

### **BOROUGH HALL**

Brit Byrd, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

### **CITY COUNCIL**

Brian Grady, Office of Council Member Rita Joseph (40th CD)  
Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Council Member Farah Louis (45th CD)

### **STATE ASSEMBLY**

Tyesha Allen, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (42nd AD)  
Aaomi Sailing, Office of Assemblymember Brian Cunningham (43rd AD)  
Mary Kay Seery, Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll (44th AD)

### **STATE SENATE**

Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie (20th SD)

### **OTHER GUESTS/REPRESENTATIVES**

Det. Scott Nuzzi, 70th Precinct, New York City Police Department

## **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Karl-Henry Cesar called the June meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Chair read the opening statement outlining the policies and procedures pertaining to Board meetings under the applicable statutes of New York State, the Charter of the City of New York, the Board's Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. Quorum was present.

## **II. MINUTES:**

Minutes of the May 12, 2025, meeting were approved with a correction to a spelling error. Copies are on file at the CB14 District Office and available on the CB14 website.

## **III. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT – Shawn Campbell:**

The District Manager reported on meetings, hearings and other events pertinent to the district. DM Campbell provided updates on city budget hearings. The DM presented testimony to the City Council Committee on Government Operations advocating for a baseline budget increase for community boards. She has also submitted and will present testimony at a separate Government Operations Committee hearing regarding charter revision proposals and bills introduced in City Council that pertain to community boards. (Addendum 1). The DM announced that the District Office is collecting community input on expense budgets and capital projects for fiscal year 2027, which will be shared at a September public hearing in advance of the regular meeting of the Board.

DM Campbell noted the passing of Representative Charles Wrangle and shared information about opportunities for residents to pay their respects.

The DM also announced changes to the office staff's schedules and reminded the assembly that there will be a meeting hiatus during the summer, and the district office will remain fully operational.

## **IV. CHAIR REPORT – Karl-Henry Cesar:**

The Chair recognized representatives from elected officials' offices and city agencies (see page 1).

The Chair announced that Christopher Bromson will be co-chairing the Community Environment, Cultural Affairs, and Economic Development Committee and congratulated him on his appointment. The Chair encouraged board members to review the SUNY Downstate Community Advisory Board's final report on recommendations, which was published on June 5. He also announced that the community board's annual reception will take place in the Fall.

The Chair reminded attendees that, due to summer recess, the Board will only meet if notified of an item that requires timely action. He brought forth a resolution empowering the Committee of the Whole to act on behalf of the full Board, thus satisfying its quorum requirements during the summer months.

**On a motion, duly made, it was:**

**RESOLVED (36-0-0) to empower the Committee of the Whole.**

The Chair reported on the executive committee meeting held on Thursday, May 29. Agenda items included a new board member orientation, discussion of CB14 practices regarding committee meetings, public hearings, permits and licenses, a performance review for the district manager, and other business. During the meeting it was decided to maintain the current process for committee meetings, public hearings, permits and licenses. The committee also discussed starting a Friends of Community Board 14 nonprofit corporation. The chair

thanked Cristopher Bromson for his involvement in these conversations and encouraged members who are interested in learning more to email the district office.

The Chair reported on a public hearing held on June 5, 2025, for an application by Madelline Inc, DBA Pasture Burgers, located at 1611 Cortelyou Road, for a sidewalk café under DOT's Dining Out NYC program.

**On a motion, duly made, it was:**

**RESOLVED (36-0-0) to approve the recommendation for Pasture Burgers sidewalk café under the DOT's Dining Out NYC program. (Addendum 2)**

The Chair reported on a Transition Committee meeting held on June 5, 2025. During the meeting a recommendation was advanced to continue utilizing the ad hoc Transition Committee as is until such a time that the Bylaws Committee can consider adding it as a standing committee. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Discussion ensued.

**On a motion, duly made, it was:**

**RESOLVED (36-0-0) to continue the ad hoc Transition Committee as is until such a time that the Bylaws Committee can consider adding it as a standing committee, thus making it permanent.**

The Chair congratulated Nicole Lebenon Angulo on her appointment to co-chair the ad hoc Transition Committee.

The Chair noted that the District Office had been advised that there would be two BSA applications in the fall and advised board members to begin reviewing the applications upon receiving the relevant materials.

The Chair reported on the June 3 Borough Board meeting. The Board heard a presentation by the Department of Youth and Community Development on Neighborhood Advisory Boards. The Board also heard a presentation by the New York City Economic Development Corporation on the creation of public open spaces near Broadway Junction Station. There was also an update from Borough Board's Bylaws Committee.

The Chair reminded attendees of the upcoming primary election for NYC Mayor. He congratulated board members with perfect meeting attendance at board meetings and those who had attended over 20 board and committee meetings. The members with perfect attendance were Karl-Henry Cesar, Moussa Hassoun, Gregory Alvarez, Alex Lessman, and Donald Loggins. Those who attended over 20 meetings were: Florencia Chang-Ageda, Nina Sabghir, Dawn-Marie Walker, Ornella Parker, and Deborah Valentin.

## **V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:**

**A) Human Services – Co-Chairs Yvette Clairjeane and Nina Sabghir** thanked the 33 organizations who participated in CB14's annual Nonprofit Roundtable as well as the keynote speaker: Michael Sedillo, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Nonprofit Services. They thanked Ohel Children's Home and Family Services, for hosting the event.

District Manager Campbell also expressed her thanks to the organizers and participants in the Nonprofit Roundtable.

**B) Housing and Land Use – Co-Chairs Gregory Alvarez and Melissa Minnich** reported on the May 19 meeting. Brooklyn Level Up provided an introduction to Community Land Trusts. The Landmarks Preservation Commission presented on the agency's mission and provided information on how the commission designates new landmark buildings and districts. The co-chairs also announced that the Department of Buildings is offering free, no-penalty inspections.

- C) Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development – Co-Chairs Christopher Bromson and Joel Siegel** shared information on advocating for NYC Parks in the city budget and announced upcoming events being held in Prospect Park.
- D) Community Safety – Co-Chairs Hindy Bendel and Florencia Chang-Ageda** announced that the 70th Precinct's last Community Council meeting of the season will take place on Wednesday, June 25 and National Night Out will take place on August 5.
- E) Transportation – Co-Chairs Moussa Hassoun and Deborah Valentin** announced that on Wednesday, July 11 DOT will be presenting on phase 3 of their bike lane expansion plan.
- F) Youth Services, Education and Libraries – Co-Chairs Ornella Parker and Eric Ost** shared information about summer opportunities for students.

## **VI. AD HOC COMMITTEE – REPORTS AND ITEMS**

- G) Transition Committee – Chair Ornella Parker** reported on the committee meeting held on June 5. The committee advanced a recommendation for the committee to continue to meet in an ad hoc manner until the time that the Bylaws Committee could meet to consider making it a standing committee. The committee discussed the composition of the board and the community, including demographic disparities. She asked all board members to fill out a brief survey. The committee also discussed outreach, engagement, and public membership. The committee also discussed creating a new Board Member handbook.

## **VII. PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Moussa Hassoun announced the East Midwood Jewish Center's pool reopening celebration on June 17.
2. Mary Kay Seery, Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll, shared information about upcoming events and services hosted by the Assemblymember's office.
3. Carol Moore, Brooklyn Dreams Charter School, shared information about the school and programs offered.
4. Brit Byrd, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, announced upcoming and past events sponsored by the Borough President's office.
5. Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Council Member Farah Louis, shared information about upcoming and past events and programs hosted by the Council Member's office. He also made budget and legislative announcements.
6. Brian Grady, Office of Council Member Rita Joseph, shared information about upcoming events and programs hosted by the Council Member's office.
7. Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie, shared information about upcoming events and programs hosted by the State Senator's office, including a senior resource fair co-hosted with Councilmember Joseph. She also announced a summer reading program.
8. Nancy Lulu, Office of the Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, announced upcoming events hosted by the District Attorney's office.
9. Antonia Bramble and Jay Taubman, Brooklyn Public Library, shared information about events hosted by the library. They also spoke about efforts to increase funding for libraries in the city budget.
10. Marie Antoine Pierre shared information about mental health resources and events.
11. Tyesha Allen, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, shared information about legislative developments and events hosted by the Assemblymember.
12. Florence St Jean, Global Trauma Research, shared information about behavioral health resources, including alternative therapies available at the Global Trauma Research clinic.
13. Ornella Parker reminded attendees to vote in the primary election.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:31 P.M.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14**  
**FLATBUSH–MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT**  
810 East 16th Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11230

Testimony to the Committee on Government Operations – March 21, 2025

Good afternoon Chair Restler, Committee Members, Members of Council and Agency Representatives,

My name is Shawn Campbell. I am the District Manager at Brooklyn Community Board 14. I am here to offer testimony on the need for resources and support for Community Boards across the City and appreciate the opportunity to do so even though Community Boards are not on today's agenda. My testimony will provide historical context for the need for baseline support and will be followed by several colleagues who will specify the impacts of inadequate resources and support.

Community Boards are independent city agencies which have not had a significant budget increase in over 20 years. Annual budget changes ranged from an increase of 5.74% to a 7.3% decrease, (with two outlier years when this committee, then chaired by CM Cabrerra allocated \$42K for OTPS to the boards in FY19 and 20). The average is a 1.5% annual increase over that 20-year period. Note that inflation averages out to 2.55% - we are not keeping up.

Inarguably, we have far more to do than CBs did in 2002 yet fewer staff with whom to get it done. In 2002, CBs had 159 full time staff; in 2022 we were down to 148. Compare this to the Mayor's office, which went from 859 to 1133; or to another small agency like the Department of Cultural Affairs, which employed 31 full time staff in 2002 and 49 in 2022; or to an agency that provides support to CB – OTI which went from 285 to 1539, yet still only provides one tech support staffer for all 59 community boards!

Not only do we need a baseline adjustment in keeping with our growing populations, growing responsibilities and the economy itself; but that budget must be stabilized by tying it to a funding formula that considers full staffing minimums, or creating parity with another service providing agency, or setting it to a percentage of a percentage of the citywide budget.

My colleagues will continue with specific examples of how serving our communities and meeting New York City Charter mandates are challenged by the lack of support and baseline budget resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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**FLATBUSH-MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT**  
810 East 16th Street  
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Addendum 1

June 16, 2025

Dear Chair Restler, members of the committee and New York City councilmembers at large,

My name is Shawn Alyse Campbell and I serve as the District Manager for Brooklyn Community Board 14. Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following testimony in reference to Intros pending in city council that relate to community boards.

Community Boards are independent non-mayoral city agencies. Community Boards are not a unit or department or function of any other agency or any office of an elected official. While tasked as advisory bodies on proposals, permits, events and applications, the overriding responsibility of a community board is to be the fulcrum between the distinct district borders and every city agency. It is therefore of utmost importance that the independence of community boards be preserved, and the functions of community boards be supported with an adequate budget that is pegged to inflation and the growth of all other city agencies and elected offices.

**The intros being considered by the Committee on Governmental Operations, State and Federal Legislation overlook and threaten to undermine our independence and do not address our baseline resource needs.**

Specifically:

Int 0472-2024 Name: Requiring the borough presidents to provide equal employment opportunity trainings to community board members. Title: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the borough presidents to provide equal employment opportunity trainings to community board members.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** This intro is unclear. It is one thing to require the Borough Presidents to provide training. However, if the intent is to require board members to avail themselves of the training upon appointment, that should be stated. It might be most efficient to require DCAS to simply make the training videos accessible and require that board members submit their certificate to their respective Borough Halls within a timeframe after appointment.

Int. No. 1065 Bill Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the terms of employment for district managers. Bill Summary: This bill would limit the term of community board district managers to four years, with the possibility of re-appointment, and provide borough presidents with the power to remove district managers at will.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** This intro disregards the autonomy of community boards and is antithetical to the NYC Charter. District Managers already serve at the pleasure of their boards. For example, CB14 is directed by its own bylaws to review the performance of the District Manager annually.

The idea that an elected official can fire the staff of another independent city agency is unprecedented and contrary to the city charter. By design and virtue, community board positions will sometimes oppose those of the borough presidents. The BP is tasked with furthering the interest of the borough as a whole. The community board is hyper local. Sometimes a plan has broad and diffuse benefits that require an imposition on a particular neighborhood. It is the responsibility of community boards to raise the hyper local concerns. Sometimes it might result in a community benefits agreement, a compromise or change. Other times, there cannot be a change but at least the downside has been considered in the pursuit of the upside. This is a healthy debate. Borough Presidents have been known to remove board members when an issue is controversial. That's unfortunate. However, for them to have the additional power to remove staff carrying out the wishes

of a board and the community at large is undemocratic and would render the positions of DM to patronage posts. This proposal should be withdrawn entirely.

Int. No. 1134 Bill Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to race and ethnicity data collected by agencies. Bill Summary: This bill would require agencies that collect demographic information from individuals through form documents to include additional race and ethnicity options.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** This bill does not seem pertinent to community boards. We do not appoint board members and cannot be held responsible for the demographic composition of our boards. CB14 has five overlapping council members who nominate half of the board members, who are then all appointed by the borough presidents. It is unknown whether the council members collect demographic data to inform their nominations. To the extent that we have asked Brooklyn Borough Hall to share this information and have offered support to increase applications from underrepresented groups in our district, we have been denied. If this bill also supports sharing demographic information collected by council or borough presidents for the purpose of ensuring a representative board, we would favor it.

Int. No. 1250 Bill Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to publication of bylaws by borough boards, community boards, and advisory bodies. Bill Summary: This bill would require every community board, borough board or advisory body to publish in a searchable, non-proprietary and machine-readable format, their by-laws, and update such published by-laws no later than two weeks after any changes are made.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** This seems duplicative, at least as it pertains to community boards. We are already required to post our respective bylaws and have in fact been audited to ensure compliance. Otherwise, no objection.

T2025-3330 Name: Requiring community boards to email a monthly newsletter and videoconference their meetings and hearings. Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to requiring community boards to email a monthly newsletter and videoconference their meetings and hearings.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** Community Board 14 publishes a monthly newsletter, which is a cost. We use a less-than-optimal service because if we limit the number of mailings, it is free. We video conference our meetings via Webex. Webex is less than optimal but it is free. We invested in equipment for our board office in the year that this committee provided us with a \$42,500 allotment. This equipment enables CB14 to livestream smaller meetings from our district office. The quality is not optimal, but we cannot upgrade equipment with our current budget. For off-site meetings we record and livestream using a provider, Harisch Studios. Annually the total for these services is over \$5000 and we expect those costs to rise.

Please support a baseline budget increase for these activities, especially if you plan to mandate them.

T2025-3396 Name: Requiring borough presidents to establish and maintain an office to assist community boards by providing legal, information technology, community planning, and human resources support. Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to requiring borough presidents to establish and maintain an office to assist community boards by providing legal, information technology, community planning, and human resources support. Summary: This bill would require each Borough President to establish and maintain an office to assist community boards by providing legal, information technology, community planning, and human resources support.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** The offices of Borough Presidents currently provide some of these support functions. Some are assigned by the charter, others are practices developed over time. This is a proposal that could use further consideration and clarification. For instance, the City Law Department is also a resource for legal guidance that might be more efficient than five different borough halls being responsible for legal advice to 59 boards. Clearly, it might depend on the matter. What if the legal matter is between a borough hall and a community board? Support for information technology is most usually sought from OTI. Community planning capacity is afforded directly to the boards through the city charter, which notes that each board should have a planner. Certainly, a baseline budget increase would enable boards to hire a planner, or a planning consultant as needed and would ensure each board's autonomy in planning considerations. While some outside administrative support is necessary and valued, the emphasis of resource distribution should be on the

community boards themselves. In other words, increase the baseline budgets for community boards to help them increase administrative, planning and functional capacity while also underscoring the autonomy of community boards.

T2025-3605 Name: Establishing an office of community board support within the department of citywide administrative services. Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to establishing an office of community board support within the department of citywide administrative services. Summary: This bill would establish the Office of Community Board Support within the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). This office would be required to assist community boards with finding accessible public meeting spaces and permanent office spaces. The office would also be required to conduct regular assessments regarding the physical needs of community board offices and help with any repairs or upgrades needed to the offices.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** This seems duplicative. DCAS requires a CB district office survey annually, navigates lease renewals and has provided this support for CB14 in the past. In addition, many CB offices are in city-owned buildings under DCAS purview. Otherwise, no objection.

T2025-3608 Name: Community board member training, appointment dates, and qualifications. Title: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to community board member training, appointment dates, and qualifications. Summary: This bill would require each Borough President to provide training for newly appointed community board members who have not previously served as community board members. The bill would also change the appointment date for community board members from April 1 to August 15 and would add a requirement for an individual to have attended a community board meeting prior to their appointment to a community board.

**Brooklyn CB14 testimony:** Training responsibilities seem to already be in the city charter as per Chapter 4, Section 82, 12. "Provide training and technical assistance to the members of community boards within the borough." Perhaps this could be tightened up to require that the training be provided by staff outside of the borough president's office to address any appearance of influencing points of view. The change in appointment date seems positive in that it would allow the current slate to finish out a fiscal year. The requirement to attend a community board meeting is unclear. Does this mean a regular monthly meeting of the board or a committee meeting? Is it necessary to require attendance when recordings of all meetings are posted on the board's website? These are merely questions for consideration. Otherwise, CB14 has no objection to this intro.

**It is important that you take note of the proposals that would impose further on community boards' resources and address the already constrained CB budgets. No matter what happens with any of these intros, please raise the community board's baseline budgets this year by at least \$50,000 each and tie future year increases to a logical anchor.**

Thank you.





**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14**  
**FLATBUSH–MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT**  
810 East 16th Street  
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June 16, 2025

Good Day Chair Restler, members of the committee and New York City councilmembers at large,

My name is Shawn Alyse Campbell. I serve as the District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board 14. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of CB14 regarding your efforts to support the work of Community Boards citywide. While having your attention is welcome, I fear that many of the proposed intros divert focus from our most pressing need: a baseline budget increase. CBs have not had a significant budget increase in over 20 years. Over that span of time, community boards have averaged an annual 1.5% budget increase while inflation rose an annual 2.5%. Furthermore, many city agencies have seen their headcount increase substantially while community boards remain the only city agency that has the same headcount as when founded. I will resubmit the testimony presented at this committee's budget hearing back in March in support of this dire need.

By several calculations, \$200,000 per CB was identified as the figure needed to make us whole. We understand that this figure would have to be achieved incrementally. To those of you who expressed support for a mere \$50K increase in this upcoming budget cycle, I hope it's not too late and that these other proposals are not a distraction.

Because while our budgets have effectively decreased, our responsibilities have increased. The number of zoning text amendments have increased in the past 10 years, especially citywide ZTAs. Boards now have to consider OCM applications, and Open Dining and Open Streets applications on top of expanding SLA and SAPO applications. Agency policy changes such as DSNY vendor enforcement and containerization rules have generated additional service delivery work. Responsibilities providing language access, website access, meeting livestreams, increased audits and being named Agency Privacy Officers put a strain on our under-financed offices. Events such as youth conferences, community resource fairs and the like are severely limited. Many CB budgets are so close to the budget limit that we can no longer offer our (one or two or three-at-most) staff merit raises.

We are a no-frills, hyper-local community agency serving 200,000 residents on average on a \$180,000 budget on average, with a staff of three, on average. We support the work of all city agencies and our overlapping elected officials. Please ensure that our baseline budgets keep up with growing needs beginning this fiscal year.

What we need most of all is an inflationary adjustment to our baseline budgets. However, to the extent that some of the intros on today's agenda have merit and others are unwise, more detailed written testimony will be submitted on behalf of CB14.

Thank you.

## DINING OUT NYC

## COMMUNITY BOARD RECOMMENDATION FORM

This form is to be used by community boards during the cafe review process. Any comments from the community board should be recorded on this form and submitted to NYC DOT. For information pertaining to specific cafe design requirements, visit the Dining Out NYC website for program legislation, rules, and Setup Guides. **Addendum 2**

**Business Name:**

**Cafe Address:**

**Application Number:**

**CB Review Deadline (on date or next business day):**

NYCDOT Internal Use Only

**Sidewalk Cafe Setup Feedback:**

☐ Community Board chooses to **WAIVE** review

Comments related to the cafe's **physical footprint and dimensions**:

Comments related to **pedestrian flow** (i.e., visibility, safety , potential crowding):

Comments related to potential conflicts with **existing curb use** (i.e., planters, bike racks, bus stops):

Please check one of the recommendations below, either **approval**, **denial**, or **approval with modifications** relating to the above application:

☐ Community Board recommends **approval**

☐ Community Board recommends **denial**

☐ Community Board recommends **approval w/ modifications**

Recommended modifications (**only if approved w/ modifications**):

☐ Applicant acknowledges and agrees to modifications relating to the above referenced application

☐ Applicant acknowledges **BUT** does **NOT** agree with modifications relating to the above referenced application. If this box is checked, please provide NYC DOT with documentation of such agreement for NYC DOT's consideration.

Community Board Authorizing Name

Community Board Authorizing Signature

Date