



# Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Morningside Heights

## CB9 Cannabis Taskforce

Thursday, May 23, 2024

MINUTES FOR ZOOM MEETING

### In Attendance:

Members: Hon. Chris Berry; Hon. Carlton Davis; Hon. Daria Hardeman; Co-Chair: Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero; and Hon. Solomon Prophete

**Guests:** Lt. Gerard Salvia and Tomisha Hicks, Karl Reynoso (CB9 resident) and Dr. Edwin Torres (Public Member)

### Welcome

Meeting Commenced: 6: 45 pm

### Adopt Agenda

### Adopt Minutes

- o March Minutes (PENDING)
- o April Minutes (NO MEETING HELD)

### Updates:

Enforcement efforts regarding illegal cannabis establishments – Lt. Gerard Salvia, 30th Pct:

- The officers from the local pct are partnering with the sheriff's department to remove illegal products and to padlock establishments.
- There were 21 closures of illegal establishments in Manhattan North. Of the 21, 1 closure on 5/15 was in the 26th pct area. There are no closures yet in the 30th pct area..
- His team has not received the information regarding newly established legal dispensaries. They welcome our CB's help regarding a list of the legal dispensaries. Solomon shared the OCM website link where information is posted regarding legal dispensaries.

Lt. Salvia, took some questions from those in attendance and shared his email: [Gerard.salvia@nypd.org](mailto:Gerard.salvia@nypd.org) if there were additional questions.

Harlem Health Initiative: Tomisha Hicks, MPH

- The Cannabis Equity study used established mapping processes to identify unlicensed cannabis outlets across Harlem before the first licensed outlet opened in the neighborhood and compared those results to reported police crime records for 2022
  - o Highest unlicensed dispensary density was identified in East Harlem (41.2 outlets / mi2) compared to West (18.6 outlets/mi2) and Central Harlem (24.3 outlets /mi2).

- Demographic differences were detected by community board areas, with East Harlem having the highest proportion of Hispanic/Latino residents (46.7%), adults without a high school degree (24.4%), and poverty rate (31.8%)
- The study suggests that unlicensed cannabis outlets have congregated in low income, high crime areas in Harlem.
  - Given that the rapid proliferation of cannabis outlets began after NY legalized cannabis in 2021 and that crime rates (felony, misdemeanor, and violation) have fallen considerably across all three community boards from 2000 to 2022 (NYPD, n.d.-a), it is likely that the resulting cannabis outlet concentrations are related to a legacy of discriminatory housing and other racialized policies imposed on Harlem (Haley et al., 2023). Still, the concentrations of unlicensed cannabis outlets raise questions about how such concentrations may impact crime, home values,
  - children’s exposure to second hand smoke, cannabis advertising, and age of first use in the future.

Tomisha shared additional information about their ongoing series:

**Cannabis and the Body – Understanding the Endocannabinoid System (Cannabis Corner Webinar Series Episode 3)** June 11th, 2024 11 AM – 12:15 PM | Virtual | [Register Here](#)

Join us for a comprehensive exploration of how cannabis affects the human body on the physiological level. Attendees will gain a scientific and technical background of the metabolic pathways of cannabis in the body. This knowledge will lay a foundation for discussions about cannabis use and regulation in different capacities.

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Yasmin Hurd, PhD** - Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience and the Director of the Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai

*Continuing Education credit for certified public health professionals (CPH-CE, 1 hour) may be earned by viewing this webinar. Visit the [National Board of Public Health Examiners](#) to learn more.*

**Therapeutic Applications of Cannabis (Cannabis Corner Webinar Series Episode 4)**

June 25th, 2024 4 PM – 5:30 PM | Virtual | [Register Here](#)

Join us for a fireside chat on the therapeutic applications of cannabis within the medical space with Dr. Duclas Charles, PharmD & Dr. Maurice Hinson, MD.

**Featured Speakers: Dr. Duclas Charles, PharmD** - Founder of Black Health Connect, **Dr. Maurice Hinson, MD** - Founder of MediRootz Medical Groups

*Continuing Education credit for certified public health professionals (CPH-CE, 1 hour) may be earned by viewing this webinar. Visit the [National Board of Public Health Examiners](#) to learn more.*

**Finalization of CB9 Rules and Guidelines**

- Final discussion ensued and the task force members agreed that the rules (attached) were ready to present before the Executive Committee.

**Meeting concluded: 8:14 pm**