



## Brooklyn Borough Service Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 AM

Via Webex

### MINUTES

**Borough Hall:** Erin Wright, Lacey Tuber, Marquise Eaddy.

**Community Boards:** Johana Pulgarin CB1; Taya Mueller CB 2; Celeste Leon CB4; Melinda Perkins CB5; Jeremy Laufer CB 7; Michelle George CB 8; Dante Arnwine CB9; Josephine Beckmann CB 10; Marnee Elias-Pavia CM 11; Eddie Mark CB 13, Shawn Campbell CB 14, Laura Singer CB 15, Sydone Thompson CB 16, Sherif Fraser CB 17, Sue Ann Partnow CB 18.

***Approval of the minutes of December 10, 2024.***

#### **Borough Hall Updates**

- Reminder that the community board application is available with a deadline of Feb. 14, 2025.

#### **Presentation on budget process and Charter requirements (Lacey Tauber, Legislative Director for BP)**

*Discussion on budget process:*

- **CB15:** Did not receive answers back on their budget responses. There is a new system. Boards questioned how votes and conversations can occur without a response from DCP.
- **CB14:** Received a notice from DCP that they will place the district needs and budget response on the website. Budget consultations happen in the fall, responses are received after the budget is released in January. In terms of timing, have not had DCP pushback from turning in their needs statement and budget priorities a little late. Meeting the October 31 deadline with a hearing is hard, but efforts are made to comply. The quality of the agency responses is never up to a helpful standard. Request to see the BP's budget response. BH can send it around if it's not on the website.
- **CB7:** Charter doesn't describe what "consult with the BP's office means," and probably doesn't define what "response" means. The Board is frustrated with the entire process. DCP has not responded to the prelim budget in 15 years. Same issues: they're never funded, and boards keep getting unacceptable answers from DCP.
- **CB5:** Complying with Charter mandates becomes an issue when board members do not understand the process. The district office tries to push members to participate. Members are not engaged or do not know about all of the steps necessary. Members need training on the Charter mandates. It is not just swearing in, members need to understand what they're signing up to do. CB5 is getting a lot of new board members, and with term limits, they need to buckle down on training. Can training be mandated as a board membership requirement, because

people need to take responsibilities seriously. More people understanding the process will make the process more effective.

- **CB2:** Noted agreement with their colleagues.
- **CB4:** There is more visibility in other types of budget processes. Can the City fund a mailer on district needs during this season? How can we focus outreach on this process? CB4 echoes comments from colleagues that it's important to have budget responses on the record. CB4 is contemplating how to move past the frustration of dealing with the same nonsensical response every year in response and dedicate capacity in moving the dial on some of these requests specifically.
- **CB13:** Agreed with CB4. They talk about the budget as a wish list. They talk about it as something they have control over. The rest of the budget is a repeat of what they did last year, maybe one thing has been addressed. Board members don't really understand why they go over the budget.
- **CB14:** Boards have different styles and approaches, but they try to message out that every day is a budget request day because they're always looking at service delivery. This practice feeds into their budget priorities, with 311 calls, agency outreach, etc., most of these being budget-based requests. CB14 doesn't think about this as a once-a-year exercise. The board is stuck on the quality of the answers from the agencies—boards don't have a champion to push the agencies to respond better, and it's important to CB14 to have their work and requests on record.
- **CB2:** Training is important and helpful; members need an orientation/educational 101. During the application season, can we do a "here's what you're getting into" workshop? Tone can be different from what folks are trained on after they're sworn in. Budget process would be good to have as part of this.
- **CB7:** If Charter is not being complied with, maybe a budget increase is more important than Charter compliance.

**BH response to discussion:** BP raised the idea of creating a committee to work through budget process issues, but it seems there are entrenched issues we need to discuss first before talking about the committee.

#### Cabinet Updates

- **CB16:** First Cabinet meeting as new DM, will be there on Thursday 1/16 for Charter discussion with BP.
  - **CB13:** Casino public hearing last week was at the Y, land use committee meeting tomorrow. They're expecting a lot of people. Will have zoom option for the public and hold space in their office to capacity (40 people). Decide on full board recommendation later this month.
  - **CB14:** 18<sup>th</sup> annual youth conference will be on March 12, expecting 60 orgs. They will need volunteers and would love to have everyone come by. They usually receive about 400 14-20 years olds during the event.
  - **CB15:** Can't be there on the 16<sup>th</sup> with the BP and asks that notes be circulated.
- Follow ups: Borough Hall to send budget presentation, BP's budget response documents, and Charter section on budget response.