



BROOKLYN BOROUGH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

[Via Webex Livestream](#)

MINUTES

Welcome & Roll Call

Call to order at 6:12 p.m. There were 21 members present, and it was determined that quorum had been met. This meeting was recorded and is available on the [Borough President's YouTube channel](#).

Community Boards: Gina Barros, Rosemary Espinal (CB1), Anthony Buissereth (CB3), Raul Rubio (CB4), Alice Lowman (CB5), Julio Pena (CB7), Irsa Weatherspoon (CB8), Fred Baptiste (CB9), Sandy Vallas (CB10), Jeany Hernandez (CB13), Karl-Henry Cesar (CB14), Theresa Scavo (CB15), Margaret Brewer (CB 16), Trisha Louison (CB 17).

Council Members: Angela Yang (Restler-33), Anya Lehr (Gutierrez 34), Michelle Beatty (Osse-36), Samori Toure (Nurse -37), Christina Bottego (Hanif-39), Tamesha Thompson (Mealy 41), Deedra Cheatham (Banks 42), Anna Firsova (Zhuang-43), Shubhra Mishra (Louis-45), Sasha Revels (Vernikov-48), Nancy Rudin (Carr-50).

Borough President's Office: Corina Lozada (General Counsel), Carol-Ann Church, (Community Boards Unit Director), Martin Fitzpatrick (IT).

Guests: Bro. Paul Muhammad (CB5)

Presenter: Stathi Patseas, Victims Compensation Fund (VCF)

Approval of the Agenda

Motioned by Chair Scavo and seconded by Designee Vallas, passed by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes

Meeting held on 04.01.2025, Designee Cheatham requested the spelling of their name be corrected, Designee Revels asked to be added to the attendee list. Chair Cesar noted that there was some strange formatting in the final paragraph. There were no objections to the amendments and the minutes passed by consensus motioned by Chair Scavo and seconded by Designee Revels.

Borough Hall & Board Member Updates

- Carol-Ann Church informed the body that the 2025 community board appointments were complete – all applicants, appointed or not have been notified as well as council members and district managers.
- Chair Cesar – noted that the borough board attendance was not yet on the website
Chair Lozada responded that the borough board's landing page on the website is being worked on, and the attendance will soon be posted. At this
- Chair Cesar was perplexed as to why the community boards unit is listed as a department on the Borough President's website.
Chair Lozada responded that there is a department at Borough Hall that manages community boards recruitment, appointment and workshops and the borough board.

Unfinished Business

- Designee Rubio would like to verify the protocol for notices of expansion on municipal property for liquor licenses. The office is receiving notices directly from the attorneys and not directly from the State Liquor Authority. They wanted to verify the protocol.
Chair Lozada responded that the board should send an email to the office. We will then attempt to get clarification

There was no unfinished business.

Communications & Reports

PRESENTATION

Stathi Patseas, Manager of Communications and External Affairs at the US Department of Justice, gave an informative presentation on the September 11 Victims Compensation Fund (VCF). The unit is based in DC with a satellite office in New York City. The fund was initially established to provide financial assistance to those who were most impacted by the events of September 11 at the World Trade Center in NY, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa. The original program closed in 2004 but was reopened in 2011, reauthorized in 2015 and 2019. The latest authorization extended the filing deadline to October 1, 2090. The office has a mandate to get the funds to eligible persons.

Eligible persons are defined as:

- Uniformed first responders.
- Workers or volunteers supported the response, recovery, cleanup, and debris removal efforts.
- Government agencies and victim services providers.
- Media personnel and others whose work required them to be at a 9/11 site.
- People who lived, worked, visited, commuted through, or went to school or daycare in the VCF

To learn more, register and file a claim

- www.vcf.gov
- www.vcf.gov/espanol.html
- www.vcf.gov/polish.html
- www.vcf.gov/chinese.html
- Toll-free Helpline: 1-855-885-1555
- For the hearing impaired: 1-855-885-1558
- If calling from outside the U.S.: 202-514-1100
- Interpreters are available

Online Claim

- www.claims.vcf.gov

Note: If it is not .GOV, it is not the VCF

VCF welcomes requests for community presentations and encourages everyone to share the information. Stathi can be reached at: Stathi.S.Patseas@usdoj.gov

Other Business

- a. Expiration of Open Meetings Law
 - a. Short discussion ensued.
 - i. Would like permanence to hybrid meetings; however, the requirement for quorum to be physically present at the in-person location makes it difficult for boards to meet quorum.
 - ii. The board should be able to go all virtual due to poor weather conditions
 - iii. The current provision sunsets on July 1, 2026
 - iv. The public body can determine extraordinary circumstances
 - v. There's a proposal to allow all members except the chairperson to participate remotely.
 - vi. Some boards do not have capacity to conduct remote meetings.
- b. Borough Board By-Laws Committee
 - a. The committee will meet before June 3 to create a draft to present to the board. Members are welcome to review the bylaws and submit their suggestions to Ms. Church for inclusion in the draft.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Chair Scavo, seconded by Designee Vallas, meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.

City Council Members and Board representatives are required for quorum to conduct business. Please ensure your entity is represented.

July TBD | August TBD | September 2 | October 7 | November 4 | December 2

If you have not submitted an updated designee form, please do so to ensure a designee is able to attend and vote on your behalf.

For further information on accessibility or to make a request for accommodations, such as sign language interpretation services, please contact Corina Lozada Smith at corina.lozada@brooklynbp.nyc.gov, at least (4) business days in advance to ensure availability.