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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Monday, October 3, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Mohit Agawal, Meryl Brodsky*, Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, Ellen Polivy*, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo,

* - Public Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Item 1: Discussion of New York State and City Laws on Cannabis

Brad Usher, State Senator Liz Krueger's Chief of Staff, and Keisha Sutton James, Deputy Manhattan Borough President discussed the laws regarding the licensing of retail cannabis.

At the time of the meeting, any establishment selling cannabis is illegal, but enforcement has been limited. Senator Krueger's impending bill will streamline the process for the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to enforce the laws.

So far, several CAURD (Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensers) have given to those affected by the drug wars and have experience owning a successful business. They should be operational within a few months. These licensees will be supported in many ways. The Dormitory agency will help identify legal and appropriate locations, loans up to \$15 million will be provided, and general support. It is unclear if the Community Boards will have any say whether we approve of these establishments.

Regular licenses will be awarded at a later time to the general public, although women, veterans, and minorities will have preference. Community Boards will be consulted about the location's suitability. There is a sixty-day comment period for the community to set standards. The Street Life committee will hold a meeting to establish a list of guidelines. Our committee suggested some items to be put on our suggestion list:

- Increase the role of the Community Board for both CAURD and regular licenses
- Signage must be appropriate and not child friendly
- Enforcement agencies should be streamlined to ensure quick results
- Legal establishments must be visibly marked to distinguish them from illegal stores
- Landlords should be advised legitimate illegitimate establishments only
- PDA campaigns must educate the public about advantages of legitimate, licensed establishment

Item 2: New Business

No New Business was brought up.

Item 3: Old Business

No Old Business was brought up.

The committee adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs