



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

Housing and Land-Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Mr. Frank Franz, Committee Chairperson

The Housing and Land-Use Committee Meeting met on Thursday, September 16, 2021 via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing. The following members attended the meeting: John Barczak, Evonne Capers, Marilyn Gurley, Julisa Hamilton, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Rosa Peraza, Divine Sikanku, Lillie Steed, and Jacquetta Whaley.

The following item was discussed:

- Presentation by the Department of City Planning and the Department of Transportation on the Permanent Open Restaurants Citywide Text Amendment

The Department of Transportation and Department of City Planning are proposing a citywide zoning text amendment that will allow the Department of Transportation to administer the Permanent Open Restaurant program. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic ban on indoor dining, the existing outdoor dining regulations, including zoning location rules were suspended as part of the emergency program that was developed. The program provided a necessary lifeline for nearly 11,000 restaurants and allowed New Yorkers to appreciate how streets can be activated by a robust, citywide outdoor dining program. The proposed citywide text amendment will remove sidewalk cafe regulations from the Zoning Resolution to increase geography eligibility as sidewalk cafes will become part of a unified sidewalk and roadway outdoor dining program administered at the Department of Transportation. In order to be eligible for a sidewalk café, restaurants would need to meet the physical criteria of such as clear path requirements, including ensuring that table and chairs are appropriate distances from fire hydrants and neighboring businesses. The proposed citywide text amendment would not change the process for how sidewalk cafes are reviewed by local community boards, but the areas where they can be considered would expand to all neighborhoods. In addition to the zoning amendment, the City will move administration of the sidewalk café program from the Department of Consumer Affairs and Workforce Protection to the Department of Transportation, streamline the application process and create rules for a permanent roadway dining program. Altogether, restaurants will have a single agency to go to apply for outdoor dining, with a clear set of design guidelines on what is allowed. The emergency program remains in effect into 2022, allowing transition time to a future Permanent Open Restaurants program. The Housing and Land-Use Committee recommended that a favorable recommendation be given to the Department of City Planning and the Department of Transportation on the Permanent Open Restaurants Citywide Text Amendment.