

Bronx CB8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Meeting

Minutes Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Start Time: 7:05 PM

1. Welcome & Roll Call

- Present: D. Rowen, L. Spalter, S. Froot
- Zoom: K. Argenti, as well as applicants for Dining Out NYC applications
- Guests: D. Lindsay from Kingsbridge Social Club
- Absent: E. Hausman, R. Fanuzzi, R. Spalter

2. Approval of Committee Minutes – May 21, 2025

- The committee approved the May minutes unanimously.

3. Chairperson's Report

- See attached articles regarding recent news stories that were discussed.
- Karen reports on advocating for Harlem River funding for 1-3 years of environmental restoration study and about the upcoming UAA hearing that was seeking comments about what should be done and where.

4. Dining Out NYC Sidewalk Café Applications:

- Bailey Seafood Market & Restaurant – 146 West 231st Street, Bronx, NY 10463
 - Nicole and Irene (owner and chef respectively) spoke on Zoom about their open seating area.
 - Approved unanimously.
- Kingsbridge Social Club – 3625 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
 - David (representing the owner, who could not make it) was present and discussed the two tables they currently have and are wishing to make official, but notes no additional sidewalk seating was being asked for.
 - Approved unanimously.
- Artizen – 3700 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
 - Maria (co-owner) outlined their sidewalk seating plans, which is to make their two outdoor tables official. They are located to the left of their door vestibule and do not take up additional sidewalk depth.
 - Approved unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business

- Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act
 - While the PRRIA passed through the Senate, it did not make it through the Assembly after the speaker ran out the clock before PRRIA got to the floor. To watch Beyond Plastic's press conference on this:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOgEjbST6DA>
 - Better Bottle Bill
 - This was also not voted on, though hopefully this committee can advocate for it in the next session.

6. New Business

- Laura reporting on something that came up at the last Public Safety meeting regarding Playoffs Sports Lounge and the condition of their parking lot. She cites trash everywhere, construction equipment, etc. Says this was reported to DSNY.

7. Adjournment at 7:55pm

Resolution
June 18, 2025
Dining Out NYC Sidewalk Application
Bailey Seafood Market & Restaurant, 146 W. 231st Street, Bronx, NY 10463

WHEREAS, Bailey Seafood Market & Restaurant, 146 W. 231st Street, has submitted an outdoor dining application to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT); and

WHEREAS, representatives of Bailey Seafood Market and Restaurant appeared before the Environment and Sanitation (E&S) Committee on June 18 via Zoom, to provide details of their request which would allow them to use a portion of the public sidewalk (the sidewalk cafe); and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted as required by the new DOT requirements for sidewalk café setups and the proposed layout of tables and chairs describes existing conditions for a sidewalk cafe 12' X 6' (Length x Width) with 6 tables and seating for 12; and

WHEREAS, there were no complaints from the NYPD or community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the E&S Committee recommends approval of Bailey Seafood Market & Restaurant's application for a sidewalk café.

In favor: L. Spalter, S. Froot, D. Rowen

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Resolution
June 18, 2025
Dining Out NYC Sidewalk Application
Kingsbridge Social Club, 3625 Kingsbridge Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

WHEREAS, Kingsbridge Social Club, 3625 Kingsbridge Ave, has submitted an outdoor dining application to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT); and

WHEREAS, a representative of Kingsbridge Social Club appeared before the Environment and Sanitation (E&S) Committee on June 18, to provide details of their request which would allow them to use a portion of the public sidewalk (the sidewalk cafe); and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted as required by the new DOT requirements for sidewalk cafe setups and the proposed layout of tables and chairs describes existing conditions for a sidewalk café 16' x 4' (Length x Width) with 2 tables and seating for 8; and

WHEREAS, there were no complaints from the NYPD or community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the E&S Committee recommends approval of Kingsbridge Social Club’s application for a sidewalk café.

In favor: L. Spalter, S. Froot, D. Rowen

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Resolution
June 18, 2025
Dining Out NYC Sidewalk Application
Artizen, 3700 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

WHEREAS, Artizen, 3700 Riverdale Ave, has submitted an outdoor dining application to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT); and

WHEREAS, a representative of Artizen appeared before the Environment and Sanitation (E&S) Committee on June 18 via Zoom, to provide details of their request which would allow them to use a portion of the public sidewalk (the sidewalk cafe); and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted as required by the new DOT requirements for sidewalk café setups and the proposed layout of tables and chairs describes existing conditions for a sidewalk cafe 10’6” X 4’1” (Length x Width) with 2 tables and seating for 4; and

WHEREAS, there were no complaints from the NYPD or community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the E&S Committee recommends approval of Artizen’s application for a sidewalk café.

In favor: L. Spalter, S. Froot, D. Rowen

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Harlem River Environmental Restoration Study moves forward following uncertainty

By Sadie Brown

Posted on June 10, 2025



The NYC Department of Environmental Protection announced Friday that it will contribute the matching funds needed to unlock a \$500,000 congressional investment in an environmental restoration study for the Harlem River.

Courtesy of the Department of Transportation

A long-awaited environmental restoration study for the Harlem River is officially moving forward, following the Friday announcement of a \$1 million funding agreement between the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and federal partners.

The study, which will be led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), aims to examine options for restoring the river's natural habitats, improving water quality, flood resiliency and expanding public waterfront access. New York City committed \$500,000 to the effort, matching federal funds secured by U.S. Representatives Ritchie Torres and Adriano Espaillat through congressional appropriations.

“Restoring the Harlem River is not just an environmental imperative — it’s an opportunity to reconnect communities with their waterfront, improve public health, and build resilience against climate change,” said Mayor Eric Adams.

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The city's commitment to fund the project comes on the heels of local environmentalists and representatives warning City Hall that without securing matching funds, the project risked losing its federal funding altogether.

The Harlem River separating Manhattan and the Bronx may be the closest body of water to many Bronx residents, but advocates for the river say that it is largely unusable to the public. Once teeming with wetlands, tributaries, and natural shorelines, the river is now largely confined by hardened embankments. Heavy industrialization and unchecked development have contributed to degraded water and sediment quality, increased flooding risk, and poor public access — especially in the economically disadvantaged neighborhoods surrounding the waterway.

Espaillet said that funding the study prioritized the health and quality of life for residents in historically disinvested communities.

“This critical analysis of the Harlem River will ensure that our shared efforts to revive and restore the waterway and surrounding area remain on a strong trajectory,” said Rep. Espaillet. “For too long, the communities of Upper Manhattan and the Bronx have been a depository for the flow of harmful materials and an afterthought in remediation and resilience efforts.”

Environmental activists have been making waves over water quality and excessive pollution in the Harlem River. The city has launched more than 20 green infrastructure initiatives within the Harlem River watershed including a massive project to reroute long buried brook that was once diverted into the sewage system contributing to toxic spillage.

But advocates have pointed out a disconnect, slamming elected officials and city and state environmental administrators over key commitments where they argue the city and state is coming up short. Last month the Adams administration seemed poised to let federal funding for the Harlem River Environmental Restoration Study expire, prompting Rep. Torres, Espaillet and five other Bronx democrats to pen a letter to the mayor and the head of the DEP.

Torres celebrated the decision to fully fund the study.

“The Harlem River has long suffered from environmental neglect and disinvestment, but today's commitment from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection marks a crucial turning point,” said Rep. Torres. “By pledging the \$500k local match and moving forward with the feasibility study alongside the Army Corps, the City is taking a critical first step toward restoring this vital waterway for the Bronx and Upper Manhattan.”

Judge rules EPA termination of environmental justice grants was unlawful

EPA cannot “thumb its nose at Congress” by refusing to spend appropriated funds, the judge wrote.



A judge has ruled that EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's termination of environmental justice grants was unlawful. | Jenny Kane/AP

By **ALEX GUILLÉN**

06/18/2025 12:49 PM EDT

A federal judge on Tuesday ruled that EPA's termination of \$600 million in environmental justice grants issued by the Biden administration for low-income areas and communities of color was unlawful.

The ruling over the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program comes as EPA is separately appealing a ruling that its termination of \$20 billion in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grants was also unlawful. Congressional

Republicans have proposed rescinding funding for both grant programs as part of their reconciliation bills.

The Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program was part of a \$2.8 billion tranche of funding under the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act intended for community groups to provide block grants to address pollution that takes a disproportionately heavy toll on communities of color and low-income and rural areas

Announced in December 2023, EPA selected 11 groups to disburse the funds to subrecipients, a setup the Biden administration argued would help the groups cut through red tape and access the money more easily.

EPA in February terminated the grants as it sought to end environmental justice work under the Trump administration's move against diversity, equity and inclusion programs. Three of the regional grantmakers sued: the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, which worked in the mid-Atlantic region; the Minneapolis Foundation, operating in the Midwest; and Philanthropy Northwest, which funded programs in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

EPA's termination of these grants violated the Administrative Procedure Act, ruled Judge Adam Abelson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

"EPA contends that it has authority to thumb its nose at Congress and refuse to comply with its directives. That constitutes a clear example of an agency acting 'in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right,' and thereby violating the APA," wrote Abelson, a Biden appointee.

Abelson rejected the argument EPA made in this and similar cases that the grant terminations are effectively contract disputes that must be heard by a special court, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

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Instead, he ruled that EPA's terminations of the grants because the administration opposes environmental justice efforts were unlawful precisely because Congress intended the agency to spend it on environmental justice activities.

"Congress expressly required EPA to use the appropriated funds for 'environmental justice' programs. By terminating Plaintiffs' grants on the basis that current EPA leadership no longer wants to support 'environmental justice' programs, EPA exceeded its authority under the Clean Air Act, and therefore was 'in excess of statutory . . . authority, or limitations,'" under the Administrative Procedures Act, Abelson ruled.

Abelson also rejected EPA's argument that the grants were terminated to prevent waste. "EPA is *required* to spend the funds that Congress appropriated ... and to do so on specified types of projects, and to specifically ensure that such projects benefit disadvantaged communities," he wrote.

EPA said it is reviewing the decision.

Ruth Ann Norton, CEO of the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, praised the ruling.

"What the EPA does next, we don't know," she said. "But we're super happy for communities that are intended to receive these dollars to deal with many things around environmental quality and public health."

GHHI was prepared to pass through funds to an initial 117 projects across multiple states to address issues like lead contamination in West Virginia, Norton said. "We hope the EPA doesn't in fact work against its own priorities in a way by wanting to undermine this."

The other groups that brought suit similarly praised the ruling in statements. Minneapolis Foundation President and CEO R.T. Rybak called it "a win for local communities" while Philanthropy Northwest CEO Jill Nishi said "communities most impacted by environmental harm deserve access to the resources committed to them by federal law."