

SAPO RULE CHANGE HEARING-20251120_100129-Meeting Transcript

November 20, 2025, 3:01PM

59m 12s

● **Malloy, Shani** started transcription

TD **Tolson, Dawn** 0:05

Good morning, everybody. We're gonna start at.

At 10:05, just to give everybody just a couple more minutes to come into the room.

At that point, that's when we'll start recording and shanique will be leading today's hearing. She's the SAPO director.

OK, everyone.

It's 5 past the hour, and so we're gonna go ahead and get started, shanique.

MS **Meachum, Shaneek** 3:47

Anything else?

Good morning.

My name is Shanique Meacham.

I'm the director of student Activities Permanent Office, also known as Sable, and with me is Dawn Tolson, the executive director of Cecm.

In staple, I would like to welcome you to the Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management hearing on this proposed St. activity Permit Walkers Rule Amendment relating to the extension of the street vet moratorium on the multi day multi Block St. Vets.

Today's hearing will be conducted in accordance with the.

What is citywide Administrative Procedure Act or CAPA? CAPA requires all agencies to conduct public hearings on proposed rules for the purpose of collecting comments from the public.

Such hearings must take place no sooner than 30 days after the initial notice of opportunity to comment appears in the city record. The notice of opportunity to comment on the rules presented for consideration today.

Was first published in the city record on October 20th, 2025.

Notice was also provided via e-mail to the Speaker of the City Council or Council members or Community Board managers, members of the news media and relevant

civic organizations.

In addition, CCM provided a copy of the notice to the New York City Rules website and posted it on the CECN website.

Cacm has been accepting written comments on its proposed rule since publication of the notice in the city bucket and will continue to.

To do so.

And so they end up today.

You may provide written comments to us in person today or e-mail them to the address provided on the notice.

As a reminder, today's hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the proposed rule.

As such, CCM officials in attendance will not answer any questions that are posed at the hearing.

Our office will, however, carefully consider all written and oral comments it receives on this proposed rule following such consideration.

CEC will issue a final rule by submitting a notice of adoption in the city.

Working the rule will go into effect 30 days from the date of publication.

We will initially ask the public to testify in the order in which they registered.

After that, we will ask for other attendees to comment.

Please use the raise your hand feature if you would like to make a comment when testifying, please provide your name and affiliation and speak slowly and clearly so that your statement can be accurately recorded.

You will have 3 minutes to provide your testimony.

Three people have registered to speak today after these three have testified again, if anyone present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

The first person registered is Mark Oshawna.

We may begin when you are ready.

TD **Tolson, Dawn** 6:52

Can you repeat the name again, shanique? I'm not sure if this individual is on the call.

MS **Meachum, Shaneek** 6:56

Makoshana.

TD Tolson, Dawn 7:04

OK, Shanique, let's move on to the next name.

MS Meachum, Shaneek 7:05

OK.

No, Sir.

Yes, let's go to the second person. Is Doctor Camellia templas.

CT Camelia Tepelus 7:11

Good morning.

Can you hear me?

TD Tolson, Dawn 7:13

Yes, we can.

MS Meachum, Shaneek 7:13

Yes.

CT Camelia Tepelus 7:14

Thank you so much.

I will go straight into it.

My name is Camelia Tapellus.

I'm the executive director for the Morris Park Business Improvement District in the Bronx.

We would like to convey our support for all existing St. Fairs, parades and other large scale events that contribute to the vibrancy of New York City's commercial corridors and neighborhoods.

We understand the reasoning behind this moratorium on on new street fairs at a time when public safety is a major concern.

Diverting law enforcement resources from their main mission.

Indeed, needs to be carefully considered in the same time, we are expressing serious concerns with SAPO and NYPD's capacity to even appropriately handle existing events with the duty of care required by an orderly public realm.

An example for the past seven years, seven years, the Morris Park Ave. has been

hosting a parade in October.

And at the end of the Morris Park Ave. our commercial corridor has always been left littered.

With broken flags are fixed onto cornet poles.

They hang, they look ripped.

They are an embarrassment to the corridor, weeks and weeks after the event, concluded the site of Rick's hanging flags dangerously dangling in the wind above. Traffic is not only creating a legal liability, but frankly it's an insult to the Community and that legal liability, by the way, is all new. The City of New York and the Department of Transportation, as well as on Needham Roads Park Business Improvement District.

Sepulveda NYPD react to my complaints with amusement and do not hold accountable the event. Organizer. Morris. What?

Oh, sorry, Maurice.

Part B cannot remove these flags as they are owned even in their distress condition by the event organizer with anything like this be allowed and accepted in Manhattan. How would you like broken American flags surrounding City Hall? Of course not.

Some practical suggestions for your consideration.

Saipo should have a feedback loop regarding large scale events, particular those held in big commercial district conforming with us at the end of the event that the public space conditions.

Have been left inappropriate status as our communities deserve second suggestion. Please pay attention to the comments you received online through the SEM's system. 3rd suggestion on your online complaint form.

Please allow loading of multiple photos.

I tried to submit a complaint.

Only one photo was allowed.

I could give you 15 photos of absolutely embarrassed, embarrassing broken flags, hanging ripped next to, of course, Maurice Park bid banners. We need to see City funded.

Agencies such as Sapul and NYPD that have critical responsibilities to our public spaces being more responsive to feedback from bids to events taking place in our commercial corridors and prevent negative impacts that may linger in place for weeks and weeks and weeks following an event I drove this.

Again on Morris Park Ave. they promised me two weeks ago. Last week, this week on

Wednesday.

Today is Thursday.

Of course I have ripped.

American flags hanging out from from my cornet poles. I understand your work is hard, but maybe sometimes you need to get out of the office and and visit events before you decide if you renew the approvals.

And by all means, we support renewal of the approval. Annual approval of this.

Large scale event that is very important to the community, but in the same time we can you cannot leave commercial corridors destroyed behind you.

We thank you so much.

MS

Meachum, Shaneek 10:56

Thank you for your comment, OK.

We'll move to the next person, Deborah Goatz.

Deborah, we can't hear you.

You still need it.

Yes.

TD

Tolson, Dawn 11:19

Deborah, you're on the call.

Are you able to unmute yourself?

Can you please use the chat feature to let us know if you're still planning on commenting?

You.

EP

Eric Parker 11:36

There should be a mute button within the teams link is there?

TD

Tolson, Dawn 11:53

So Debbie, if you have a button, I don't know if you have a camera button and a microphone button, are you using your phone or a computer?

DG

Debra Goetz 12:01

I found it. Thank you.

TD Tolson, Dawn 12:02

OK.

DG Debra Goetz 12:03

Alright, if I may, thank you very much for your time.

My name is Deborah Goetz.

I'm one of the leaders of the longest table, which is a citywide initiative that brings neighbors together one block at a time to share a meal and feel a sense of belonging. Over the past three years, we've seen the power of this really simple idea come to life.

In 10 different neighborhoods in New York City and in 50 cities across the US actually. And I want to thank Sapo for their support early on. These gatherings would not have been possible without their belief.

Without your belief in what the Community connection could look like on our streets, what makes these events really special is that they're entirely volunteer organized.

Neighbors don't. Just don't just attend, they actually create them together in the act of setting up the tables, cooking, welcoming each other.

Something really wonderful happens. People who've lived side by side for years finally meet.

Others put names to faces and some they learn they have something in common. In other words, we see strangers become neighbors.

And a shared purpose.

Emerges the longest table.

Celebrates what we believe. New York City.

What makes New York City extraordinary?

Our diversity, these intergenerational inclusive events, bring together grandparents and teenagers, new families and longtime residents. In Chelsea, for example, the Garden Club works with the Fulton House residents, the schools partner with the churches and the local police join in.

Everyone sharing food and stories at one long table on the open streets.

We believe connected neighborhoods create better blocks.

And when people know each other, they lookout for each other, and that strengthens the neighborhood.

I'm really here because I want to ensure one block one day community events like

the longest table are not confused with a commercial street fair and therefore not impacted by the proposed extension of the moratorium on street fair permits for 2026.

We want to know that the growing interest and increase in applications for recurring and new longest tables in New York City will be approved.

So I want to thank Cecm and Sapo for permitting these small resident LED gatherings.

We really think these important events build trust, understanding and belonging, and that's what keeps New York City strong.

Thank you for your time.

MS Meachum, Shaneek 14:16

Thank you for your comment if anyone present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

And Eric, I see that your hand is up. Please go ahead.

EP Eric Parker 14:30

Thank you, shanique. Good morning.

Thanks for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Eric Parker.

I'm a Brooklynite, a Flatbush resident, and I'm on the team at open plans.

We promote a people 1st St. Culture for New York City.

I'm also here today as someone who's personally experienced the joy and community building power of St. level gatherings, opportunities like street fairs are where neighbors gather in our public spaces to build meaningful relationships that define our city's culture.

Groups like Debbie's longest table are clear evidence of this impact, and our streets are the spaces where New York City can fulfill what its leaders often claim that it represents, which is a welcoming, connected, creative and joyful place to live.

So I'm here to strongly oppose the extension of the street fair moratorium. The continuation of this moratorium impacts not only large commercial St. Fairs, it threatens to degrade the city's ecosystem of community LED gather.

That make our neighborhoods feel like neighborhoods, block parties, potlucks, cultural celebrations. These are all where neighbors often first meet one another.

They depend on a permitting system that's accessible, predictable and supportive of

residents who are waiting to bring people together.

The justification for continuing the moratorium, which on the statement on the website is reducing police overtime.

This does not match the evidence the cops.

Controller's office has made it clear that festival and fair overtime is a true fraction of total overtime spending at the NYPD.

Meanwhile, the social and economic benefits of community events like these are enormous.

These gatherings strengthen local trust.

They uplift small businesses and they promote vibrant, resilient neighborhood level economies.

Events like multi Block gatherings are exactly the kind of activations that government should be supporting.

Not inadvertently restricting through blanket rules that make no distinction between corporate St. Fairs and grassroots community projects.

So I urge the CECM and the street activity permit office to reject the extension of this moratorium, to modernize and clarify the permitting process and to make it easier, not harder, for New Yorkers to gather, connect and build community in our public spaces.

Thank you for your time.

MS **Meachum, Shaneek** 16:54

All right.

Thank you for your comment if anyone else present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature.

We will call on you to testify.

JH.

J **JH** 17:06

I was a little late to this meeting, so I don't know if this was already addressed, but I work for an agency and we do a lot of corporate type brand events and a lot of them like to do block parties or outdoor activations. Does this so a?

Lot of them.

They they don't.

Their new events, they don't do them every year.

So different brand could do something that's going to do like a one day pop-up somewhere down in Soho or Upper East Side or wherever.

How does this affect that?

Because if you're saying that.

You're only gonna renew stuff that were done in 2025. Then that eliminates a lot of events to happen that does generate money.

I also would like to talk about the rules and regulations because I did an event a couple years ago and we were not advised of how much the permitting would cost us and it was a quite a big surprise that we got this huge bill.

After we did all the process because initially when I spoke to one of the.

Officers, they gave me a price range and the final bill was way more than what was originally discussed, which caught everybody off guard.

And so I just want to talk about that as well as as Eric said, like the transparency of the process should be better because it it was not the experience that I have had.

TD Tolson, Dawn 18:29

So thank you for your comment. Again, you missed the beginning part, but we are not allowed to respond to questions here. This is just a hearing.

For public comments, you can always e-mail our our office if you have specific questions about other things.

J JH 18:44

Got it.

Thank you.

MS Meachum, Shaneek 18:47

Yes. So if anyone else present would like to comment, please again use the raise your hand feature.

We will call on you to testify.

TD Tolson, Dawn 19:01

I do want to reiterate one point that again, this hearing is about the extension of a moratorium on multi day multi block St. festivals.

It does specifically state that that one day one block festivals are not part of this

moratorium, but this is an extension of the moratorium on multi day multi block St. festivals.

MS Meachum, Shaneek 25:58

Again, if anybody present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

So if anyone present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

Is anyone present would like to comment?

Please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

If anyone present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

So if anyone present would like to comment.

Please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

And I'll just say that one more time just in case if anyone present would like to comment, please use the raise your hand feature and we will call on you to testify.

Marco.

MS Marco Shalma 43:06

Right now.

MS Meachum, Shaneek 43:08

Yes, you can go ahead.

MS Marco Shalma 43:10

Hi, good morning.

My name is Mark OSHA.

I'm the CEO, executive producer for Masco Hospitality group.

We've done the Bronx, Brooklyn.

Vegan Latin Uptown night markets over the past eight years.

Very successful event and I just wanted to say a few words when it comes to this. You know, I understand that you know the issues that are about.

When it comes to like the police and the budgeting and all that stuff, you know, I feel do I feel like, you know, when it comes to that?

It's a little bit.

We are being, you know, some people are being penalized slightly for, you know, because of the situation, you know.

So I understand the intent.

You know, controlling the NYPD over time and deployment, but this will affect like small cultural producer and community organizer that are being locked out of. Being locked out.

But while you know the other ones, the bigger ones, the legacy event will continue without review. I think that this is a good initiative and I think that this is always kind of very, you know mindful of the city. But maybe there is a process that can. Be like a middle ground where we can have like you know.

Selective review process with proven safety and compliance record demonstrating community and economic benefit partnership with like different not-for-profit and bid and then that process will be like a mediate.

Mediation between you know the process that you guys are recommending and also allowing people that can prove themselves in connection to other city because at the end of the day like you know, I'm looking at the numbers of like businesses open versus businesses closed in the city and.

We are like in a deficit of about 20% of businesses closed. If you look at the numbers from from 24 and 25.

This operations and especially what we've been doing with supporting over 1000 different small businesses vendors.

People, they're starting, or people that had brick and mortar. It's vital for the city. It's like part of the livelihood. It's part of, like the economic development of each area in the city, and especially like when we work in in areas that are outside of like the main areas in Manhattan, you know, Bronx Harlem, certain areas, Sunset Park in Brooklyn, those are.

Things that have shown success if shown to.

You know.

Create more bustling and robust.

Experiences over there that actually support safety, support progress, you know, put up a place for artists and and and performers.

So I think I think like doing something like this and passing that rule is a little bit limiting and basically creates a situation where you know and and and I just want to say you know and that's the last thing I you know we have we have a.

Bunch of events that are kind of like grandfathered in and I think like this doesn't

affect my current situation as much.

But I feel like, you know, this is like with with what we've seen in the trend where we've seen, I think it's going to be very limiting for operators. And then also for the city to minimize its staff.

So I urge to reconsider and have, like, you know, a medium process which will allow some sort of.

You know some sort of process that people can kind of own new promoters or new organizing can go through a process of extended application and compliancy in order to do that.

Not just like shut it down.

Thank you.

MS **Meachum, Shaneek** 46:39

Thank you for your comment.

MS **Marco Shalma** 50:02

Asia. Nick, quick question, are we?

I came in late.

Is that we waiting for other people to speak?

MS **Meachum, Shaneek** 50:11

They're open to.

MS **Marco Shalma** 50:13

OK. And what's next after that?

Sorry, I just arrived.

TD **Tolson, Dawn** 50:21

I'll take it shanique.

It's it's just an open forum where anyone can comment and so the line is open for an hour, so we'll be here waiting for people to comment until 11 and then at 11:00 we'll just close out the hearing.

MS **Marco Shalma** 50:37

OK.

Thanks aydan.

MS **Meachum, Shaneek** 58:39

Well, thank you everyone. If no one else would like to present additional comments, I will end today's hearing for the opposed rule relating to the extension of the street fair moratorium on multi day multi Block St. Fairs to calendar year 2026.

Again, thank you everyone.

Have a good day.

● **Malloy, Shani** stopped transcription