

# UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

## NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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### Community Board Overview

There are 59 community boards throughout the five boroughs; each board representing a specific locality within the borough. Up to 50 volunteer members can serve on a community board, with individual boards determining the number of members required to adequately serve the community.

#### *Community Board Selection Process*

There are several ways in which you can be selected to serve on your community board. Councilmembers can appoint a constituent to a community board. The interested party must still complete an application. All community board applications are subject to approval by the Borough President, with each borough having their own Borough President.

Once an application is submitted, all applicants must participate in an interview process. The interview process varies dependent on borough. Some boroughs require a sit-down interview only, while others require applicants to participate in a mock community board meeting in addition to the sit-down interview.

#### *Committees*

The community board holds a monthly meeting with the full board, but the majority of the work occurs in the committee meetings. There are committees for a number of issues including, education, land use, housing, budget, parks and many more. Board members are selected for committees based on their seniority, interests and expertise.

#### *Role of a Community Board*

Community boards serve in advisory capacity, weighing in on zoning and budget issues, in addition to local concerns, such as traffic congestion. A recommendation of a community board can mean a great deal to elected officials, as it is meant to represent the will of the community.

#### *Uniform Land Use Review Procedure*

Following certification of the application by the City Planning Commission, the recommendation of the community board is the first official hurdle in the rezoning approval process. A community board can issue a no recommendation for a development project within their geographical jurisdiction. The community board's role is strictly advisory, but can be of great significance to the overall approval of the project. Board members can also pose important questions to developers, including whether or not the project will create good jobs; i.e. paying prevailing wage rates.

#### *City Budget Process*

Community boards also have an advisory role in the city budget process. Members of community boards meet with various city agencies, advising them on the needs of their respective communities.

#### *Public Hearings*

Community boards hold public hearings, providing members of the community the opportunity to voice concerns over neighborhood issues.

### *Attending Community Board Hearings*

If interested in joining your community board, and you are not immediately selected for appointment, it's important to attend the meetings. Attending the meetings provides you with a greater understanding of how a community board functions, as well as the types of issues being presented to the board. You can also become a public member of a committee, having influence in a committee's recommendation. Public members do not have to be appointed to the board. Becoming a public member is an informal process that usually occurs through building relationships and attending the monthly board meeting.

### *Importance of Community Boards*

Community boards have an important role in NYC's governmental process. The recommendation of the community board represents the will of the community; a fact elected officials take into great consideration. A community board's recommendation on a development project can weigh considerably on whether it is ultimately approved or rejected.