

**NYC**  
**Equal Employment  
Practices Commission**

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May 22, 2014

Christopher H. Olechowski  
Chairperson  
Brooklyn Community Board No. 1  
435 Graham Avenue 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Resolution #2014/471C-03: Determination Pursuant to Audit and Evaluation of Equal Employment Opportunity Program - Brooklyn Community Board No. 1.

Dear Chairperson Olechowski:

On behalf of the members of the Equal Employment Practices Commission (Commission or EEPC), thank you and your agency for the cooperation extended to our staff during the course of this audit. This letter contains the Commission's findings and determinations pursuant to our analysis for the period covering January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013.

Chapter 36, Section 831(d)(5) of the New York City Charter empowers this Commission to audit and evaluate the employment practices and procedures of city agencies and their efforts to ensure fair and effective equal employment opportunity for women and minority employees and applicants seeking employment. Sections 831(d)(2) and 832(c) authorize this Commission to make a determination that any agency's plan, program, procedure, approach, measure or standard does not provide equal employment opportunity, require appropriate corrective action and monitor the implementation of the corrective action it prescribes.

Brooklyn Community Board No. 1, which may herein be referred to as "the agency," falls within the Commission's purview under Chapter 36, Section 831(a) of the New York City Charter, which delineates city agency as any "city, county, borough or other office, administration, board, department, division, commission, bureau, corporation, authority, or other agency of government where the majority of the board members of such agency are appointed by



the mayor or serve by virtue of being city officers or the expenses of which are paid in whole or in part from the city treasury...”

The purpose of this audit and analysis is to evaluate the agency’s EEO Program, not to issue findings of discrimination pursuant to the New York City Human Rights Law. This Commission has adopted *Uniform Standards for EEPC Audits*<sup>1</sup> and *Minimum Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for Community Boards* to assess agencies’ EEO programs and policies for compliance with federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies and procedures which are designed to increase equality of opportunity for municipal government employees and job applicants. These standards are founded upon and consistent with federal, state and local laws, regulations, procedures and policies including, but not limited to, the Citywide Equal Employment Opportunity Policy - Standards and Procedures to be Utilized by City Agencies; the New York City Human Rights Law (NYC Administrative Code, §§8-107(1)(a) and (d), 8-107.13, and 8-107.1); the New York State Civil Service Law §55-a; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s Instructions to Federal Agencies for EEO, Management Directive 715; the Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection Procedures (29 CFR §§1607.3 - 1607.7); the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Accessibility Guidelines; and the equal employment opportunity requirements of the New York City Charter. Prescribed corrective actions are consistent with the aforementioned parameters.

The *Uniform Standards for EEPC Audits* requires each agency to distribute the Citywide EEO Policy or its own. As the Community Boards are comprised of members appointed by the respective Borough Presidents, under the *Minimum Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for Community Boards* the expectation is that a Community Board adopts and distributes the Borough President’s EEO Policy. The Community Board may, however, adopt the Citywide EEO Policy.

Since this Commission is empowered to review the plans adopted by city agencies and to recommend actions which such agencies should consider including in their annual plans, the agency should incorporate the required corrective actions in its EEO Program and prospective Annual EEO Plans.

### **Scope and Methodology**

Audit methodology included an analysis of the Community Board’s responses to the EEPC’s *Interview Questionnaire for Community Boards* (Attachment). The questionnaire was sent to Community Board No. 1 on March 20, 2014. The completed questionnaire was received on April 3, 2014. The following determination indicates where the Community Board’s District Office has or has not complied, in whole or in part, with our *Minimum Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for Community Boards*.

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding audit/analysis standards are numbered throughout the document.



## Description of the Community Boards

Community Boards have approximately fifty unsalaried members appointed by the Borough President in consultation with the City Council members who represent any part of the community board district. Each Community Board hires a full time, salaried District Manager and salaried support staff to administer its district office, which works to resolve the service delivery problems of its residents and businesses. Community Boards have an advisory role in zoning, land use issues, community planning, the city budget process, and the coordination of municipal services. Any person who resides, does business, or has a professional or other significant interest in, the community is eligible for appointment to his/her Community Board.

## DETERMINATION

Following are the corresponding audit standards for each subject area along with the EEPC's findings and required corrective actions, where appropriate:

### I. ISSUANCE, DISTRIBUTION AND POSTING OF EEO POLICIES:

**Determination:** The agency is in compliance with the standards for this subject area.

1. Community Boards must follow the Borough President's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy.
  - ✓ Community Board No. 1 has adopted the Brooklyn Borough President's EEO Policy.
2. Community Boards must post the Borough President's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement in their offices.
  - ✓ Community Board No. 1 posted the Brooklyn Borough President's EEO Policy in its front office.
3. Community Board Chairpersons, or their designees, must consult with the Office of the Borough President's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer on all equal employment opportunity issues.
  - ✓ In accordance with the Borough President's EEO policy, whenever appropriate, Community Board No. 1 consulted with the Brooklyn Borough President's Office for guidance on EEO matters.



## II. EEO TRAINING FOR AGENCY:

**Determination:** The agency is in compliance with the standard for this subject area.

4. Community Boards must ensure that all individuals who work within the board, including managers and supervisors, receive training and/or a guide on EEO laws and their related rights and responsibilities.
  - ✓ Community Board No. 1 ensured that all individuals who work within the board, including managers and supervisors, received training and/or a guide on EEO laws and their related rights and responsibilities. District Manager, Gerald Esposito, received a *Division of Citywide Equal Employment Opportunity Computer Based Training* Certificate in September, 2009. In addition, the Brooklyn Borough President's EEO Policy Statement, which included a link to "About EEO: What you May Not Know" was given to employees as part of the new hire package.

## III. DISCRIMINATION /SEXUAL HARRASSMENT COMPLAINT & INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES:

Summary of Complaint Activity: Community Board No. 1 reported no employment discrimination complaints were filed during the audit period.

5. To file an internal complaint of discrimination, Community Board employees should use the Borough President's EEO Office.
  - ✓ Community Board No. 1 follows the Discrimination Compliant Procedure of the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. To file an internal complaint of discrimination, employees of Community Board No. 1 use the Brooklyn Borough President's EEO Office.

## IV. SELECTION AND RECRUITMENT SYSTEM:

(See Attachment for Workforce Data Summary)

6. Community Boards must post job vacancies in their offices and the Borough President's Office.
  - ✓ Community Board No. 1 advertised one vacant position, Community Associate, during the audit period. The vacancy was posted in the Community Board and Brooklyn Borough President's Offices and distributed to the general public during Community Board Meetings.
7. Community Boards must use the EEO tag line when advertising job vacancies.
  - ✓ When advertising the above position, Community Board No. 1 used the EEO tagline "Community Board No. 1 is an Equal Opportunity Employer".



V. EEO AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EMPLOYEES/ APPLICANTS  
FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH DISABILITIES:

Determination: The agency is in compliance with the standards for this subject area.

8. Community Boards must assess whether facilities are accessible to and useable by applicants/employees with disabilities.
- ✓ Community Board No. 1 assessed its facility (435 Graham Avenue 1st Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11211) and indicated that it is accessible to, and useable by, employees/applicants for employment with disabilities via the following: street accessible entrance, ramp access, wide restroom stall(s), grab bar(s) in restroom(s), and low sink(s) or bathroom fixture(s).

**SUMMARY OF REQUIRED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

Pursuant to the Equal Employment Practices Commission's *Minimum Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for Community Boards*, **no corrective action is currently required.**

**CONCLUSION**

If no corrective action is required, a *Determination of Compliance* is attached and no response is required.

If corrective actions are required, pursuant to Chapter 36 of the New York City Charter, please respond to this Determination within 21 days from the date of this letter via mail or email to [izuell@eepc.nyc.gov](mailto:izuell@eepc.nyc.gov). Your response should indicate (with attached documentation) what steps your agency has taken, or will take, to implement the corrective actions.

Once your response is received, the EEPC will inform your agency in writing of its compliance status or assigned compliance-monitoring period. For action(s) not implemented, a monthly compliance-monitoring period will be assigned, where the EEPC will verify implementation of the prescribed corrective action(s). Upon your agency's completion of the final corrective action, a *Determination of Compliance* will be issued.

*If your agency does not respond within 21 days and corrective action is required, the EEPC will assign a monthly compliance-monitoring period.*

Since the Community Boards are comprised of members appointed by the respective Borough Presidents, please forward a copy of your response to the Office of the Borough President's EEO Officer.



In closing, thank you and your staff for the cooperation extended to the Equal Employment Practices Commission during the course of this audit.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilacia N. Zuell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I".

Ilacia N. Zuell, EEO Program Analyst

Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charise L. Hendricks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".  
Charise L. Hendricks, PHR  
Executive Director

Attachment

- c: Gerald A. Esposito , District Manager
- Ama Dwimoh, Principal EEO Professional, Office of the Brooklyn Borough President

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION  
CITY OF NEW YORK**

**RESOLUTION #2014/471C-03:** Determination of **Compliance** (Monitoring Period Not Required) pursuant to the Audit and Analysis of the EEO Program of Brooklyn Community Board No. 1 for compliance with the Equal Employment Practices Commission's *Minimum Standards for Equal Employment Opportunity for Community Boards*.

**Whereas**, pursuant to Chapter 36, Section 831(d)(2) and (5) of the New York City Charter, the Equal Employment Practices Commission (EEPC) is authorized to audit and evaluate the employment practices, programs, policies and procedures of city agencies and their efforts to ensure fair and effective equal employment opportunity for minority group members and women and to make recommendations to city agencies to ensure equal employment opportunity for minority group members and women; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to Chapter 36, Section 831(d)(2), this Commission has adopted *Uniform Standards for EEPC Audits* and *Minimum Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for Community Boards* to assess agencies' EEO programs and policies for compliance with federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies and procedures which are designed to increase equality of opportunity for women, minorities, and other employees and job applicants identified for protection from discrimination in employment within municipal government; and

**Whereas**, the Equal Employment Practices Commission conducted an audit and analysis of the Brooklyn Community Board No. 1's Equal Employment Opportunity Program; and

**Whereas**, in accordance with Chapter 36, Section 832(c) of the City Charter, the EEPC may make a determination pursuant to Section 831(d) that any plan, program, procedure, approach, measure or standard adopted or utilized by any city agency does not provide equal employment opportunity. Now, Therefore,

**Be It Resolved**, that pursuant to the audit and analysis of Brooklyn Community Board No. 1's EEO Program for compliance with this Commission's *Minimum Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for Community Boards*, the Equal Employment Practices Commission hereby affirms and adopts the following determination:

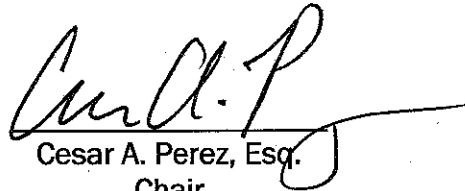
Brooklyn Community Board No. 1 has established EEO compliance per the EEPC's *Minimum Standards for Community Boards*. **No corrective action is required.**

**Be It Finally Resolved**, that the Commission authorizes the Chair, Cesar A. Perez, Esq., to forward this determination to Chairperson Christopher H. Olechowski.

Approved unanimously on May 22, 2014.

Elaine S. Reiss, Esq.  
Commissioner

Arva R. Rice  
Commissioner



Cesar A. Perez, Esq.  
Chair



This  
*Determination of Compliance*

is issued to


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*Brooklyn Community Board No. 1*

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*for its Compliance with the Equal Employment Practices Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Standards for the period from January 1, 2009 to this date.*

On this 22nd day of May in the year 2014,



Cesar A. Perez, Esq., Chair



Charise L. Hendricks, PHR, Executive Director

In care of Chairperson Christopher Olechowski  
and District Manager Gerald A. Esposito