

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009
BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
MURRAY COHEN AUDITORIUM
1650 Grand Concourse

Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Felice Bradford-Richard, Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Eldy Correa, Mrs. Digna Y. Denis, Ms. Arthuree Evans, Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Mr. Jose Ferrer, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Pastor Wenzell Jackson, Mr. Ryan Khan, Mr. Manuel Martinez, Rev. Earl McKay, Dr. Karie Nabinet, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda- Ndure, Ms. Rosie Pettway, Mr. Oscar Real, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Kathleen Saunders.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Melody Frazer, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mr. Carlos Sierra, Rev. Olga Torres-Simpson.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Reginald Joseph, Mr. Eric Soto.

STAFF:

Mr. José Rodriguez, District Manager
Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Ms. Carolyn D. Jones, representing NYS Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson
Ms. Aurea Mangual, representing Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.
Mr. Carlos Ramos, representing NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson

GUEST PRESENT:

Ms. Petronia Harrison, Mr. Matthew Vargas, Ms. Tiffany Vargas, Ms. Yvette Vargas, Mr. Miguel A. Vargas-Bronx Helpers, Mr. Kenya Marsh, Ms. Margaret Fleesak-NYCPL Highbridge Branch, Ms. Logan Werschky-HPD, Ms. Gloria Wiggs-resident, Mr. Chad Marlon, Mr. Ken Small, Ms. Samuna Littlejohn, Ms. Stacha Johnson-Citizens Advice Bureau, Ms. Beverly Beja-Housing & Land Use & Municipal Services Committees member, Mr. Oswald Folken, Mr. William Brown, Mr. Trevor Brown, Ms. Ramona Brown, Mr. Warrick Harmon-Woodcrest Center for Human Development, Inc., Mr. L. Beecham-MTA, Ms. Eva Kowalski-resident, Ms. Cynthia Cox-District Leader 79, Ms. Gloria Benfield-resident, Mr. Fenton Thomas-resident, Ms. Deal al Ahmed, Ms. Martha Ahmed-resident, Mr. Daryl Johnson-resident, Mr. Steven Ortiz, Mr. Jesse Cordero, Ms. Candida A. Bido- Bronx District Public Health Office, Ms. Chrelle Silvera, Mr. Daniel Silvera-resident, Mr. Carey Wainwright-Samaritan Village, Ms. Joyce Hogi-Parks Committee member, Mr. Rocky Halsey-NY Yankees, Mr. Norval Mills-NAB #4, Mr. Paul Philips-NYC Department of City Planning Bronx Office, Mr. Robert Cortijo-resident, Mr. Emmanuel Cabrera-Good Jobs NY, Ms. Debra Myers-resident, Mr. Michael Rendino-Stars Sports Bar, Ms. Arlene Hall-Grand Concourse Academy School, Mr. Fernando Rivera, Ms. Evelyn Rivera-President 11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Mr. Dan Beekman-Bronx Times, Mr. Mark Escoffery-resident, Ms. Kezlos, P.O. Hilda Estrella-NYPD 44th Precinct, Ms. Arlene Trinidad, Mr. Jesse Frias, Ms. Gabriela Breton-44th Precinct Explorers, Ms. Carol Wright, Ms. Jennifer Mungeer, Ms. Marie McCullough-Concourse Village East.

Call To Order

The General Board meeting commenced at 6:00 PM by Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair. All were welcomed to the meeting.

Invocation

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Earl McKay

Board Chair Remarks

Ms. Ezell wished all a Happy New Year and commended the New York Emergency Response Teams for their work with the Flight 1549 incident. She commented on the historic Presidential Inauguration.

Presentation Stacha Johnson, Citizens Advice Bureau, Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)

Ms. Johnson discussed the following regarding Citizens Advice Bureau's Homelessness Prevention Program. She began by indicating that HPP was going to be eliminated by Governor Paterson. HPP is a highly successful and efficient program that helps thousands of people to remain in their home at a significantly lower cost to taxpayers than placing people into the shelter system. Qualifying families are aided in obtaining the Family Eviction Prevention Supplement and Jiggetts relief, allowing them to pay accumulated rent arrears and maintain their monthly rent payments, all at a fraction of the cost of the shelter system. Last year alone, CAB helped over 2600 families, nearly 252 of which came from our district. CAB also has employees who are under this program and are with our Community District who would also be affected if this proposal goes through. Ms Johnson concluded by asking for our support of HPP and to know that eliminating this program would lead to a rise in evictions that would prove costly not only to state and city budgets, but to society as a whole.

Review/Correction/Adoption of Previous Minutes

A motion for December's GBM Minutes were made by Mr. Robert Garmendiz and seconded by Dr. Karie Nabinet. The motion was duly carried.

Election: Parks and Recreation Committee At last month's meeting Ms. Felice Bradford-Richard announced the nomination of Rev. Wenzell Jackson for Parks Committee Chairperson. The Board Chair then proceeded to call for a vote by the full board. Rev. Wenzell Jackson was unanimously voted as the new Chairperson of the Parks Committee.

Remarks By The District Manager

Mr. José Rodriguez, District Manager wished everyone a good evening and spoke about the following items from his report and indicated that a copy of the report may be obtained at the office for review.

- Mediation of an ongoing dispute with Levites Realty and the Department of Sanitation
- Site visit of 1235 Grand Concourse
- Meeting at the Bronx Borough President's office with Borough Commander Chief Tom Purtel and Deputy Borough President Earl Brown,
- 161st Street Business Improvement District Interim Board Meeting
- The Highbridge Parents Middle School initiative meeting

New York Yankees Youth Leadership Award Presentation

Ms. Ezell and Rocky Halsey of the New York Yankees presented the award to the following youth:

- Ms. Gabriela Brenton, 44th Pct. Explorers
- Mr. Trevor Brown, Woodycrest For Human Development
- Mr. Robert Cortijo, Highbridge Voices
- Mr. Daniel Pavel Silvera, Gloria Benfield Foundation
- Mr. Matthew Vargas, New Settlement Apartments

Presentation Paul Phillips, Bronx City Planning Bicycle Parking

The Department of City Planning is proposing a text amendment to the Zoning Resolution (zoning for bicycle parking text amendment) to require indoor, secure bicycle parking in new multi-family residential, community facility, and commercial buildings in all zoning districts. The following provisions would apply:

- Residential buildings with more than 10 units must provide secure bike parking for 50% of the units, or one space for every two units.

- Commercial office buildings must provide one space for every 7,500sq feet. Retail and most other commercial uses, as well as most community facility uses, must provide one space for every 10,000 square feet of floor area. Smaller buildings, where three or fewer bicycle spaces are required, can waive the requirement.
- Universities and hospitals would be required to provide secure bike parking but special provisions would allow these institutions to locate spaces more flexibly in campus setting.
- For industrial and semi-industrial uses, religious institutions, and certain other facilities with varied employment densities or unusual space demands, bicycle parking would not be required, but if provided would bon count toward floor area.

Report from Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.

Ms. Aurea Mangual, representing the Borough President made the following report:

- Borough President Carrion urges Bronx residents to heed call to civic duty and join their Community Board.
- Annual Chanukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting Ceremony
- Hanel's Messiah concert and the third annual taste of the Bronx
- Senior Homeownership Preservation Panel
- Tree Lighting Celebration
- Financial Forum
- Black History Month Celebration

Report from the Comptroller William Thompson's Office

Mr. Charlie Ramos, representing the Comptroller's Office made the following report:

- The Comptroller's Response to the Mayor's Budget
- Opposed to the RFP for Senior Center Services
- Board to sign up to the Comptroller's email monthly alerts

Report form State Senator Ruth Hassel-Thompson

Ms. Carolyn Jones made the following report:

- Senator In Albany working on the State Budget
- Changes in the State Senate
- Sen. Thompson Chair of the Crime Victims Committee
- Sen. Thompson Chair of the Majority Conference
- Women's History Month
- Opposed to the Mayor's announcement to close 3 schools in the Senator's District

Public Session

P.O. Hilda Estrella, 44th Precinct Community Affairs Unit

- Holiday events that the 44th Precinct sponsored for the youth.
- Fundraiser for Christmas
- Announced the 44 Pct Council Meeting

Committee Reports:

Health and Human Services

Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr. requested approval for 2 letters one in support of 163rd Street Improvement Council for an early childhood daycare development. The motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Arthuree Evans was duly carried with one abstention

The second motion called by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Dr. Nabinet was for a letter requesting materials form the Magic Johnson foundation regarding AIDS/HIV. The motion was duly carried.

Municipal Services Committee

Mrs. Kathleen Saunders reminded everyone of her committee meeting and announced that the committee will have the Department of Transportation speak on the Park Smart Program

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Jose Rodriguez, District Manager for
Mr. Oscar Real, Recording Secretary