

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009
BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
MURRAY COHEN AUDITORIUM
1650 Grand Concourse

Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair, Presiding

Call To Order

The General Board meeting commenced at 7:30PM by Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair. All were welcomed to the meeting.

Invocation

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

Board Chair Remarks

Ms. Ezell asked if the Board Members reviewed the Minutes of last month's meeting and asked for a motion to be called.

Review/Correction/Adoption of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the April GBM Minutes was made by Mr. Barry Nissen and seconded by Mr. George T. Robinson. The motion was duly carried.

Vote on ULURP Application #C 090365ZMX

The Board Chair called for a motion on the ULURP Application and asked the Committee Chair person to outline the committee's recommendation regarding the ULURP Application and made mention that the ULURP Application was also heard by Ms Reyes' Committee, the Economic Development Committee.

The motion was made by Bishop Earl McKay to support ULURP Application #C 090365ZMX and seconded by Ms. Martha Reyes. The motion was duly carried.

Presentation Kipp Academy NYC Elementary School by Mr. Quinton Vance, Executive Director and Mr. Dave Levin, Superintendent.

- KIPP began in 1994 when Teach For America alumni Dave Levin and Mike Feinberg piloted a fifth grade public school program in inner-city Houston. In 1995, Levin moved to New York to found KIPP Academy in the South Bronx, while Feinberg founded KIPP Academy, Houston.
- With a staff of three teachers, KIPP Academy in the South Bronx opened its doors to 50 fifth graders from the surrounding neighborhoods. By the 1998-1999 school year, the school had grown to serve 200 fifth through eighth graders, and in 2000 KIPP Academy became a New York City Department of Education Charter School.
- From the beginning, KIPP has been committed to the belief that there are no shortcuts to success and happiness in life. We promise to do whatever it takes to help our students succeed, and we maintain an unrelenting focus on results. We offer an extended day and an extended year, and we ask students and teachers to "Be nice" and "Work hard."
- Our results have been strong. On the 2007 New York state tests, 84% of KIPP Academy eighth graders scored at or above grade level in Mathematics, as compared to 46% in New York City and 22% in District 7, where KIPP Academy

is located. In English/Language Arts, 82% of KIPP Academy eighth graders scored at or above grade level, as compared to 42% in New York City and 23% in District 7. Since 2003, KIPP Academy has ranked in the top 10% of all NYC public middle schools.

- KIPP to College assists KIPP Academy students in the high school admissions process and provides alumni with academic and personal support throughout high school and college and beyond.
- KIPP Academy is part of the KIPP NYC family, including four public middle schools (KIPP Academy, KIPP STAR, KIPP AMP, and KIPP Infinity), KIPP to College, the Shared Services Team providing development, operations, finance, and technology support to all schools and programs, and new initiatives including planning for the opening of KIPP NYC elementary and high schools.
- KIPP Academy Charter School is a public school open to all New York students that are incoming 5th graders. The only information needed to enter the KIPP Academy lottery is the student's name and contact information. No test scores, grades, recommendations, or behavioral history will be taken into consideration. All applications must be received by April 1 at 5pm via mail, fax, or in person.

The Board Chair made a point of clarity regarding KIPP's presentation and asked that KIPP be more specific to their proposed plan at the Mott Haven Campus Site.

- KIPP submitted a proposal to occupy space within the Mott Haven Site and have Middle School students with Elementary school students. 548 Students (Elementary) as outlined by KIPP. The Board Chair spoke of the Mott Haven Campus and SCA indicating that they did not construct the facility to accommodate elementary school students.
- KIPP responded to the RFP and submitted an application.

The Board Chair asked for a motion to be called. The Motion made by Ms. Rosie Pettway to grant a letter of support to KIPP Academy to establish an Elementary School at the Mott Haven Campus Site. The motion was seconded by Mr. George T. Robinson. The Motion duly carried.

Presentation Eliminating Gun Violence and Overcoming Discrimination by New Settlement's Bronx Helpers, New Settlement Apartments.

- Bronx Helpers a community service and leadership development program at New Settlement Apartments. Bronx Helpers offers a community service program for youth who are between the ages of 11-15.
- New Settlement's Bronx Helpers Lie-in and Speak-Out. May 29th from 5-7pm at Greenstreet @170th and the Grand Concourse. Individuals or Family members that have been a victim of gun violence have been encouraged to attend.

- Overcoming Discrimination at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. Prior to the showing they have organized a march. The March will be from 1512 Townsend Avenue to the Bronx Museum to educate the community about this issue.
- Introduction of a new Bronx Helpers Summer Program. Their program provides both educational and hands-on community service and advocacy to address issues relevant to youth and their community.
- The summer program begins July 6th and ends on August 16th and will meet Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12pm - 3pm and 11am-5pm on Friday.
- During Bronx Helpers activities and events they research, discuss and tackle various social and environmental issues such as combating homelessness, working with disabled youth, cleaning up local parks, and learning about youth's Civil Rights.

Highbridge Community Development Corporation

The Board Chair requested that they move an agenda item forward and called on Bishop Earl McKay, Chair of the Housing and Land Use Committee. Bishop McKay proceeded to present HCDC plan to develop a 70 unit senior housing development at 171st Street and Plimpton Avenue. The Housing and Land Use Committee, as announced by the Committee Chair has reviewed the project twice in committee and reaffirms committee support for HCDC's Senior Housing Development and Cultural project. Bishop McKay then made a motion to approve a letter of support for HCDC for their project at West 171st Street and Plimpton Avenue.

The Motion made by Bishop McKay was seconded by Mr. Ryan Khan. The motion duly carried.

Monsignor Sakano, Chair of the Highbridge Community Development Corporation spoke of the redevelopment of the Highbridge Community and their partnerships with HPD and Community Board. He spoke of the Senior Housing they have developed and the continued need to develop such housing. The Monsignor then gave an overview of the Project and what will be required to develop the HUD 202 housing and incorporate the Martha Graham Dance Studio.

Ted Weinstein of HPD gave the Board a more in-depth scale of the project and the process that the City and the Community Board will oversee in relation to Highbridge Community Development Corporation's project.

Remarks By The District Manager

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

The District Manager provided an overview of the budget process involving the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government.

Early this month the Mayor presented his Executive Budget for FY2010, and the Council, as part of their role, are currently holding their budget hearings on the Executive Budget.

The role of the Mayor

The role of the Mayor is to be responsible for managing the executive branch of the City's government, including the management and delivery of government programs and services. This executive role in city management includes developing annual

proposals to allocate the city's resources through the Expense, Revenue and Capital Budgets and accompanying Financial Plans and implementing each year's Adopted Budget. The Mayor determines the non-property tax revenue forecast on which the City Council relies in setting the property tax rates for adopting a balanced budget.

The role of the City Council

The City Council is the legislative branch of New York City's government; its responsibilities related to the budget are broad, including negotiation, review, modification, and oversight of the city's revenues-including taxes and expenditures such as operations, programs, services, and capital. The Council also has formal responsibility for setting property tax rates.

During the month of May we observe the Council and the Executive negotiating, modifying and crafting a balance budget.

At the beginning of this month the Mayor released and announced the following Executive Budget for FY 2010:

The Mayor outlined a plan to balance the budget for FY 2010 through: a cumulative total of \$3.4 billion in agency gap closing actions, including \$324 million of new actions

detailed today; using more than \$5 billion in surpluses saved from periods of economic growth; and revenue enhancements, including a proposed sales tax increase. The plan also relies on a minimum of \$1.4 billion in combined savings and revenues generated by anticipated actions from the State and organized labor, including pension reform and health care cost reductions.

The proposal balances the City's budget, while maintaining the core services needed to continue the progress made over the last seven years in keeping crime at record lows, improving City schools, keeping streets clean, and increasing open space, improving life expectancies and reducing homelessness. The balanced budget proposal calls for no further reductions in the number of uniformed officers or any further staff reductions at the Department of Education or at the Administration for Children's Services.

In response to the Mayor's Executive Budget the Council released the following statement by Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn.

The City is facing the worst financial outlook since the 1970s, but thanks to the surpluses the City has accumulated over the last several years, the outlook for this year is not as bad as it could have been. However, the projection for FY11 and FY12 continue to raise serious concerns, with projected gaps of \$4.6 billion and \$5.2 billion respectively.

Thanks to the federal stimulus funding, the City will probably avoid some of the more drastic cuts to our public schools and a number of other important services. However, it is important for everyone to realize that this money is a one shot deal. Stimulus funding for FY11 is less than we hoped, and we must be mindful that while the projection today is better than expected, there are hard challenges we will have to confront in the very near future.

The Council leadership continues to believe that increasing sales tax is a regressive way to generate revenue because it places an unfair burden on those who have the least. The idea of eliminating the tax exemption on clothing only compounds that burden. The Council started budget hearings on Monday, May 11th.

As the executive and the legislative branches work on a budget that will preserve the core services that are critically important to many New Yorkers we will continue to advocate on behalf of communities like ours. Receiving those core services and maintaining our quality of life.

Meetings, events and announcements held over the Month

April 29th-NYC Council Parks Committee Hearing on the Yankee Stadium Replacement Parks. During the hearing the Deputy Commissioner of Parks gave an overview of the replacement parks. The Commissioner clarified certain items of concern brought by Council Member Helen D. Foster. In addition to testimony from the Parks officials, park advocates and community members testified outlining issues of concern.

May 6th-Monthly Borough Services Cabinet Meeting. This meeting marked our formal introduction of our new Borough President and Staff. The meeting's agenda involved the H1N1 Virus update from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Meeting with property owners of 170th between Teller and College Avenue regarding their issues with the Post Graduate Center's development on 170th and Teller Avenue. Apparently the Post Graduate closed the easement to the property from Teller Avenue to College to place their building's footing in order to lay the foundation. The property owner argued that P.G. Ctr. is in violation of their property rights related to the easement closure and the footage that P.G. Ctr. is proposing to develop. I met with both sides and attempted to mediate a resolution. Currently I received a notice from P.G. Ctr. I indicated that the property owners should be alerted and the matter should be addressed to them.

In the mean time I had DOT, Dept of Bldgs. and the Mayor's office at the work site to alert me to something that I may have overlooked or give me a formal

stance. I will be meeting the property owners and alert them of the above update.

Meeting with environmental community groups, Board's 5&7 DMs, Congressman's Serrano's Office to discuss strategies on bringing awareness to access to the Harlem River at Urban Divers at River Park Towers.

May 8th-44th Pct Council and Community Fellowship Brunch

May 11th Site visit meeting with DOT, Dept of Bldg and the Mayor's office regarding the Post Graduate Center's Development on 170th and Teller Avenue.

May 12th –Meeting with the Gateway Coalition to discuss the following items

- Job placement/interview and pre-screening process and number of people in job bank.
- Upcoming Job Fairs and soft and hard opening day of Gateway stores.
- Finalize advertising materials and application process for the nutritional program with BJ's.

Site visit meeting with Highbridge Community resident to discuss quality of life issues from University and Ogden Avenue form 165th and 168th Street

May 13th –Meeting with the Gateway Coalition and representatives of BJ's Wholesale.

- Presented our stipulations regarding the advertising materials and application process for the nutritional program with BJ's. We asked that in addition to what

the Related Company will cover BJ's will cover, as per our demand 6,000 community residents annually for a period of five years. The program is for families receiving public assistance.

Their immediate counter was 1500 individuals. We asked that they speak to their managers and get back to us.

Grand Course Academy Charter School ribbon cutting ceremony at 169th street between the Grand Course and Walton Avenue.

May 14th –Meeting with the Gambian Society regarding assisting the Society in identifying new office space.

Report from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

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

- 2009 Community Board Reappointments
 - Community Board Members who have submitted a reappointment application should continue to serve until they receive a letter from the Borough President regarding their

reappointment. The terms of Community Board Members who have chosen not to reapply for a new term ends on March 31st.

- The Borough President takes oath of office as Bronx 13th Chief Executive.
- The Borough President announced a commitment of \$2.5 Million in funding for Bronx Children's Museum.
- The Borough President kicked off his cultural events with the annual Israeli independence day festival
- Borough President Diaz, Jr. addresses Riverdale Business Leaders.
 - about upcoming events, trainings and resources to survive the financial crisis.

Committee Reports

Health and Human Services

The Committee asked the Board to support a letter to encourage NYC Council Speaker Quinn to restore 3.5 million for infant mortality reduction initiative that was cut by the Mayor. A motion was made by Bishop Earl McKay and seconded by Arthuree Evans. The motion duly carried.

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Committee Chair presented two letters of support from the Committee. The first letter would go to the African People Alliance for their multi-block parade. The Motion made by Pastor Jackson was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. The motion was duly carried.

The second letter was for Ms. Katie Holten, an artist, commissioned to develop a tree museum along the Grand Concourse. The motion made by Pastor Jackson to provide a letter of support to Katie Holten for the Tree Museum was seconded by Ms. Martha Reyes. The motion duly carried.

Executive Committee

The Board Chair outlined two motions the first was that the Committee Chair send the minutes to the Board Office and the Board Chair and that the Board Office is to distribute the minutes as they are submitted. The Motion was made by Ms. Rosie Pettway and seconded by Pastor Melody Frazer. The motion duly carried.

The seconded item was to have the all committee meetings taped to be used as back up and saved in the office. The Motion was made by Barry Nissen and seconded by Melody Frazer. The motion duly carried.

Public Session

Debra Myers, community resident spoke about the Sheridan Avenue Beautification Project held on Saturday May 16th.

Roger Milliner, NYC Health and Hospital Corp/Metro Plus health Plan spoke about Healthcare and Health Insurance issues.

Mark Escoffery-Bey, community resident questioned as to what has the Board done regarding a policy procedure during a previous General Board Meeting.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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