



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO

CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN

DISTRICT MANAGER

Seniors & Aging Services

April 10th, 2024

Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Chairperson

DRAFT

Bank services for seniors in the Bronx.

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne expresses concern about seniors' safety at banks, citing unsecured areas and lack of cleanliness.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne requested a representatives from several banks in the district to testify at a meeting regarding concerns with their financial centers.
- Bank of America's Senior Vice President replied that they will research and address identified concerns at each location, followed by a mutually convenient date and time.

Lack of banking services and mail services for seniors in NYC.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan recounts difficulties accessing banking services for seniors, citing lack of representation and accessibility.
- Members discuss mail delivery issues in NYC, particularly for seniors.

Banking issues and accessibility for seniors.

- Seniors discuss concerns about price gouging at supermarkets and lack of senior shopping hours.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne and District Manager Anthony Jordan discuss follow-up emails to banks regarding a meeting.
- Deadline for response from banks is on April 19th.

Scams targeting seniors and need for tech and communication committee support.

- Committee members discuss potential joint meetings with other committees to address shared concerns.

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne and Member Brenda Goodwin discussed phone scams and how to tap into the Communications & Technology committee to learn more on how to avoid these types of scams.
- They emphasized the importance of being cautious when navigating the web and using technology to avoid potential scams.

Senior issues, including post office and bank services, and campaign to improve accessibility.

- Member Brenda Goodwin shares tips for seniors on how to save money, including using TD Bank and Chase accounts, and asking for discounts at stores like IKEA and movie theaters.
- Members discuss the importance of being informed and proactive in seeking out these discounts and benefits, and how to access them.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne: “Long lines and lack of staff at post office, affecting seniors' mail and packages.”
- District Manager Anthony Jordan: “Post office issues persist, including delayed or missing mail, and long lines.”

Activating a community center for seniors with activities like bingo, game nights, and field trips.

- Member Brenda Goodwin mentions seniors enjoy activities like bingo, candle-making, and selling dinners.
- Participants discuss local organizations providing free or low-cost services for seniors, including transportation and meals.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto discusses activating a community space for seniors with activities like bingo and field trips.

Moving community board meetings to different locations in the district.

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne suggests moving community board meetings to a more accessible location, such as a senior center or park within the district.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto agrees and suggests considering moving the meetings throughout the district to make them more accessible for all members.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto and Member Brenda Goodwin discuss moving meetings to different locations to expose community members to new spaces and learn about other neighborhoods.
- Member Brenda Goodwin expresses concern about safety in the area and suggests alternative locations for night meetings.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto assures accommodation and encourages input from all members.

Community issues in the Bronx, including cleaning up Roberto Clemente Plaza, addressing illegal fruit vendors, and addressing the needle

- Bronx Community Board #1 plan cleanup and advocacy efforts for Roberto Clemente Plaza.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the need for community involvement in addressing issues like illegal vendors and needle problems in the Bronx.
- The community board is working to facilitate a task force led by city agencies and organizations to address the needle problem in St. Mary's Park.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of having institutional knowledge at the table to continue doing the work.

Action Items

Resend the letter sent to banks about senior services and accessibility to request a response from those that did not reply.

Follow up with Department of Aging representative and Access-A-Ride by the Friday of the following week for an update on attending the next meeting.

Invite a representative from the Third Avenue BID to present at a future full board meeting about their vision and plans to address issues at Roberto Clemente Plaza like cleanliness and vendors.

Facilitate a task force of city agencies and organizations to address needle disposal issues at St. Mary's Park.

Schedule a meeting with the Youth and Education Committee in June to discuss hosting intergenerational events for seniors over the summer months.