



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

## Immigration

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Mohammed Sheikh, Chairperson

The conversation centered around the importance of immigration committee meetings and the roles of its members. Members emphasized the need for full participation and adherence to ethical standards. Members also highlighted the role of community board as a village of leaders and the need for professionalism, courtesy, and respect in their interactions. Additionally, the members discussed ways to support and empower immigrant communities in the Bronx, including providing free and confidential help at the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center and addressing food insecurity through increased access to benefits. Members also addressed the need for more job opportunities and organizations like the Sanctuary Coalition to provide advocacy for immigrants navigating the legal system.

### Outline

#### Immigration committee attendance policies.

- Committee members introduce themselves.
- Chairman acknowledges Committee Secretary and Vice Chair.
- Committee evaluates attendance policies to ensure full participation in committee and full board meetings.

#### Community board responsibilities and ethics.

- District Manager emphasizes the need for community involvement and transparency in decision-making processes.
- District Manager and colleague Steven Palmers aim to make information easily accessible through technology.
- Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of acting with professionalism, courtesy, and respect as community board members, while also ensuring

compliance with the Borough President's office code of conduct for Community Boards.

- Mohammed Sheikh requests a briefing on the migration issue and its impact on the community, while acknowledging the concerns and opinions of board members.

#### **Supporting asylum seekers in New York City.**

- New York City supports asylum seekers with resources and advocacy, despite influx of over 175,000 immigrants from southern parts as of February.
- Anthony Jordan highlights the importance of IDNYC, a city ID card, for immigrants to access services and resources, including healthcare, education, and mental health support.
- IDNYC increased the number of applications available to ensure more immigrants can obtain the ID, which can help them access basic needs and opportunities.
- Center provides services for migrants, including asylum seekers, in NYC.

#### **Immigration and community service.**

- Steven Palmers emphasizes the committee's goal of serving the community and providing resources to constituents.
- Mohammed shaikh highlights the district's commitment to inclusivity and welcoming immigrants, asylum seekers, and people of color.

#### **Food insecurity and access to benefits in NYC.**

- Anthony Jordan highlights food insecurity in the borough, particularly among young people who may only have one meal a day due to lack of access to government assistance programs.
- Anthony Jordan announces a new program starting on Wednesday, offering private benefits and groceries on Saturdays, in partnership with a local nonprofit.

#### **Immigration resources and summer youth employment.**

- Committee member suggests connecting with immigration attorneys to provide resources for district residents.
- Patricia Simpson plans to provide flyers for immigrant resources and promote summer youth employment opportunities.

#### **Youth employment and economic inequality.**

### **Immigrant resources and language barriers.**

- Patricia Simpson shares personal experiences volunteering with the Sanctuary Coalition, accompanying immigrants to court and providing moral support.
- Patricia Simpson highlights the challenges faced by immigrants, including language barriers and lack of resources, and emphasizes the importance of having someone to guide and support them.
- Member discusses the challenges of being an immigrant in the US, including language barriers and lack of knowledge about legal proceedings.
- Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of making direct connections and providing clear instructions to ensure that immigrants can access resources and support.

### **Black history and cultural heritage.**

### **Community contributions and committee work.**

- Mohammed Shaikh promises collaboration and dedication to community service.

### **Action Items**

Bring immigration resource flyers from MASA and Mercy Center to office for distribution

Start providing benefits assistance on Wednesdays 9am-5pm at the office starting 2/22

Distribute groceries/produce to community members on Saturdays starting 2/24 at the office

Email committee members with date and time for grocery distribution

Connect immigrants in need with direct contacts at service organizations

Bring in immigration attorneys/professionals for assistance hours at the office

Provide assistance with summer youth employment applications

Contact local businesses about hiring local youth