



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

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. Resources & Services

March 18th, 2024

Audrey Dejesus, Chairperson

Outline

LGBTQIA+ issues and services in Bronx Community Board.

- Chairperson Alayeto recommends Sean Coleman as chair and vice chair of the committee, with no objections from the group.
- The committee discusses the need for more members and a secretary.
- Anthony Jordan: Committee chairperson for LGBTQIA issues and services, working to foster inclusive community environment and advocate for rights and well-being of LGBTQIA individuals.
- Committee: Committed to addressing unique needs of LGBTQIA individuals within community board one, collaborating with agencies and service providers to ensure access to supportive resources.
- The Education Initiatives Committee will work to educate the community on LGBTQIA history, rights, and issues within Bronx Community Board District 1 through workshops, panel discussions, and awareness campaigns.
- The committee will also organize social events, networking opportunities, and safe spaces for LGBTQIA individuals in the Bronx, and collaborate with local organizations to provide a broader network of resources and support.

LGBTQIA+ issues and action items for the community board.

- Committee members discuss upcoming events and action items for the rest of the year.
- Committee discusses issues affecting LGBTQIA community, including healthcare, access, and discrimination.

LGBTQIA+ issues in the Bronx, NYC.

- Committee aims to address systemic gaps in services for marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals and sex workers.

- Vice Chair Sean Coleman suggests Bronx LGBTQ resources have historically been underfunded due to hesitant elected officials, and proposes creating reports on community board issues to demonstrate need for resources.
- Vice Chair Sean Coleman also emphasizes the importance of education on the role of community boards to increase involvement and secure more funding.
- Vice Chair Sean Coleman suggests partnering with Hetrick Martin Institute (HMI) to enhance LGBTQ curriculum in Bronx schools, leveraging their exclusive curriculum and existing partnerships with schools.
- Chairperson Audrey Dejesus agreed with the full curriculum from HMI to use as a template for an action plan, with the goal of inclusivity and representation for LGBTQ students in Bronx schools.

LGBTQIA+ issues in the Bronx, including mental health and substance use.

- Bronx LGBTQIA community faces underfunding and lack of resources, despite similar numbers to Manhattan.
- Anthony Jordan and Vice Chair Sean Coleman discuss the primary reasons why people come to their organization for help, including housing, food insecurity, and mental health.
- Substance use is a significant issue in their district, with alcohol and marijuana being the top two drugs of choice among young people.
- Member Argelia Ortiz advocates for LGBTQI inclusion, wants more education about a “safe haven rainbow sign” program.

LGBTQIA+ Pride festival planning and collaboration.

- Chairperson Audrey Dejesus discusses the history of Pride events in the Bronx, including the annual Destination Tomorrow festival, which has been inclusive and diverse.
- Vice Chair Sean Coleman mentions that the pride festival has splintered in recent years and hopes for a unified event in the future.

LGBTQIA+ issues and community involvement.

- Committee members discuss Pride weekend events, including a street festival and voter registration drives.
- Anthony Jordan emphasizes the need for action and progress in addressing the LGBTQIA community's needs, particularly in the areas of food insecurity, housing, mental health, and substance abuse.
- He calls for the community board to bring light to these issues and take action to address them, rather than simply tolerating them.

LGBTQIA+ rights and advocacy.

- Vice Chair Sean Coleman emphasizes the importance of framing the LGBTQI community as human to combat discrimination and marginalization.
- Chairperson Audrey Dejesus and Anthony Jordan agree to prioritize LGBTQI needs and keep them in the forefront, with consistency being key to maintaining progress.
- Members encourage open communication and collaboration to create a united front against potential threats to their community's rights.
- Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of addressing LGBTQIA issues in the community, including economic equity and discrimination in the judicial system.
- Members discuss the need for organizations in the community to meet standards set by the committee or board, and the importance of reputation and credibility in serving the LGBTQIA community.

Standards for LGBTQIA+-serving organizations.

- Vice Chair Sean Coleman suggests creating a standard for LGBTQ-serving organizations to meet in order to be considered knowledgeable and equitable.
- Committee members discuss potential action items to bring to the board, including identifying agencies.

LGBTQIA+ education and awareness in a community meeting.

- Chairperson Audrey Dejesus wants to educate the community on services and proposals for the transgender community, and invite organizations to provide more information.
- Vice Chair Sean Coleman mentions the Bronx Borough President's LGBTQI Task Force and other organizations that can provide support.
- Members discuss LGBTQ+ education gaps and how to address them in schools.

Action Items

Create a report on the state of LGBTQIA affairs and resources in the Bronx to highlight gaps and disparities compared to other boroughs.

Reach out to Hetrick Martin Institute to get a copy of the LGBTQIA curriculum used in schools and report back on implementation.

Organize an LGBTQIA 101 workshop/panel event to promote community education and awareness.

Draft criteria and standards for organizations serving the LGBTQIA community to ensure knowledgeable, equitable and effective services.

Identify and invite relevant LGBTQIA organizations and agencies to present at future committee meetings.

Set the top 5 committee priorities around: housing, food insecurity, mental health, substance abuse, and violence against LGBTQIA individuals.

Participate with an informational table at the upcoming Bronx Pride festival and other LGBTQIA events.

Distribute educational LGBTQIA materials at the Pride festival and upcoming events.

Follow up on obtaining LGBTQIA Safe Space stickers and materials for local businesses.