



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

Municipal Services Committee Minutes

September 9th, 2024

Ngande Ambroise, Committee Chairperson

Attendance: *Ngande Ambroise, Robert Barnes, Carolyn Chamorro, Audrey Dejesus, Porscha Wilson*

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Introduction and Agenda Approval

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise welcomes everyone and mentions the continuation of summer.
- The agenda is presented and approved with a motion and second.
- New board member Robert Barnes introduces themselves to the committee.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan reminds the audience to turn off electronic devices for better audio clarity and to engage on social media platforms.

District Needs Assessment Overview

- District Manager Anthony Jordan explains the importance of the district needs assessment for Community Board 1.
- The assessment helps prioritize budgetary and agency needs for the district, which includes Port Morris, Mott Haven, and Melrose sections of the Bronx.
- The process involves recommendations from the community board, which are then sent to the Bronx borough president's office and the mayor.
- Emphasis is placed on the speed of the process, with a goal to complete it by mid-October.

Call to Action for 311 and Community Engagement

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise stresses the importance of calling 311 for community needs, as it creates a record for the city government to address issues.
- He highlights the disconnect between the community and elected officials due to lack of complaints.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise shares his frustration with the lack of services in the South Bronx compared to other areas.
- He calls for community members to take responsibility and demand services from their elected officials.

Capital Improvements and Parks Updates

- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the importance of parks and open spaces for mental health and community interaction.
- He mentions the deterioration of St Mary's Recreation Center and the need for capital improvements.
- The commissioner's office has provided updates on various park projects, including Bankside Waterfront Park, Lozada Playground, and St Mary's Park.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the need for accurate and updated information on capital improvements and invites the commissioner to present at the next meeting.

Detailed Updates on Specific Park Projects

- Parks Department Valerie Davis O'Neal provides detailed updates on specific park projects, including Brook Park Community Garden, Pontiac Playground, and St Mary's Recreation Center.
- The commissioner's office is working on ensuring that projects are completed on time and within budget.
- Ms. Valerie Davis O'Neal mentions the importance of community engagement and education on park rules and regulations.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise expresses frustration with the slow progress on St Mary's Recreation Center and the need for more concrete updates.

Community Concerns and Suggestions

- Member Audrey Dejesus raises concerns about unleashed dogs in parks and the need for better enforcement.

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise questions the visibility and effectiveness of park rangers and suggests more community education on available resources.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan explains the difference between park rangers and park enforcement patrol officers.
- The discussion highlights the need for more programming and community engagement in parks to deter crime and improve community access.

District Needs Assessment Priorities

- District Manager Anthony Jordan outlines the priorities for the district needs assessment, including sanitation, increased lighting, road paving, and park investments.
- He emphasizes the importance of community input and the need for accurate data on community needs.
- Member Audrey Dejesus suggests focusing on reducing the number of city bikes in certain areas.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan agrees to include community suggestions in the district needs assessment and encourages members to email their ideas.

Sanitation and Community Responsibility

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise questions the effectiveness of current sanitation services and suggests more frequent pickups in highly trafficked areas.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan agrees and emphasizes the need for both resources and community education to address sanitation issues.
- The discussion highlights the importance of community members taking responsibility for their neighborhoods and demanding better services.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the possibility of a tour by the sanitation commissioner to address specific concerns.

Systemic Issues and Community Advocacy

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise raises concerns about systemic issues, such as garbage being placed in front of new developments.
- He suggests that the community needs to be more proactive in demanding better services and holding developers accountable.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan agrees and mentions the need for smarter development decisions and better community engagement.
- The discussion emphasizes the importance of community advocacy and holding elected officials accountable for their promises.

Meeting Conclusion and Next Steps

- District Manager Anthony Jordan thanks everyone for their participation and emphasizes the importance of community input in the district needs assessment.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise reiterates the need for community members to take responsibility for their neighborhoods and demand better services.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder to email any additional suggestions for the district needs assessment.
- The next meeting is scheduled, and the importance of continued community engagement is highlighted.

Action Items

Provide statistics on community participation in tennis programs at St. Mary's and Crotona Parks.

Schedule a meeting with NYC Sanitation Commissioner to discuss garbage collection issues.

Notify board of upcoming meeting with NYC Sanitation to discuss new garbage container regulations.