

The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 | 6PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM PLATFORM
Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Ms. Robin Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Anita Long, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kedisha Samuels, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Ms. Kathleen Saunders.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. James Boyd, Jr., Mr. Constantious Stavroulakis.

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Philps, District Manager
Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member
Hon. Fernando Cabrera, New York City Council Member
Hon. Luis Sepulveda, New York State Senate Member
Hon. Latoya Joyner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Nathalia Fernandez, New York State Assembly Member
Cecil Brooks, Jr., representing US Congress Ritchie Torres
Khadim Niang-Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Ritchard Ewings, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda
Oriana Rosado, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera
June Soto, representing NYS Senate Jose Serrano
Charlene Matos, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner
Charlene (AWJ), representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner
MIA-79th District, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson
Jose Rodriguez, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala

Justin Cortes, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson
Russell Cheeks, representing NYC Council Fernando Cabrera

GUEST PRESENT:

Lon Wilson-N.Y. Walkers Club/Parks Committee Member, Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct CAU, Lyna Saad-NYC HPD, Miguel Acosta-Copos Blancos Professional Services, Alberto Roldan-NYC Department of Consumer & Worker Protection, Carolis Paula-Nuevo Tulcingo Azteca Corp., Wendy Gallegos-MADDD Equities LLC, Steve Williams-The Accessible Dispatch Program, Michelle Mootreddy-Bodega cats Presents, Chris Campbell-Resident, Travis Thomas-S.A.V.E.D 4 Life, Gregory Hernandez-Resident, Carla Precht-Bronx Children's Museum, Isidro (Sid) Arguello-Resident, Rachel Gill-BronxWorks, Sofia Costa-Resident, Tony Costa-Resident, Deborah Allman-NY Public Library Grand Concourse Branch, Alex Mercedes-Excellent Car & Limo Services Inc., Sarahn O'Uhuru-Resident, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Hannah Luna-Community Board Candidate, Natalie Rodriguez, Maston Sansom-Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC, Margaret Alexander, Taibat Ibrahim, Safina Pathan-Student-Monroe College School of Nursing, Bomba, Alexis Davila-Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, Tiffanie, Cindy, H Martinez, C Graham, iphone, arielfra27@, ipad, iphone, Christina's iphone.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND AGENDA ITEMS:

Public session commenced at 6:06 p.m.

1. Public Session

- Enrique Colon reported from Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA).
 - They will present a workshop concerning gentrification on Wednesday, February 24 from 6-8pm.
 - Please contact Enrique at 646-301-2131 or e.colon@newsettlement.org if you would like to join.
- A public guest asked a question regarding who is responsible for salting the streets. It was explained that the sanitation department is responsible for salting the streets, but individual buildings are responsible for the sidewalks themselves.
- Steven Williams reported from the Accessible Dispatch Program.
 - It connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis, all throughout the five boroughs.
 - Anyone can use the program. It operates 24 hours a day seven days a week, no enrollment is necessary.
 - You pay the same fare as you would with a regular-sized taxi cab.
 - To connect, use the app, call 646-599-9999 or visit <https://accessibledispatch.com/driver/>

2. Welcoming remarks and announcements by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Bishop Earl McKay

4. Roll Call

5. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes

- The January 2021 minutes were approved.
 - One abstention, otherwise unanimous approval.

6. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct

- Detective Roberto Oviedo reported.
- Next community council meeting will be March 10th at 6:30 p.m. located at 85 East 165th Street (Church of God of Prophecy).
- RSVP to Juanita McMillan at Juanita.mcmillan@nypd.org or call 917-603-0971.
- The next build a block meeting will be March, 6 2021 at 1pm at 777 Concourse Village East.
- Incidents in February:
 - February 2: Shooting at 1265 Nelson Avenue. Victim was a 26-year-old male. Transported to Lincoln Hospital. Investigation is ongoing.
 - February 15: Shooting on Ogden Avenue. Approximately 8:08am. The victim is a 52-year-old male, and he sustained no injuries. Investigation is ongoing.
 - February 16: Shooting and robbery at approximately 9pm.
 - The perpetrator is a 45-year-old male. He suffered a gunshot wound to the head and survived.
 - First victim was a 35-year-old male. He suffered a gunshot wound to his chest.
 - Second victim was a 33-year-old male. He suffered gunshot wounds to his hand, head, and torso and was pronounced dead on arrival.
 - Attempted rape at 148 East 174th Street approximately 6:50 p.m. One person in custody. Investigation ongoing by SVU.
 - February 22: Robbery at 12 East 170th Street inside the Boost Mobil store.

7. Report by CB4 District Manager by Paul A. Philps

- Reiterated importance of COVID testing and discussed vaccine availability.
- Discussed the Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative (JARC).
 - Its mission is to bring about inclusive economic growth and sustainability to local residents, employers, and workers impacted by the rezoning.
 - Upcoming panels include a PPP application process discussion and a Borough President roundtable.
 - Community Board meeting protocols were reiterated.

8. Committee Reports by (as called by the Board Chair)

- Parks
 - Committee Chair Paul Lozito reported.

- First update pertained to Bronx Point which is currently under construction. They will first work on the shoreline and then build the building.
- There will be a connection into Millpond Park.
- The committee asked a lot of questions about maintenance of the public spaces and they said they would get back to them with better with responses.
- Bronx Point also gave information about MWBE and hiring opportunities.
- Second update concerned Publicolor NYC, a nonprofit that focuses on beautifying the community through different painting projects.
- A grant was provided from the Yankees to paint the Franz Sigel Park walls on Walton Avenue. The organization provides stipend and scholarship opportunities for the participants.
- They are open to work with the community or schools on any projects.
- Youth Services & Education
 - Committee Chair Zonia Ortiz reported.
 - All five CB4 committees will participate in the upcoming resource manual.
 - The title will be “Bronx Community Board 4 Resource Manual.”
 - Committees will be:
 - Services for Youth
 - LGBTQ Resources
 - After-School / Extracurricular Activities Resources.
 - Special Needs Services /Resources.
 - Libraries
 - Child Care Services
 - Pregnant Woman Education.
 - Homelessness Education: Nutrition, Schools Supply, Safety, Housing.
 - Preparation for One-Testing Standard, Mentoring Counseling, Labor Skills.
 - Other committees may include Mental Health, Behavior Services, Abuse and Physical, Housing, and Eviction.)
- Economic Development
 - Committee Chair Beverly Bond reported.
 - Nuevo Tulcingo Azteca Corp. 134 East 170th Street – New application
 - Letter of support requested.
 - My Guy security firm will be used in the future.
 - 34 approved, 4 abstained, motion carried.
 - Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC-22 East 170th Street – New Application
 - Letter of support requested.
 - Detective Oviedo had no objections. Reported that they are known for helping the community.
 - 31 approved, 3 abstained, 0 opposed, motion carried.
 - Letter of support request for TLC Livery Base License #B02437/Excellent Car & Limousine Services, Inc. located at 144 East 174th Street – Renewal
 - Detective Oviedo reported they do a lot for the community. Zero incidents with the company. Excellent service.
 - 36 in favor, 3 abstained, 0 opposed, motion carried.

- Letters of support request for DCA Licensing to have two Bronx Fairs/Annual Community Carnival on Yankee Stadium Parking Lot
 - March 19-29th, 2021 at 100 East 151st Street, Bronx, NY (10 Day Spring Fair)
 - April 1-4th, 2021 at 110 East 151st Street, Bronx, NY (4 Day Easter Fair)
 - Board members asked questions about general timing, health safety, PPP availability, how rides would be cleaned, policing, and more.
 - 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain, motion carried.
- Overview of New York City Free Tax Prep 2021 tax season, services by the Department of Consumer Affairs and Worker Protection (DCWP)
 - Families with an income of \$68,000 or less in 2020, and single New Yorkers with the income of \$48,000 or less, can file their tax returns for free.
 - Other services: drop-off, virtual tax prep, stimulus payment assistance (even for non-filers), assisted self-prep, financial counseling (for those 18 years old and older), and more.
 - Services in Spanish Arabic Bengali Chinese, French, Creole, Russian, among other languages.
 - See NYC Free Tax Prep: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page>

9. Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Local Elected Officials or their representatives

- Hon. Luis Sepulveda (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Passed a set of bills to protect nursing homes by establishing a direct patient care spending ratio; creating a task force to reimagine the delivery of long-term care to allow personal and compassionate care visitors; mandating disclosure of nursing home ratings; requiring more infection control policies by nursing homes; and requiring officials to conduct more thorough inspections.
 - Passed legislation concerning utility services that extends the COVID moratorium for utility services disconnections.
 - Ensures that utility companies do not pass on the cost of their lobbying to customers and clarifies the medical equipment that qualifies for essential electrical services.
 - Passed a bill making sure that Department of Civil Service exams are readily available to all SUNY campuses.
 - Noted this his office can assist people in getting a vaccine, if they are facing eviction, or if they are experiencing food insecurity.
 - Contact directly at 718-991-3161 or Ritchard@senatorsepulveda.com or Team@senatorsepulveda.com
- Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Recently appointed as chair of the Labor Committee.
 - Appointed to the assembly's economic recovery task force.

- Working with New Settlement to get funds to help youth in the community get jobs.
- Putting pressure on DOT to make sure that they are including access for our bike riders and pedestrians.
- Working on a Youth Miranda Bill, two food giveaways, and a coat giveaway
- Contact directly at 718-538-2000 or via email matosc@nyassembly.gov
- Hon. Fernando Cabrera (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Collaborated with Morris Heights Health Center to get vaccines to more independent senior living centers.
 - E-scooter and e-bike pilot will take place in the Bronx.
 - City Council enacted his bill to require 311 to notify each agency when a complaint has not been closed within the number of days specified by such agencies' service level agreement.
 - Submitted legislation to increase the penalties for sexual assaults of an EMT or first responder.
- Council Member Vanessa Gibson (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - City Council started its budget process for FY22.
 - Mayor presented his preliminary budget, and we will begin budget hearings virtually on March 2.
 - This year the budget deficit is \$5.5 billion.
 - Honoring NYCHA tenant leaders on February 24.
 - Working on a citywide proposal for the universal right to counsel bill
 - Mayor and the administration announced a 10-year food strategy plan to deal with food insecurity, policy, and justice.
 - 2021 state of the district address is on Sunday, March, 14 at 3pm.
 - Contact directly at 718-588-7500 or District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov
- Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Represents 18th assembly district (e.g. Morris Park, Pelham Gardens, Allerton, Norwood, etc.)
 - Working in Albany to make sure resources are not cut, especially for mental health services
 - Contact directly at fernandezn@nyassembly.gov
- Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
 - Reminder to complete sexual harassment training by March 31.
 - Contact directly at 718-590-3913 or aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov
- Oriana Rosado, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
 - Passed Senate Bill S3061A that delineates reporting standards for communicable disease cases and resulting deaths.
 - The bill is designed to bring transparency to information gathered during public health emergencies.
 - Also passed bill that will require the contact information for two different consumer assistance programs on all Medicaid adverse determination grievance and appeal notices.

- Contact directly at 718-933-2034 or email lchristian@nysenate.gov or grivera@nysenate.gov
- Cecil Brooks, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres
 - Focused on immigration work and troubling pattern of new detentions
 - Working on Post Office issues (e.g. missing packages, issues with money orders,
 - Focused on the Child Tax Credit. Trying to get it increased from a maximum of \$2,000 for children who are under 17 years of age to \$3,600 for children who are under 6 years old.
 - Contact directly at 718-541-2552 or cecil.brooks@mail.house.gov

10. Old Business/New Business

- New business
 - Travis Thomas, founder and cancer coach from S.A.V.E.D 4 Life Cancer Corporation, presented.
 - Encouraged organizations with free services that would benefit cancer patients, survivors, and/or their families to list them on their Online Cancer Resource Center.
 - Contact directly at 646-377-0161

11. Announcements/Adjournment

Adjournment at 8:21 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Mr. Jonah Nigh