

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 22, 2021 | 6 pm
Online Via Zoon Platform
MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrows, Ms. Robin Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, 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, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Nurys Laureano.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. Constantious Stavroulakis.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Latanya Christian, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera
Terrell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
Ritchard Ewings, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda
Russell Cheeks, representing NYC Council Fernando Cabrera

GUEST PRESENT:

Waheera Mardah-NYC EDC, Jamie Horton-NYC EDC, Nate Gray-NYC EDC, Lon Wilson-N.Y. Walkers Club/Parks Committee Member, Sara Crique-Resident, Marco Castro-WHEDco, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Tony Costa-Resident, Wendy Gallegos-MADDD Equities LLC, Linda Moshett-VOA Greater NY, Tyrone Ashby-University Family Residence-VOA Greater NY, Kathleen Saunders-Resident, Takisha Dozier-Bronx Children's Museum, Derick Spaulding-CEO of the AECI Charter Schools Network, Winnie Campbell-NYC HPD, Joyce Hogi-Harlem River Working Group, Chauncy Young-Harlem River Working Group, Marco Shalma-Bronx Night Market, Jacqueline Carter-Resident, Travis Thomas-S.A.V.E.D. 4 Life, M Mueller-Resident, Atiya Ward-Resident, Detective Carmen Tejada-NYPD 44th Precinct/Community Affairs Unit, PO Juanita McMillian-NYPD 44th Precinct/Community Affairs Unit, Lieutenant Hatki-NYPD 44th Precinct, Norcliffe btm apple-BTM Apple LLC/Applebee's, Marie Acevedo-New York Cares, Maria Gautreaux-27 Sports Bar & Café, Inc., John Lovejoy, John L, Alaina Beardsley, Mahesh K. Katkar, Yezaira Malave, Gbenga, Ken F, G Dukes, CK, HM, Galaxy J7 Prime, iPhone, 212-***-3870, 646-***-7229, 917-***-2657, 646-***-9956, 212-***-6287 .

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Agenda Items:

The public hearing commenced at 6 p.m.

1. Public Session:

- a. Sara Crique criques@msn.com Resident:
 - i. Past couple of months have been dealing with loitering on the sidewalks and streets. People are loud and play music throughout the evenings, drinking and smoking, leaving food containers, auto scrap parts, the trash that building owners a forced to clean up.
 - ii. Cars are not moving during street cleaning days and not receiving tickets.
 - iii. Sanitation is not coming around and cleaning the streets.
- b. Marco Castro mcastro@whedco.org WHEDco:
 - i. Grant from NYS to support small businesses \$5,000 to \$50,000 depending on your gross receipts or money that came into your business before expenses. WHEDco located on 168th St will provide technical assistance to help people apply and scan their documents.
 1. Documents Needed
 - a. NYS ID or drivers license
 - b. 2019 and 2020 business income taxes
 - ii. Apply to the NYS Small Business Recovery Grant at: nysmallbusinessrecovery.com
 1. Video with more information at whedco.biz/grant
 2. For help from WHEDco applying to the NYS Small Business Recovery Grant, email business@whedco.org or call/text: 347-973-0945

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Earl McKay completed.

3. Welcoming remarks and announcements by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair:

- a. Thanked the Board Members and Executive Board Members for all their hard work and adapting to the changes and serving our community.
- b. Happy and safe summer.

4. Roll Call (Reserved for Board Members):

- a. Board Member: 29 Present; 7 Excused; 2 absent

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

- a. Robert Garmendiz 1st motioned to approve the October 2021 minutes. Mildred James second the motion.
- b. 4 abstains- Dr. Grace Zarate, John Fielder, Ariane Garcia, and Ishaira Garcia.
- c. No one opposed

6. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct:

- a. Detective Carmen Tejada-NYPD 44th Precinct/Community Affairs Unit Officer presented some points:
 - i. New Deputy Inspector Officer Charlie Bello
 - ii. Event- Occupy the Block, On 6/23/2021 on Sheridan Avenue between 172 Street and Mount Eden.
 - iii. Upcoming event National Night Out- a day without violence on 8/3/2021 from 3 pm to 7 pm, location Foster Park.

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- iv. Fireworks are illegal, visit the 44th precinct for additional information to combat the fireworks.
- v. Community Members interested in hosting events in the community need to complete an application online: [SAPO - CECM \(nyc.gov\)](https://safo-cecm.nyc.gov).
- vi. NYPD Programs:
 - 1. Blue Chip Program: Basketball, tennis, board games, and mentoring programs every Tuesday and Thursday per month at the moment for ages 11-17 years old. For additional information view the 44th precinct on Facebook and Instagram.
 - 2. Explorers: Open all year round
- vii. Two Swimming Pools:
 - 1. Starting June 26, 2021, from 11 am to 7 pm locations Claremont Park and Foster Park pools. Will be monitored by officers.
- b. Lieutenant Hockey provided information regarding the dirt bikes and motorcycles, confiscating approximately 30 unregistered, unsafe vehicles, and unsafe driving, some were stolen. Vehicles were sent to the property clerk down to the pound. There is a new initiative for vehicles that have excessive noise and music and provide violations.

7. Update: Bronx Parking Development Comply, LLC (BPDC) Restructuring & Lease Severance. NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

- a. No voting items due to some open issues between the Yankees, the city, and EDC.
- b. The Yankees raised concerns at the last hour of the deal that was proposed regarding underutilized parking lots around Yankee Stadium. EDC will continue to work with all the parties involved to come up with a resolution that will both serve the local and city-wide needs over the next couple of months. EDC will return to CB4 in Fall 2022 with an updated proposal.
- c. Yankees want to further address the number of parking spaces. MAD wants to further discuss the economic terms of the severance lease. Trying to find a solution to strike the best deal possible. Based on how the number of spaces is documented in their legal documentation. Outlining what the city or the private contractor's obligations are.

8. Remarks and Announcement by CB4 District Manager Paul A. Philps:

- a. Next Board Meeting on September 28, 2021, at 6 pm.
- b. Will be working with the Department of Sanitation, Bronx Care, and New York Yankees on hosting community clean-up events. All Board Members are required to attend at least one clean-up event. All events start at noon. All volunteers will receive a voucher for tickets to a Yankee game, excluding board members and employees of the New York Yankees.
 - i. July 10, 2021, at the West 168th Street Steps
 - ii. July 24, 2021, on Gerard Avenue between 158th Street to 161st Street
 - iii. August 14, 2021, at the Mount Edan Mall
 - iv. August 28, 2021, between E 168th and 167th Street
- c. New Commanding Officer- Charlie Bello
- d. Happy and safe summer.

9. Committee Reports (called by the Board Chair):

- a. HOUSING & LAND USE
 - i. Jackson Strong Chair of the Housing & Land:
 - 1. Voting items for a letter of support:

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- a. Health & Fitness (DCE) city-wide text amendment to reduce barriers to establishing and opening community gyms and other health facilities. – Fernando Ortiz, Department of City Planning (DCP). This is a proposal to reduce barriers for gyms, spas, and licensed massage. A special permit is required to open these businesses and the text amendment would change this. Gyms, spas, and massage therapy have changed over the past 40 years. Zoning creates a major regulatory barrier for these small businesses. Permits take 6+ months to be granted, thus limiting opportunities and access. Oftentimes, these uses are not allowed along many local retail streets.
 - i. Proposed Changes:
 1. Remove BSA Special Permit for physical culture or health establishments (73-36)
 2. Small gyms and spas will be treated similarly to drug stores, restaurants, or salons
 - b. FRESH II City-wide text amendment for enhanced incentives for the creation of grocery stores in communities with food needs. – Fernando Ortiz, DCP.
 - i. *Proposal*: Zoning Text Amendment to FRESH II to update the existing Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program under the NYC ZR 63-00 which provides greater incentives for neighborhood grocery stores and supermarkets to locate underserved neighborhoods.
 - ii. *Purpose*: Incentivize the construction of supermarkets and bodegas in underserved areas of the city. Increase accessibility to fresh foods. Encourage better access to foods and in turn healthier neighborhoods.
 - c. All members unanimously voted to provide a letter of support all request.
- b. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE
 - i. Jason Carvalho Chair of the Health & Human Services committee shared COVID update statics from the DOH website: [COVID-19 Tracker | Department of Health website \(doh.gov.ph\)](#) from June mber 14th to June 22th, 2021 district 10451, 10452, and 10456 all under 1%, stronger place now since the start of the pandemic. Remember to wash your hands, utilized PPE's, Mask UP.
 - ii. Committee Meeting Highlights:
 1. Met on 6/14/2021- presentation from Dr. Andreas Daucus Administrative Director of Department of Psychiatry at Bronx Care (Bronx Lebanon). Provided an overview of the psychiatric services provided at Bronx Care Fulton campus for in/outpatient treatment for adults and children. Services also include substance treatment and DWI program, Mobile Crisie Team, alonge with community mental health treatment team for those in need. Individuals seeking psychiatric services please contact 718.901.8222.
 2. 2nd Presentation: New York City Department of Finance from Micheal Sharp regarding seniors rent increase exemption and disability rent increase program.
 - a. Requirements:
 - i. Submit renewal application on an annual basis. Due to COVID did not need to submit another application benefits continued. The moratorium will be lifted in the future to be determined. Pending educational campaign to remin people that they will soon have to submit renewal applications that continues benefits. Will like to coordinate with the Community Board 4 with holding the updates of the benefits.

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c. PARKS

- i. Paul Lozito Chair of the Parks Department informed of updates:
 1. No meeting for June 2021.
 2. Next Meeting September 2021- plans on meeting with the NYC Parks to discuss the budget priorities for the fiscal year 2022.

d. YOUTH & EDUCATION

- i. Zonia Ortiz Chair of the Youth & Education informed updates:
 1. Presentation by AECI – Charter School for Architecture, Engineering, and Construction. The School is currently located in District 7 but needs to expand to accommodate two new grades 11th and 12th. The school has 375 Students, with 25 students per class and 32% coming from District 9. They also accommodate special needs, EAP, and Multilingual Students. In 2020, they had a 95% of their school graduate with the Regents diploma. The School is moving to 116 East 169 Street and met with the 44th Precinct as well as the Superintendent of District 9 DOE Schools as part of their outreach to the community. They are seeking a letter of support to document their outreach, as they have already signed the lease and are scheduled to move on July 1, 2021
 2. All members unanimously voted to provide a letter of support.

e. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- i. Avery Smith member of the Economic Development informed of the updates:
 1. Voted items:
 - a. Renewals:
 - i. 27 Sports Bar & Café- 2 West Mount Eden Ave, Bronx NY 10452
 1. Letter of support with liquor, wine, and cider. Good standing with the 44th precinct.
 - ii. Applebees Neighborhood Bar and Grill- 16 Exterior Street, Bronx NY 10451
 1. Letter of support with liquor, wine, and cider. Reported one COVID violation which was corrected and paid in full. Good standing with the 44th precinct.
 - b. New Application for Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider
 - i. Tony's Billard and Café, Inc.-185 East 167th Street Bronx NY 10456
 1. Good Standing with the 44th precinct and no violations.
 - c. Letter of Support
 - i. Marco Shalma- Bronx Night Markert located Lot 13 at 610 River Avenue Bronx NY 10451.
 1. Wednesdays from 2 pm to 8 pm, beginning in July.
 - d. All members unanimously voted to provide a letter of support to the new application, renewal, and operation change.

f. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- i. Rosmary Dais Chair of the Municipal informed of the updates:
 1. Presentation from the 44th precinct regarding additional support and programs for the community.
 2. NY Department of Transportation by providing an update on some projects. Due to the pandemic projects were slowed down. Safe Routes Projects for Public School 73 and Middle

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School 2018 are resuming. Also resuming, Jerome Avenue safety design resurfacing on 161st Street.

3. Community Cleans up Projects:
 - a. July 10, 2021, at the West 168th Street Steps
 - b. July 24, 2021, on Gerard Avenue between 158th Street to 161st Street
 - c. August 14, 2021, at the Mount Edan Mall
 - d. August 28, 2021, between E 168th and 167th Street
4. Next Meeting in September 2021.

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

- a. Bronx Borough President Office:
 - i. Alexis Ruiz, Community Board Liaison, tel: 718-590-3913 email: aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov
 1. Expect a letter in the mail regarding determination of service by the end of the month. For all comments questions or concerns feel free to contact via phone or email.
 2. Expressed gratitude towards Community Board 4 members for the hard work have done for the community. Happy and safe summer.
- b. Ritchard Ewings Community Liaison, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda's office:
 - i. Gun Violence Awareness Month, Senator Sepulveda awarded \$50,000 into Violence Intervention programs- Guns Down Life Up, Stand Up to Violence, and Save our Streets.
 - ii. Senator Sepulveda's district office is now open. Will continue to assist constituents with unemployment claims, SNAP and Cash Assistance, Medicaid, landlord-tenant issues, among other things by appointment only. To contact our office, please call 718-991-3161 or email team@senatorsepulveda.com.
 - iii. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is now accepting applications, which provides up to 12 months of rental and/or utility arrears assistance and up to three months of prospective rent assistance to eligible tenants, regardless of immigration status. To apply, visit OTDA's website: [Emergency Rental Assistance Program | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](https://www.otda.ny.gov/ERAP). Eviction Moratorium has been extended to August 31, 2021.
- c. Terrell Brock Community Liaison, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano:
 - i. Senator Serrano along with the Senate majority passed an Environmental Legislation (S 1421), prohibits the lease of safe forest, wildlife management areas and unique for the purpose of gas production. This bill ensure more than 1 million acres of sensitive forest and wildlife management area are protected from drilling activity.
 - ii. \$15 million are available to assist low income New Yorkers who suffer from serious health issues exacerbated by heat, and will be able to stay cool during the summer months. Applications for cooling systems are located at local Department of Social Services until August 30, 2021 or online at [ACCESS NYC](https://www.accessnyc.org).
 - iii. The office will continue to assist constituents with PPE supplies, or other needs contact 212.828.5829 or send an email to serrano@nyc.gov.
- d. Latanya Christian, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera:
 - i. Events:
 1. Summer Celebration June 26, 2021 from 1 to 2:30 pm

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2. Cannabis in New York on June 28, 2021 at 6 pm via zoom.
 - a. Targeting current and potential future business owners looking to take advantage of the marijuana industry since it is currently legalized in New York.
- ii. Office will remain physically closed, constituents will continue to receive services via phone and email. If you need assistance, please call 718-933-2034 or email grivera@nysenate.gov.
- iii. The 2021 Legislative Session is coming to a close, Senator Rivera is proud to announce that several of his bills have passed through the Senate:
 1. S4540A- Stops ruthless medicaid overpayment recovery by implementing restrictions on actions to recover benefits and protects Medicaid recipients.
 2. S2535A- Expands eligibility for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage
 3. S2121B- Enhances coverage and care for medically fragile children.

11. No Old/New Business

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Submitted by Veronique Olivette Green, BBM, MSW