

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 23, 2021 | 6 pm**  
**Online Via Zoon Platform**  
**MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Jacqueline Altamirano Marin, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Robin Jackson, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Mr. Elliot Viera, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray, Dr. Grace Zarate.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Anita Long, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mr. Jimmy Rivera.

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Hon. Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President  
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Hon. Althea Stevens, NYC Council Member  
Tiara Davis, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera  
June Soto, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Milsa Stein, representing NYS Assembly Member Chantel Jackson  
Stephanie Herrera, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Lon Wilson- N.Y. Walkers Club/Parks Committee Member, Felicia Hernandez- El Caldero Restaurant & Sports Bar, Gus Stavroulakis- New Settlement Apartments, NNM Bar Restaurant Inc, Carlos Hernandez Velazquez- Aminos Café Inc., Carlos Torres- Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clarke's Office, Ariela Heilman- Resident/Housing & Land Use Committee Member, Donald Matheson, Joseph Ramos, Hillary Bosch-NYC Department of Sanitation, DI Charlie Bello-Commanding Officer NYPD 44th Precinct, Lyna Saad- NYC Housing Preservation & Development, H Martinez, Andrew McIntyre- Architect (RAMSA), Tanasia Swift, Ted Weinstein- NYC Housing Preservation & Development, Juliana Bernal Guinand- Habitat for Humanity NYC & Westchester County, Kimberly Jefferson- NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Robina Taliaferrow- Billion Oyster Project Governors Island NY, NY, Edwin Velasquez-BronxPro Group, Donald Sakano-Highbrige Community Development Corp., Jacqueline Carter-Resident/Parks Committee Member, Karen Hu- Camber Property Group, Rick Fudge- Habitat for Humanity NYC & Westchester County, Naqi Cruz- Civilian Complaint Review Board, DM Almat Urban- Almat Urban, Rolando Aviles Jr., 860-\*\*\*-0850.

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**Agenda Items:**

*The public hearing commenced at 6 p.m.*

**1. Public Session:**

- a. Gus Stavroulakis- New Settlement Apartments, Food Pantry coordination of services within the community.
  - i. Present information to Health & Human Service committee for additional support.
- b. Curbside Composting Program
  - i. Hillary Bosch from Department of Sanitation New York [hillarybosch@dsnyc.gov](mailto:hillarybosch@dsnyc.gov).
    1. Sign Up: [DSNY - Overview \(nyc.gov\)](https://nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting) : nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting
      - a. Curbside Composting is free and available to everyone, the only requirement you will need is to sign up. Curbside Composting is rolling out to new community boards based on interest. Please help us boost interest in Community Board 4 so we can route a truck and get those food scraps out of landfills and into gardens! If you live in buildings under 10 units, if you're in a large apartment building, there is some peer management contact for additional information.
        - i. it's good for the environment.
        - ii. good for wildlife mitigations
      - b. Open for coordination of services with volunteer groups, free compost to anyone with a garden or houseplant.

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

- a. Veronique Green has taken on the role of Recording Secretary of the Executive Board effective this month until the next election in June 2022.
- b. Reminded the member's importance of complying with attendance to meetings.
- c. Thanked Community Board Member Sonia Ortiz and the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct for the Turkey Giveaways events that occurred in November 2021 within the community.
- d. Wish all a safe and Happy Holidays and TBA for the next General Meeting in person or via Zoom.

**3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Martha Reyes:**

- a. Best Wishes to Bishop Earl McKay for a speedy recovery.

**4. Roll Call (Reserved for Board Members):**

- a. Board Member 41; 30 Present; 5 Excused; 6 absent

**5. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct:**

- a. Commanding Officer of 44<sup>th</sup> precinct- Charlie Bello
  - i. Provided updates regarding an incident that occurred within the 44<sup>th</sup> precinct district.
  - ii. Used to have a criminal trespass program, currently eliminated, where a building was signed up into the program, the precinct will be able to have unlimited access to the building. If there was anybody seen within the building that had no business being there, the officers would have been able to kick them off the premises or charge individuals for criminal trespass.
    1. The 44<sup>th</sup> precinct will bridge an alliance by outreaching to community housing and business management and providing information to receive support from law enforcement by typing up a letter signing and notarizing it, granting officers' permission to be able to enter the buildings, and using a similar tactic that we were utilizing when the criminal trespass program was in effect.
  - iii. Community Board requests a sample of the template to share with the community.

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**6. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes:**

- a. Paul Lozito's 1st motioned to approve the October 2021 minutes. John Fielder seconded the motion.
- b. No one opposed and three abstains.

**7. Introduction of Klaudio Rodriguez, Executive Director, Bronx Museums of the Arts:**

- a. Unable to attend due to an emergency, hope will visit next meeting in January 2022.

**8. Presentation:**

- a. Habitat for Humanity NYC, Camber Property Group, and Altmat Urban to develop 1640-1642 Anthony Avenue with the Jerome-Anthony RFP Site B. Lyna Saad (HPD), Juliana Bernal Guinand (Habitat for Humanity), Andrew McIntyre (Architect – RAMSA)
  - i. Nina Saad/ Ted Weinstein/ Juliana Barnard Guinand presented information on a proposed project in its preliminary stages. Habitat for Humanity in New York City and Westchester County is a nonprofit developer and leader in homeownership in New York City, and recently expanded to Westchester. Creating an Advisory Board to guide where and how to better engage with the community. Encourage the residents to engage during the process and look for alternatives with increasing unit count and maximizing local hiring and financial literacy. The residents within Community Board 4 will be qualify once the unit is on the market and available for purchase. Also, shown slides of sample design of the development.
    - a. Current Project:
      - i. Clermont Park to the west and Crotona Park to the east- 39 units for sale and one superintending unit. Offering studio to three-bedroom units, 500 square feet to 1000 square feet.
        1. Once construction is completed it will be owned by the community land trust. Will ensure that future sales will be affordable to the same area medium income levels are the way it will work is through a ground lease between the enterprise and the cooperative membership corporation and turn this community land trust will provide stewardship and also regulate affordability in perpetuity.
        2. The affordability is between 60 and 90% of AMI. The design looks to create an engaged connected and healthy community, tends to provide a variety of spaces for the community to gather and also interact.
    - b. Recently completed projects:
      - i. Stuy Town Housing: 839 Tilden Street – 56 units completed in 2020.
      - ii. Victory Plaza: Located in Harlem- affordable housing
      - iii. Edwin's Place: located in Brooklyn- affordable housing
  - ii. Community Board Four (CB4) highly request for the general contractor to employ a higher percentage of residents from the CB4 district and entry-level experience. Providing units with parking to decrease the parking expenses in communities with scarce parking. Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as New York City Building Code requirements for Accessibility and Universally Accessible. Increasing unit accessibility to decrease the homelessness rate and sharing financial literacy to individuals before the completion of the project to increase the application rate for residents in the CB4 district.

**9. Report by CB4 District Manager Paul A. Philps:**

- a. Maintain prayers for Bishop Earl McKay to recuperate.
- b. Reminder COVID is still among us, encourage people to be safe, wear a mask, follow CDC guidelines.
- c. Expressed gratitude to his team and board members for stepping up to the challenge.

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- d. Executive Meeting will discuss the options for meeting via Zoom or in person due to an executive order expiring in January 2022, unsure of extension, and needing permission from New York State. Next General Boarding meeting January 2022, TBA for setting.
- e. Economic Development is the only committee active for December 15, 2021.
- f. Wish you all a safe and Happy Holidays!

**10. Committee Reports (called by the Board Chair):**

a. HOUSING & LAND USE

- i. Jackson Strong Chair of the Housing & Land Use discussed rental projects for homeowner opportunities, no voting items.

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 \(doh.gov.ph\)](https://www.doh.gov/ph) from November 14<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 district 10451, 10452, and 10456 with the positivity rate and new cases have been stable and remain low since last General Meeting. Vaccination with one dose within the areas has been increasing ranging from 70% in the past five months.

ii. Committee Meeting Highlights:

- 1. Met on 11/8/2021- presentation from Mr. Watkins Santos from the NYC of H&H Gotham Health located 1225 Gerard Ave Bronx, NY. Provided general information on the services provided to the residents of the district. FQHC- Federally Qualified Health Center, receives federal funds to make services available to anyone regardless of the ability to pay.
  - a. Services Provide- COVID testing and vaccination (Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm), Flu vaccine (Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4 p) Primary Care, Cancer Care, Mental Health, etc. [Specialized Health Services from A to Z | NYC Health + Hospitals \(nychealthandhospitals.org\)](https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org)
- 2. Monseigneur Sakano with the Highbridge Community Development Center shared there is a statewide coalition urging Governor Kathy Hochul to include funds to support fair compensation and improve working conditions for Home Health Aides in the 2022 executive budget. Currently working with some interns with efforts compile data on ways to improve the employment condition of Home Health Aides. Bill in Albany is requesting a 150% increase to pay the Home Health Aide professionals.
- 3. As the Holidays are among us, please consider following the CDC guidelines for taking precautions with wearing a mask, getting vaccinated, getting tested, etc.
- 4. Wishing all Happy Holidays.
- 5. Next meeting January 2022.

c. PARKS

- i. Paul Lozito Chair of the Parks Department informed of updates:
  - 1. Bronx Children Museum construction completed November 2021.
  - 2. SQL Park Ball Fields construction should be completed by the end of the year.
  - 3. Mullaly Park construction starts this month.
  - 4. Completed a needs assessment completed with Parks Administration by a walk-through in MaCombs Damn Bridge, Mullaly Park, and Lower Merion Park, pending an update with the outcome.
  - 5. Next Meeting January 2022.

d. YOUTH & EDUCATION

- i. Zonia Ortiz Chair of the Youth & Education informed updates:

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1. Happy Holidays and Next meeting January 2022.

e. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

i. Beverly Bond Chair of the Economic Development informed of the updates:

1. Voted items:

a. Renewal for Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider

i. NMN Bar Restaurant Inc. (7 East Clarke Place)

ii. 1267 LRM Corporation / El Caldero Resturant & Sports Bar (1267 Jerome Ave)

b. New Application for Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider

i. Aminos Café Inc. (890 Morris Avenue)

c. All Night Permit: New Year's Eve 2021/2022- El Patron Night Club Cabaret Restaurant Inc. ( 1465 Jerome Avenue) request for extended hours 4 am – 8 am New Year's Eve, operation of change.

2. Mr. Avery Smith's 1<sup>st</sup> motion and Ms. Zonia Ortiz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to provide a letter of support to the new application, renewal, and operation change. Board Members total present 34; 33 voted in favor; 1 abstained.

3. Next meeting 12/14/2021 6 pm to 7:30 pm via zoom.

f. **MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

i. Rossmary Dais Chair of the Municipal informed of the updates:

1. No scheduled meeting for November.

2. Next Meeting in January 2022.

**11. 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. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

1. Expressed his humble gratitude to his home town the "Boogie Down Bronx" community residents and the Bronx board members for the support he received during his three terms as Bronx Borough President. Passed on his role as The Bronx Borough President to Elect Vanessa Gibson along with all of the elected officials and encouraged community residents and board members to continue to work with improving our community. Wished everyone Happy Holidays!

ii. Alexis Ruiz, Community Board Liaison, tel: 718-590-3913 email: aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov

1. Board Members need to complete EEO Policy and submit it to the Bronx Borough office via email or fax call for further details.

b. Counsel Woman Elect, Althea Stevens

i. email: altheastevens21@gmail.com, Instagram: althea\_stevens-d16, Twitter: althea4theBX:

ii. Taking on the role as Counsel Woman in the same district and office as Vanessa Gibson, located at 1377 Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10452 tel: 718.588.7500.

c. Milsa Stein, Special Assistant to Assembly Member Chantel Jackson-

i. "Constitutes matters" can be directed to [help79districtbx@gmail.com](mailto:help79districtbx@gmail.com). Scheduling requests can be directed to [schedulingbx79@gmail.com](mailto:schedulingbx79@gmail.com). Address: 780 Concourse Village West Ground Floor Bronx NY 10451, Website: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Chantel-Jackson>, Office Number: 718-538-3829

1. EVENTS:

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- a. 11/09: Redistricting Commission Meeting: Bronx County office attended the New York Independent Redistricting Committee's community meeting for redistricting within Bronx county. Observed the commission's proposed maps, listened to the community's feedback, and are currently drafting our testimony to submit to the commission.
  - b. 10/29: Concourse Village Halloween Party the office helped to host a Halloween celebration for members of Concourse Village
  - c. 10/26: William Hodson Senior Center Re-opening: the office attended the re-opening celebration of the facility and delivered a proclamation to Dr. Mills, the director.
  - d. 10/23: Gospel Festival: the office joined community leaders and elected officials such as Chuck Schumer at a Gospel celebration hosted by the Holy Tabernacle Church.
  - e. 10/22: PPE Distribution: helped host an event at which Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including masks and sanitizer, was distributed.
  - f. 10/19: Roll Up Our Sleeves NYC: the office helped the Clay Avenue Tenants' Association host "Roll Up Your Sleeves NYC", an event at which free food and healthcare services were distributed.
  - g. 10/16: 5K Against Domestic Violence: the office attended Darcel Clark's 5K race held to spread awareness on domestic violence in the Bronx.
  - h. 10/9: Breast Cancer Awareness Walk: the office attended Sisters Supporting Sisters Bx's 3rd annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.
  - i. 10/14: Lincoln Hospital Hispanic Heritage Event: the office attended Lincoln Hospital's Hispanic Heritage event.
  - j. 10/02: Childhood Obesity Awareness Event: the office joined Zero to Grown! at a Childhood Obesity Awareness Celebration and School Supply Giveaway event.
  - k. 10/04: "Heal New York" Press Conference: the office attended Attorney General Letitia James' "Heal New York" Press Conference where she presented the first batch of money won from the state's 2019 lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies responsible for New York's Opioid Crisis.
  - l. 09/26: ASEZ Community Clean-up: the office teamed up with the student volunteers from ASEZ (Saving our Earth from A to Z) to conduct a garbage clean-up along Park Ave.
2. RESOURCES/INITIATIVES: Resource Information Campaigns: in the effort of helping the constituents secure access to state and federal resources, the office has prepared comprehensive information campaigns, assisting the 79th with:
- a. Hurricane Ida Recovery Resources (local, state, and federal)
  - b. Relief for Undocumented New Yorkers Voting Resources for New York's November 8th Election Information on the ballot, polling locations
  - c. Interpretation services
  - d. Rental Assistance LRAP (Landlord Rental Assistance Program) and ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program)
  - e. The Excluded Workers' Fund
  - f. The Child Tax Credit COVID-19
  - g. Small Business Recovery Grants
3. Weekly Newsletter: Once a week, the office publishes a newsletter containing:
- a. Public-service announcements
  - b. Job openings Resources
  - c. Up-to-date COVID vaccine sites and information
  - d. Upcoming events & Housing opportunities

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- d. Tiara Davis- Senator Rivera's Office number 718-933-2034:
  - i. Handed out turkeys to the constitutes.
  - ii. Constitutes are encouraged to call the office for additional resources or assistance dealing with COVID-related issues, or personal needs- appointments only.
  
- e. June Soto, Senator Serrano Office update:
  - i. Office is still physically closed temporarily due to a maintenance issue, which will be resolved by the end of the month. Constituents are encouraged to call for any help they may need. PPE is offered for those that are in need and all requests should call in directly to the office at 212-828-5829.
  - ii. Any Constituents in need of a vaccine or booster dose the office will continue to assist with finding a site or making an appointment, so please get in contact with the office. All adults who received their first dose more than 6 months ago are now eligible for booster shots.
  - iii. 2021 state budget, included a historic investment of \$100 million for arts and culture organizations through the new york state council on the Arts (NYSCA). The latest round of grant funding is now open, and arts and culture organizations facing health and safety issues in their spaces, among other capital needs are encouraged to apply.
  
- f. Carlos Sam Torres Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Bronx District Attorney:
  - i. Happy and safe Holidays
  - ii. Hosting an event for Families and Friends who have been affected by homicides are invited to commemorate their loved ones on 12/4/2021 "Tree of Angels". Pending update for additional information.

12. No Old/New Business

*The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.*

Submitted by Veronique Olivette Green, BBM, MSW