

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 26, 2023 | 6 pm**  
**Bronx Museum of the Arts**  
**1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY**  
**MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Mr. Dustin L. Carter, Ms. Tricia Claxton, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Prettystar Lopez, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahan-Stancil, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Ms. Jessica Toro, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Maria Cuevas Mateo, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Ms. Veronie Lawrence, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Ms. Hillary Pena, Ms. Davina Phillips, Mr. Jackson Strong, Mr. Dorian E. Waltower.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. Avery Smith.

**STAFF:**

Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres  
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson  
Terrell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Lisne Bautista, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens  
Doris Castillo, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Thomas Alexander, Marvin McFadden-Volunteers of America, Mariano Laboy-Morrisania D&T, Sulma Arzu-Brown-BxEDC/Bronx Tourism Council, Louis Vavrina-Target Bronx Community Garden, John Bradley-Target Bronx Community Garden, Shakeema Rogers-NYPL Grand Concourse Branch, Warren Paula, Zeying Li-Concourse Plaza Bronx, Jessica North-New York Restoration Project, Kenismael Santiago-Pagan-Bronx Office of Department of City Planning, Diomedes Diaz-Kimo Management Group Corp., Eryn Davis-The Bronx Bulletin, Damir Cirikovic-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Trey Jenkins-161<sup>st</sup> BID, Altina Jordan-Teller Avenue, Carolis Paula-Nueveo Azteca Restaurant Corp., Nels Erickson-Anderson Avenue, Esther Polanco-Volunteer of America, Cristian Reinosomontes-NYPL Highbridge Branch, Claudia Davila-BPHN, Judy Rivera-Resident, Yeselee Jimenez-Student DreamYard Preparatory HS, Yeudy Ramirez-Student DreamYard Preparatory HS, Clara Rosado-El Nuevo Bohio, Olga Nava Perez-Coffee Cosina Corp., Jacqueline Carter-Community Resident, Ruzanna Brodsiay-Resident, Aurea Mangual-Assoc. V.P. Interunion Relations Retirees Association.

## **Public Session:**

1. Mr. Mariano Laboy, Chair of Morrisania Diagnostic & Treatment Center-Mr. Laboy is inviting the public to join the Morrisania Medical Center Committee Advisory Board. He also encouraged the public to exercise their voting rights and the importance of voting for the community.
2. Ms. Aurea Mangual, Retired DC 37 VP Interunion Relations-Requested support from the community in fighting against the rising attack on the Retirees Medicare Health Benefits and urged to contact Councilmembers to support bill Intro 1099.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6: pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedure of Community Boards and their committees are governed by the applicable provisions of the City Charter and New York State Open Meetings Law (OML, Section 100-111 of the New York State Public Officers Law) and Freedom of Information Law (FOIL, Sectio 84-90 of the Public Officers Law). Each Community Board Shall meet at least once each month. Community Board 4 shall meet every fourth (4) Tuesday of the month, in person. This Tuesday September 26, 2023, the meeting was held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair.

**Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting minutes:** No minutes from June 27<sup>th</sup> were presented.

**Roll Call for Board Members:** Present 29, Excused 5, Absent 12 = Total Board Members 46

**Nominating Committee Appointment:** Was moved to the following month (October 2023) for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Treasury and Recording Secretary. New Board members will be notified of the upcoming Zoom Meeting on October 12, 2023, to a meet & greet. New members were encouraged to select a committee.

**Report by NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct:** Damir Cirikovic-NYPD 44th Precinct, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct reported the crime and theft rate in the district. According to the report, as of August 28, 2023, the crime rate has gone down; thefts and robberies have gone down, however Auto Grand Larceny has gone up. Kia and Hyundai are the made that are being targeted.

## **Hiring Committee Report:**

Board Chair, Robert Garmendiz asked that a motion be made for the board to go into Executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Yohanny Rincon motioned that Community Board 4 go into executive session to discuss and vote on personnel matters. Ms. Marie McCullough seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair requested non-Community Board 4 members to wait outside and will be asked to return upon conclusion of the executive session. Marie McCullough, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair advised the board members of the report distributed to them with the candidate for District Manager selected by the Hiring Committee. She advised of the candidate's presence and welcomed Mr. Thomas Alexander. Mr. Alexander addressed the Board and told them a little about himself and his experience. He answered several questions. Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, motioned that the Board hire Mr. Thomas Alexander as the new District Manager for Community Board 4. The board members voted 100% in favor to hire Mr. Thomas Alexander as the new District Manager. Ms. Rasheida Alston made a motion to close the executive session; Mildred James seconded; executive session closed. Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, invited the General public attendees back into the meeting.

**Hiring Committee Report:** New District Manager Thomas Alexander (**100% in favor**) The motion carries.

## **Committee Reports (Called by the Board Chair):**

### **HOUSING & LAND USE**

Marie McCullough, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair gave an update on the committee.

1. Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month
2. Letter of Support request from the Department of City Planning on the proposed citywide zoning text amendment re: City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality (**100% in favor**) The motion passed.
3. Discussion/Review -District Needs Statement FY24 submission.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:** No report was available.

### **PARKS:**

Yohanny Rincon, Parks Chair reported on the committee.

1. The Parks Committee meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.
2. Discussion/Review -District Needs Statement FY24 submission.
3. Letter of Support request for a Resolution/Endorsement to the New York Restoration Project to make capital upgrades at the Target Bronx Community Garden located at 1025 Anderson Avenue (**100% in favor**) The motion passed.

### **YOUTH & EDUCATION:**

Ms. Rodriguez reported on the committee and stated the committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

1. Discussion/Review- District Needs Statement FY24 submission.
2. No voting items.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Report was made by Committee Chair, Mr. Leandro Monzon

1. Letter of Support request for The Bronx Economic Development Corporation and The Bronx Tourism Council to restore the old signs and expand the Bronx Walk of Fame on the Grand Concourse (**100% in favor**) motion carries.

NYSLA – Renewal (motion carries **25 in favor, 4 abstain**)

2. KIMO MANAGEMENT GROUP CORP/Suyo Gastrofusion (located at 1401 Plaza Drive) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**Renewal**)
3. CAJUN SEAFOOD CONCOURSE LLC/Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood & Bar (located 236 East 161st Street) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**Renewal**)
4. EL BOHIO SABROSO/EI Nuevo Bohio (located at 1155 Webster Avenue) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**Renewal**)

NYSLA – New Application and Temporary Retail Permit. (motion carried **26 in favor, 3 abstain**)

5. DOHERTY APPLE BRONX TERMINAL MARKET LLC/Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar (located 610 Exterior Street) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**New Application and Temporary Retail Permit**)
6. COFFEE COSINA CORP (located at 1350 Jerome Avenue) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**New Application and Temporary Retail Permit**)
7. NUEVO AZTECA RESTAURANT CORPORATION (located at 134 East 170th Street) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**New Application and Temporary Retail Permit**)

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES:**

Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Committee Chair, reported the updates and said the Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month.

1. Discussion/Review- District Needs Statement FY24 submission.
2. Presentation by WalkRollMap NYC a pedestrian outreach work to help improve dangerous areas and make walking environment safer. Summaries to be created with 10 areas with issues among the community.

## **Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President and Local Elected Officials:**

1. Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson- Congratulated all new board members and reported on the success of their initiation event.
  - o Open Meeting Law for all board members Friday, September 29, 2023, at 10AM via Webex
  - o City of Yes, a virtual session scheduled for September 27, 2023.
  - o Tour of Bronx- October 22, 2023.
2. Skye Jackson, representing Councilwoman Althea Stevens
  - o Silent Disco event for September 27, 2023, postponed due to weather.
  - o October 12, 2023, at 10AM Joint Hearing Youth Services & Health with Councilwoman.
  - o Constituent hours- Mon. & Wed. appointment only, Tues. & Thurs. walk-ins and follow-ups, Fri. no appointments.
  - o CUNY Citizenship and HPD services every Monday at the office.
3. Terell Brock, representing Senator Jose M. Serrano- reported on a listing of events and happenings the Senator paid tribute to.
  - o \$150,000 if funding was secured for 3 NYPL's one being the High Bridge Branch.
  - o Free Covid Test and face masks, arrange for pickup at office.
  - o District Office- 335 East 100<sup>th</sup> Street bet. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, Mon.-Fri. 9AM to 5PM, (212) 828-5829 or [serrano@nysenate.gov](mailto:serrano@nysenate.gov)
4. Courtney Aubain, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres- Discussed an event held every year at Martin Luther King Jr. with a march to Washington, DC. As well as Bills of rights for seniors and addressed the Government shutdown. Office is open Mon-Fri. from 10AM to 5PM.

## **Announcement:**

1. Marie McCullough mentioned several sessions that NYC Department of City Planning is holding with online accessibility. Besides the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality text amendment, there's City of Yes for Housing Opportunity and City of Yes for Economic Development Opportunity. Another is the Walkshops along the Cross Bronx Expressway. A **Reimagine the Cross Bronx Expressway** tour scheduled for Parkchester Unionport on Sat. Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at Hugh Grant Circle. She encouraged everyone to get involved helping the Bronx Borough and Community Board Four.
2. Rossmery Dais commented on Community Board Four being saturated by the shelters and additional services are not being provided. She asked everyone to be attentive for further discussion is to be had.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33PM**

*Submitted by Yohanny Rincon*