

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
Public Hearing/General Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 | 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, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Dustin L. Carter, Ms. Tricia Claxton, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Veronie Lawrence, Ms. Prettystar Lopez, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahon-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, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Jessica Toro, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Maria Cuevas Mateo, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Ms. Davina Phillips, Mr. Dorian E. Waltower.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Ms. Mildred James, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Mr. Avery Smith.

STAFF:

Thomas Alexander, District Manager
Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams
Gina Williams, representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres
Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala
Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens
Nicol Aguila, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz

GUEST PRESENT:

Mariano Laboy-Morrisania D&T, Tracey Jackson-Community Resident, Yosheka Bryant-Community Resident, Patricia Ablakwa-Community Resident, Ketty Pacheco-BronxWorks, Patrisha Kritchman-Community Resident, Melanyd Rodriguez-1267 LMMR Corporation/El Caldero Restaurant & Sports Bar, Nathauisl Sullivan-Community Resident, Daniel P. Silvera-Bridge Builders Community Partnership, David M. Shapiro, Esq.-Private Family Law Attorney, Shakeema Rogers-NY Public Library

Grand Concourse library branch, Commanding Deputy Inspector Anthony Mascia-NYPD 44th Precinct, Police Officer Shala-NYPD 44th Precinct Community Affairs Unit, Annie Tirschwell-Type A Projects, Kenismael Santiago-Pagan, NYC Bronx Office of City Planning. Janell Gibbs-Local 79, Delvy Castro-Vogue Restaurant & Lounge Inc., Erwin Contreras-Community Resident, Frank Palillo-Vogue Restaurant & Lounge Inc., Kerry A. McLean-WHEDco, Ariana Ben-WHEDco, Clifford Simmons-Highbridge, Jumanah Escalera-Bronx District Attorney Office, Andre Paids.

Public Session:

1. Shakeema Rogers, The New York Public Library
 - Announcement about an upcoming community resource fair taking place at the Grand Concourse Library on March 20, 2024 from 3-6pm.
2. Mariano Laboy, Morrisania D&T
 - Invite to the Advisory Board
 - “Voting is POWER!”
3. David M. Shapiro, Esq., Private Family Law Attorney
 - Spoke about the “failures” of the Bronx Family Court to meet the needs of the Bronx Community and how his office is available to help. Attorney advertising.
4. Ketty Pacheco, BronxWorks
 - Announcement about comprehensive immigration services offered by BronxWorks.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair. The Chair called the meeting to order at ~6:15pm. 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, Section 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, January 23, 2024, 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 Ms. Martha Reyes.

Roll Call for Board Members: Present 32, Excused 5, Absent 7 = Total Board Members 44

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct: Deputy Inspector C.O. Mascia-NYPD 44th Precinct joins the 44th PCT and was previously at the 41st PCT. PO Officer Shala-NYPD 44th PCT also in attendance. Reported the murder, assault, burglary, and robbery rates in the district are down. According to the report, as of January 23, 2024, there’s a pattern of robberies in Claremont Park and there was a shooting in Franz Sigel. There’s been an increase in grand larceny, specifically stolen vehicles which are Kia and Hyundai based a TikTok challenge. If anyone has these types of vehicles, the 44 PCT highly recommends using a tracking device to track these vehicles if stolen and they are giving out airtags (a type of tracking device by Apple) for free at the 44 PCT. Safety issues continue to be an issue with scooters and 44 PCT is tracking down on illegal smoke shops.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting minutes:

- Vote tabled because there are no minutes to report on for November 28, 2023 at the moment.

Nominating Committee Report: Ms. Marie McCullough gave out voting sheets. The candidates for the open positions of 2nd Vice Chair, Treasury and Recording Secretary gave brief introductions of themselves to the Board. An anonymous ballot vote was held for each open position. The elected candidates for the open positions of 2nd Vice Chair, Treasury and Recording Secretary are: Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, and Ms. Prettystar Lopez, respectively. Ms. Rosa withdrew her nomination for Recording Secretary.

Report by CB4 District Manager by Thomas Alexander

- Mr. Alexander thanked the Board for their attendance and spoke about: his meet and greets from the past month, the importance of committee attendance, filling officer positions, the necessity of quorum, and an upcoming survey for the community board.

Presentations:

1. FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit – Fire Safety Presentation
 - Presentation about basic fire safety, such as different types of fire alarms and smoke detectors. Training is available to schedule if needed for future events. The firehouse also is still offering free fire safety devices.
2. Ann Tirschwell – Type A w/Marvel – River Commons and River Commons Plaza
 - A new medical complex is coming in collaboration with NYC H+H where an existing clinic is located. Renovations include parking, green space and potentially an African store due to the large African community in the area.
3. NYC Dept. of City Planning – City of Yes (Voting Item)
 - A representative was present to assist with any questions that came up during the voting process.

Committee Reports (Called by the Board Chair):

HOUSING & LAND USE:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Mr. Jackson Strong:

1. Meets 1st Monday of Each Month
2. Discussion/Review: Letter of Support request on the proposed City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Text Amendment from the NYC Department of City Planning. Answers to questions from the Economic Development Committee were forwarded late today. Some answers to questions Board members may have during the vote can be found in those responses and Mr. Alexander apologizes for and explains the late distribution.
 - #1: Reactivate Storefronts (Motion pass)
 - #2: Simplify district types (Motion pass)
 - #3: Small-scale production (Motion pass)
 - #4: Loading docks (Motion pass)
 - #5: Upper floor commercial (Motion pass)
 - #6: Use terms (Motion pass)

- #7: Urban agriculture (Motion pass)
- #8: Life sciences (Motion pass)
- #9: Nightlife (Motion pass)
- #10: Amusement (Motion pass)
- #11: Home occupations (Motion pass with conditions that area of business must be clearly defined or specified)
- #12: Streetscape (Motion pass)
- #13: Auto repair (Motion pass)
- #14: Micro-distribution (Motion pass with conditions that electric vehicles that are making deliveries are not giving the consumer or business an extra charge)
- #15: Campus commercial (Motion pass)
- #16: Corner stores
- #17: Better waiver process (Motion pass)
- #18: New loft-style district (Motion pass)

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Committee Chair and stated the Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month.

1. No voting items.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Martha Reyes

1. Committee would like the Board to see a presentation that was brought to them about human trafficking in the Bronx by staff at BronxCare.
2. No voting items

PARKS:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Yohanny Rincon

1. The Parks Committee meets every 2nd Tuesday of every month.
2. No voting items.

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

Mr. Monzon announced the removal of one voting item: the application for renewal by EL SAZON DEL MUJERON RESTAURANT CORP (located at 760 Grand Concourse) for Wine, Beer, and Cider. City of Yes also presented at this month's Economic Development Committee.

NYSLA – Renewal

1. HARLEM GROUP DR CORP/ Bronx Draffhouse (located at 884 Gerard Avenue) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

2. VOGUE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE INC (located at 1472 Ogden Avenue) for Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider

NYSLA – New Application and Temporary Retail Permit

3. 1267 LMMR CORPORATION/ El Caldero Restaurant & Sports Bar (located at 1267 Jerome Avenue, Store 1&2) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Motion made by Michelle Mootreddy for the approval of all three applications, second by Veronique Green. 2 abstain.

YOUTH & EDUCATION:

Report was made by Ms. Rodriguez and stated the committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month.

1. Reminder that the Board is putting together a resource manual and is still accepting referrals.
2. No voting items.

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

1. Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams
 - o Advocating for the Mayor's vote against the "All Stops Act" and asks the community to stand behind the Mayor in this decision.
2. Gina Williams, representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
 - o Provided an introduction to the "All Stops Act" and addressed current public discourse about Mayor Adams' decision to veto the bill.
 - o Urges the community to stand against the Mayor's decision to veto and get in touch with your local city council.
3. Courtney Aubain, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres
 - o Office is open Mon-Fri. from 10AM to 5PM.
4. Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens
 - o Advocating for the community to stand against the Mayor's decision to veto the "All Stops Act."
 - o A fact/myth sheet about the "All Stops Act" is on the table for those who are interested.
5. Terell Brock, representing Senator Jose M. Serrano
 - o Reported on a listing of events and happenings the Senator is doing.
 - o Free Covid Test and face masks, arrange for pickup at the office.
 - o District Office- 335 East 100th Street bet. 1st and 2nd Avenues, Mon.-Fri. 9AM to 5PM, (212) 828-5829 or serrano@nysenate.gov
6. Nicol Aguila, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz
7. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala
 - o Advocating for the community to stand against the Mayor's decision to veto the "All Stops Act."

Announcement:

1. Reminder about being mindful of time due to meeting space's time constraints.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15PM

Submitted by Michelle Mootreddy