

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**Public Hearing/General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 22, 2024 | 6 pm**  
**Bronx Museum of the Arts**  
**1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY**  
**MS. BEVERLY BOND, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Dr. Serge Caceres, Ms. Tricia Claxton, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Ms. Musu Drammeh, Ms. Michelle Gardnier, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Dr. Veronie Lawrence, Ms. Crystar Lopez, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahon-Stancil, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Glenn A. Saenz, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Gleny J. Camacho, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Mr. Van Miles, Mr. Avery Smith, Ms. Marie A. Stroud.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Latasha Wright.

**STAFF:**

Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Hon. Landon Dais, NYS Assembly Member

Hon. Althea Stevens, NYC Council Member

Hon. Chantel Jackson, NYS Assembly Member

Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams

Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres

Kenneth Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson

Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano

Crystal Diaz, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson

Yudelis Moronta, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais

Maximilian Bratescu, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais

Lisne Bautista, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens

Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Marvin McFadden-Volunteer of America Inc., Dena Williams-Concourse Village, Mariano Laboy-Morrisania D&T, Magda Perez-Lincoln Hospital/Public Affairs, Maureen Sorey-Highbridge,

Cristian Reinosomontes-NYPL Highbridge Branch, Johan Rosa-167th ST. Billiard And Café Inc., Mike Foster-Legends Hospitality LLC/New York Yankee Partnership, Daniel P. Silvera-Bridge Builders Community Partnership, Judith Crawford-New York Public Library, Esther Polanco-Volunteer of America, Nathan Blankson-Community Resident, Raquel Beanlieu-Gods Grace Ministry, Gabriel Serrano-Community Resident, Wanda F.-Community Resident, Jacqueline Carter-Community Resident/Parks Committee Member, Ariana Bon-WHEDco, Detective Shala-NYPD 44th Precinct, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct, George Manesis-856 River Ave Rest Corp/Billy's At The Stadium, Chauncy Young-New Settlement/ Harlem River Working Group, Jonathan Tavarez-Volunteers of America Safe Haven, Shakima Gillings-Resident

**Public Hearing on the FY2026 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Bronx Community Board Four:**

<p>Capital Budget Priorities &amp; Requests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Priority 1 to be kept.</li> <li>● Priority 2 to be kept but amended to propose programs to help with accessibility.</li> <li>● Priority 3 to be kept but amended to include a basketball court and indoor pool.</li> <li>● Priority 4 to be kept but to update the number of shelters in the explanation to 84 from 26.</li> <li>● Priority 5 through 16 to be kept and without any changes.</li> <li>● Priority 17 to be kept even though it is about to begin in 5-7 months. The Board agreed to keep this one on the budget until it is completed or at least until construction begins.</li> <li>● Priority 18 through 29 to be kept without any changes.</li> <li>● Priority 30 to be amended to focus primarily on Highbridge because Grand Concourse is already funded.</li> <li>● Priority 31 to be kept but as an update on priority 31, work is slowly happening.</li> <li>● Priority 32 and 33 to be removed because they are completed.</li> <li>● Priority 34 to be kept.</li> </ul>
<p>Expense Budget Priorities and Requests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Priority 1 through 4 to be kept.</li> <li>● Priority 5 to be kept but to remove language around the “pandemic” and include everyone/make open/apply to everyone (pre/post-pandemic).</li> <li>● Priority 6 through 8 to be kept.</li> <li>● Priority 9 to remain but amended to include supportive services for mental health, support for senior citizens’ mental and physical health. Update to follow up separately. Language in priority’s explanation to be updated to 35,000 from 14,000 children living in shelters.</li> <li>● Priority 10 to be removed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Priority 11 to be kept.</li> <li>● Priority 12 to be removed and added to Priority 7 in the Capital Budget Priorities &amp; Requests. Language in Priority 12's explanation to include to sell their wares.</li> <li>● Priority 13 through 21 to be kept without any changes</li> <li>● Priority 22 to be kept and amended to include a medical provider, text to follow.</li> <li>● Priority 23 through 27 to be kept without any changes.</li> <li>● Priority 28 to be kept but be amended to remove PODS.</li> <li>● Priority 29 is missing.</li> <li>● Priority 30 through 36 to be kept without any changes.</li> <li>● Priority 37 to be kept but amended to include the Fortune Society as one of the example organizations, alongside CASES and CJA.</li> <li>● Priority 38 through 40 to be kept without any changes.</li> <li>● Priority 41 to be amended and re-submitted with new wording at a later date.</li> <li>● Priority 42 to be kept but amended to move to HRA as the Responsible Agency.</li> <li>● Priority 43 to be kept for additional funding than what is already approved for this priority.</li> </ul>
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**Public Session:**

1. Kenneth Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Office, Vanessa L. Gibson
  - Had to present during the public session due to a conflicting meeting at Bronx Community Board 7.
  - Announcement about a job fair that was hosted in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month earlier this month along with flyers for upcoming events across the Bronx on the back table (e.g. a trunk n' treat, a Halloween event in Co-op City; a silent disco, a breast cancer awareness walk, etc.).
2. Nathan Blankson, Samaritan Village Project & Highbridge
  - Raised issues about cleanliness and sanitation in Samaritan Village; he previously made complaints to 311 which got kicked back to him as complete but the issues still persist.
3. Mariano LaBoy, Morrisania D&T
  - Raised issues about the homelessness in our community.
  - Reiterated support for a street naming after Bishop McKay.
4. Ms. Smith, a public resident
  - Raised issues with e-bikes and sanitation.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Ms. Beverly Bond, Board Chair. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:14pm. 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, October 22, 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 30, Excused 4, Absent 10 = Total Board Members 44

**Report by NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct:** Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct provided a report from September 23, 2024 to October 20, 2024 where there was a 10% increase in major crimes. Robberies, burglary, grand larceny were up but the number of automotive-related crimes is down.

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

- Leticia N. Dinkins motioned to accept the minutes of September 24, 2024 with any necessary corrections. Second by Leandro Monzon. The motion carries. .

**Discussion/Adoption:** Capital and Expense Budget Priorities Request FY2026

- Motion to adopt capital and expense budget priorities requested for FY2026 by Veronique Green. Second by: Elba Rodriguez. The motion passed unanimously.

**Nominating Committee Report/Vote:**

Tabled to next month's meeting, November 26, 2024.

September 2024 recap:

- Prettystar can no longer serve as our nominating committee since she works for an elected official. We need to nominate members to be on the committee to elect a new Recording Secretary. We need 3 members to serve on the committee. Names can be taken at meeting, names can also be submitted.
- Nominating Committee members: Nury Laureano, Michelle Mootreddy and Leticia Dinkins. Dinkins is the chair.

**Presentations:**

1. Leenda Bonilla from NYC Civic Engagement Commission on services being provided:
  - Board's meeting location does not have the technological support they need to present.
  - The presenter was unable to attend at the last minute.
  - This has been tabled to next month's meeting; hopefully they can attend and we can accommodate accordingly.

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

## **HOUSING & LAND USE:**

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Rosa:

- Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month
- Discussion/Review:
  - Informational presentation at this month's meeting for a new development in the works; they will return for a letter of support once they begin their ULURP process in the Fall. This month's presentation was simply for informational purposes/a refresher.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES:**

Report was made by Committee Chair, Dr. Veronie Lawrence:

1. Discussion/Review:
  - a. Guest speaker from the Department of Sanitation spoke about the following:
    - i. Changes in garbage disposal cans to 55lbs or less. Fines will be issued and the official deadline is in June 2026. Residents have between now through June 2026 to get the correct waste bins and adjust with the changes in waste collection.
    - ii. Composting has begun in the Bronx.
  - b. DOT is expected to attend the next meeting for a check-in.
  - c. The committee reviewed the budget items that were presented/discussed during today's general board meeting.
  - d. Upcoming construction at 161st.
  - e. 44th PCT is hosting a Halloween event with free candy and a Domestic Violence/Breast Cancer Walk this month.
2. No voting items.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:**

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Veronique Green:

1. No voting items
2. Discussion/Review:
  - a. Reminder about the importance of vaccines and flu shots during flu season, which is happening now.
  - b. The committee is working on ways to get "healthbucks" for the community, which can be used to buy fresh food.

## **PARKS:**

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Yohanny Rincon:

1. The Parks Committee meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.
2. Discussion/Review:

### Letter of Support (voting item)

Request for design of Summit Playground reconstruction project

- Motion made by Committee for the letter of support, second by Rosemary Dais. 0 abstain. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

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

### Letter of Support (voting item)

Regarding the parking garage on East 173rd Street, between Morris & Selwyn Avenues, (adj. to 1650 Selwyn Avenue) for a change of classification from Self- Parking to Valet Parking of BronxCare Health System.

- Motion made by Committee for the letter of support, second by Martha Reyes. 0 abstain. The motion passed unanimously.

### NYSLA – Renewal

1. LEGENDS HOSPITALITY, LLC/New York Yankee Partnership (located at One East 161 Street) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

2. 856 RIVER AVE REST CORP/Billy's At The Stadium (located at 58 East 161st Street) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

- Motion made by Committee for the approval of all two renewal applications, second by Martha Reyes. 2 abstain. The motion duly carried.

### NYSLA – New Application and Temporary Retail Permit

3. 167th ST. BILLIARD AND CAFÉ INC (located at 185 East 167th Street) for Wine, Beer & Cider

- Motion made by Committee for the approval of one new, temporary retail permit application, second by Martha Reyes. 3 abstain. The motion duly carried.

### **YOUTH & EDUCATION:**

The report was made by Ms. Ortiz and stated the committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

1. No voting items.
2. The committee did not meet this meeting but is open to everyone and the Committee Chair encourages everyone to come.

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

1. Maximilian Bratescu, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais
  - Reminders about the assistance available through their office, such as help with illegal dumping, sanitation, or 311 complaints.
  - Upcoming community coat drive on 10/23.
2. Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams
  - The Mayor is continuing to focus on public safety as a whole, including the closure of illegal smoke shops.
  - Encourages the community to come out to the Mayor's Ticker Tape Parade for the NY Liberty this week.
3. Terrell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
  - Reported on a listing of events and happenings the Senator is doing, whose upcoming programming includes collaboration with other local elected officials.
  - 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
4. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala
  - Shared flyers for Deputy Speaker's constituent hours, services provided, and on-site clinics in East Harlem and South Bronx.

**5. Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres**

- Recent wins from their office includes addressing quality of life issues near the Cross Bronx, emphasizing the importance of community workshops, discussion on the new limits on Medicare, and improving the self-renewal service for US Passports to better support seniors.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41PM**

*Submitted by Michelle Mootreddy*