

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**Public Hearing/General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 6 pm**  
**Bronx Museum of the Arts**  
**1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY**  
**MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Howard Brown, 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. 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, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Ms. Jessica Toro, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Mr. Dustin L. Carter, Ms. Maria Cuevas Mateo, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Ms. Davina Phillips, Mr. Dorian E. Waltower.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong.

**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  
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson  
Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Sharon Williams, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais  
Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens  
Guillermo Rodriguez, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz  
Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Patricia Ablakwa-Community Resident, Turan Balik-Uptown Arts & Science Charter School, Daniel P. Silvera-Bridge Builders Community Partnership, Ana Medina- 1199 SEIU, Luis Vivar-1199 SEIU, Cristian Reinoso-NYPL Highbridge Branch Library, Judi Raymond-NYC Parks & Recreation, Shakima Gillings, Esther Polanco- Volunteers of America, Ana DaSilva-Resident, Nathaniel Sullivan-Resident, Marcel

Langhorn-Resident, Michael Logan, Harlon Simon-Resident, Lauren Wenegrant-Resident, Jumanah Escalera-Bronx District Attorney Office, Jonathan Tavarez-Volunteers of America, Sandra Diaz-1199 Union Health Education Project, Francis Antoine-1199 Union Health Education Project, Chaplain Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter, Stacey Houston-Resident, Eleazar Gaza, Kevin Griffin-Resident, Daniel Torres, Franklyn Beckford-Bronx COGOP, Commanding Deputy Inspector Anthony Mascia-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Police Officer Shala-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Unit, Sgt. Roscino-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Lt. Bonilla-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Jessica Burgos-Excellent Car Service, Ruby Cordero-Resident, Makeda Byfield-Resident, Karen Girty-Resident, Edward Bunge-Resident.

**Public Session:**

- 1.) Nathaniel Sullivan spoke about the insurance industry; Mr Sullivan urged local & state officials to look into the industry.
- 2.) Shakima Gillings spoke about the 1201 Shakespeare Ave Co-op residence. Ms Gillings addressed the housing crisis & her building's inhabitable conditions. Ms Gillings stated there has been no gas since 2022. Ms Gillings asked for resources to aid in resolving this problem. Ms Gillings mentioned she has contacted 311 and has attempted to get in contact with the Commissioner.
- 3.) Marie McCullough is a lifelong resident of the Bronx and she spoke about the Bronx-wide Coalition created in the Northwest Bronx. Ms McCullough stated the coalition is aiming to bring the Bronx to a higher level. Ms. McCullough encouraged the community to attend the Bronx-wide Coalitions event taking place on February 28th at E 917 277 St, start time at 6pm.

**Welcoming Remarks & Announcements:**

Led and delivered by Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, at 6:25pm. 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, 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 February 27, 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 and delivered by Ms. Martha Reyes, Health & Human Services Committee Chair, at 6:28pm.

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

November 2023 General Board meeting minutes were adopted with three abstentions. January 2024's have been tabled into next month.

**Roll Call for Board Members:**

Present 30, Excused 5, Absent 9 = Total Board Members 44

**Report by NYPD 44th Precinct:**

Led and delivered by Anthony Mascia, Commanding Deputy Inspector, at 6:30pm. Mr Mascia reported that the district is up 1 shooting in the year and that stolen cars are down 57.8%. Mr. Mascia emphasized the fact that most stolen cars are Hondas or Hyundai Kias. Mr Mascia urged the community to implant little tracking devices in their cars to facilitate police investigation and operations in retrieving stolen cars. Mr Mascia

highlighted the increase in robberies at Foster Park and Claremont Park. Mr Mascia additionally highlighted that the precinct is #2 in the borough for seizing mopeds. Mr Mascia addressed many questions and concerns regarding: the expansion of camera access, break-ins around 156/157 St near Morris Ave, additional patrolling in the Spring, NYPD response time, Community Council Precinct meetings, and on the closing of illegal smoke shops in the district.

**District Manager Report:**

Led and delivered by Thomas Alexander, District Manager, at 7:02pm. Mr Alexander reminded Board Members who are up for re-application to submit their applications by March 1st. Mr Alexander met with Council Member Stevens and talked about issues in the district. Mr Alexander organized a walk-through of Jerome Avenue with the NYPD and the 161 St BID; a series of summons were issued during this walk-through for various violations and illegal cannabis shops. Mr Alexander met with Anthony Perez, DOT Commissioner, to discuss concerns about main corridors in the district. Mr Alexander urged everyone to call 311 and send a follow up email to the CB 4 office. Mr Alexander mentioned there will be an event held at BronxWorks on the new green space which will be created between 167th and 168th St. Mr Alexander also attended a Reimagining the Cross Bronx Expressway workshop, which explored the impacts of the highway; the aforementioned workshop touched on health, the environment, safety, and connectivity in surrounding neighborhoods. Mr Alexander noted he has attended various community meetings.

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

- **Housing & Land Use:**
  - Ms. McCullough led and delivered the Housing & Land Use committee report. Ms McCullough noted the Committee is working on a Housing Resolution plan to present to the Community and Elected officials.
  - The Housing & Land Use committee meets on the first Monday of every month at the Bronx Care Murray Auditorium.
  
- **Health & Human Services:**
  - Ms. Reyes led and delivered the Health & Human Services committee report. Ms Reyes noted the uptick in measles, shingles, and chickenpox. Ms Reyes asked everyone to get their Influenza shot. Ms Reyes reminded the board to attend the committee's monthly meetings.
  - The Health & Human Services committee meets on the second Monday of every month at the Bronx Care Murray Auditorium.
  
- **Parks:**
  - Ms. Rincon led and delivered the Parks committee report. Ms Rincon informed us that Katerine Borrrome from NYC Parks & Recreation was going to present a Capital Project design for Merriam Lower Playground. Ms Borrrome described and showed visuals on how the Park would be transformed, the cost, and the completion date. Towona Joye motioned, Elba Rodriguez 2nd. 1 opposed. 0 abstentions. 29 in favor. Motion passed.
  - The Parks committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Bronx Care Murray Auditorium.

- **Youth Services & Education:**

- Ms. Ortiz led and delivered the Youth Services & Education committee report. Ms Ortiz discussed the Uptown Arts & Science Charter School. Turan Balik briefly spoke about the Uptown Arts & Science Charter School's mission and vision. Mr Balik described they have to get authorized as a Charter School which is why he was gathering letters of support from Bronx Community Boards.
- Letter of Support for Uptown Arts & Science Charter School to open up a school in the Bronx with a preference in Community Board 4. Veronique Green motioned and Zonia Ortiz 2nd. 3 opposed. 4 abstained. 23 in favor. Motion passed.
- The Youth Services & Education committee meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Bronx Care Murray Auditorium.

- **Economic Development:**

- Mr. Monzon led and delivered the Economic Development committee report.
- GLACKENS BAR AND GRILL CORP (located at 135 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider. Michelle Mootreddy motioned, Beverly Bonds 2nd. \_\_\_ opposed. 2 abstained. \_\_\_ in favor. Motion passed.
- Letter of Support request for (Renewal) of TLC For-Hire-Vehicle Livery Base License #B02437 for Excellent Car & Limousine Service, Inc. located at 144 East 174<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY. Michelle Mootreddy motioned, Frances Hudson-Marrow 2nd. 1 opposed. 3 abstained. 26 in favor. Motion passed.
- The Economic Development committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Bronx Care Murray Auditorium.

- **Municipal Services:**

- Ms. Dais led and delivered the Municipal Services committee report.
- Ms Dais spoke about the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) Bronx Family & Criminal Courthouse Roof Rehabilitation project. Rossmery Dais motioned and Lilliam Rosa 2nd. 0 opposed. 0 abstained. 30 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Municipal Services committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Bronx Care Murray Auditorium.

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

Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams:

- Mr Coello spoke about the budget and how Mayor Adams has been able to recuperate around \$20 million in monies that have been used towards the migrants. Mr Coello also mentioned a legal case and how Mayor Adams is holding town meetings with Youth to address the way social media causes anxiety in youth. Mr Coello also spoke about the hiring freeze, the Borough-based jail program and DYCD contracts.

Gina Williams, representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams:

- Ms Costello spoke about Black History Month and the event the office was hosting, Intro 586-A (How Many Stops Act), and encouraged the community to access their website or to email her directly for additional resources, and much more.

Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres:

- Congressman Ritchie Torres 'office is located at 540 E Fordham Road, Suite 2A.

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson:

- Ms Ruiz spoke about Community Board reappointment applications, the information session for Bronx Youth Mentoring through Big Brothers & Big Sisters of NYC, fire safety workshops through the FDNY, and more.

Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano:

- Mr Brock mentioned how State Senator Jose M. Serrano sponsored 54 bills, is concerned with investigating asthma in the South Bronx, and is trying to push to create 3 Kings Day as a State Holiday.

Sharon Williams, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais:

- Ms Williams spoke about newly elected Assemblyman Landon Dais and how he is ready to serve the district needs. Ms Williams briefly spoke about the assembly district's major issues and mentioned we should remember our seniors. Ms Williams mentioned the community can reach out to her or the office directly if they need help or assistance with resources.

Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens:

- Mr Gonzalez spoke about Ariva Tax Service prep and tickets. Mr Gonzalez encouraged the community to reach out to the office if they need any help.

Guillermo Rodriguez, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz:

- Council Member Oswald Feliz 'office is located at 573 E Fordham Road.

Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark:

- Ms Escalera spoke about the Prom Season event being held at E 198 161 St. The Bronx DA's office is located at 198 E 161 St.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR'S GENERAL BOARD MEETING WAS  
ADJOURNED AT 8:58PM.**