

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, APRIL 24, 2018  
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS  
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Naimah Bilal, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Ms. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Connie Morales, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, Dr. Grace Zarate.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder.

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Hon. Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney  
Mr. James Santos, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark  
Ms. Bharati Kemraj, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Mr. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner  
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala  
Hon. Fernando Cabrera, New York City Council 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Ms. Josimel De la Cruz, representing Councilman Fernando Cabrera  
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Lucki A. Islam-Student, Margaret Fleesak-NYC Public Library Branch Librarian Highbridge, Joseph Midialis-Yankee Twin Eatry & Bar, Marilyn Mason-SOBRO, Michelle-Lee St. Marthe-Resident, Stephanie Benitez-Resident, Mayo Benanids-Resident, Sandra Doussive-Resident, Yolanda Capellan-Resident, Ellen Harvey-Concourse Village West, Flo Canada-Concourse Village West, Mr. Jim Angley-Bluestone Organization, Evelyn Rivera-President 11 West 172 Street Tenants Association, Lon Wilson-NY Walker Club, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Areils Pineda-Resident, Claudia Davila-Bronx Parent Housing Network, Bibi S. Karim-BronxWorks, Wanda Ellis-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Arlene Hall-St. Simeon's Episcopal Church, Sandy Ramirez-SOBRO, Lisa Grant-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Joseph Onwu-NYC Commission on Human Rights.

**Public Session** – Joseph Omwu, Office of Commission for Human Rights – investigates and responds to bias incidents throughout the city. Office is located at 1932 Arthur Avenue. Report any bias issues to this office. He

can be reached at 646-988-2601. Also extended an invitation to the Second Annual African Forum at Monroe College on May 10, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by the Chair, Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedures 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<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of the month. This Tuesday, April 24, 2018, the meeting is held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** led by Bishop Earl McKay.

**Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting:** Bishop Earl McKay made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for March 27, 2018 with any corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries**.

#### **Nominating Committee**

The Chair put together a Nominating Committee to conduct the nominations and ultimately elections appointment to the Executive Committee. The Chair of said committee is Mr. Rolando Aviles and the other members are Mr. Avery Smith and Ms. Lilliam Rosa. There were no objections to this selection.

#### **District Manager's Report**

- The DM along with the Chair, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Martha Reyes attended a meeting on homelessness in the Bronx on April 16, 2018. The Department of Homeless Services and Human Resources Administration were also present. The Board would like everyone's assistance in keeping their eyes open for facilities that look like shelters in our community and inform them of such activities.
- Parking continues to be an issue south of 158<sup>th</sup> Street within the yellow stripe areas. The DM has sent a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting a No Standing sign for this area. He has copied the NYPD as well as Traffic Enforcement and the Councilmember.
- Yankee Youth Leadership – Five youths from our district will be recognized on the field on April 25, 2018 for their outstanding community work. We will have them come to the board meeting and introduce themselves on a later date.
- April 30, 2018 – Open Space Community Workshop #2 on the Lower Concourse North will take place at Hostos Community College, Savoy Multipurpose Room from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- May 17, 2018 – Community Board Four's Family Youth Day will take place at Mullaly Park. We need volunteers to help at this event. Rain date is May 29, 2018.
- The District Manager wished all the mothers in the room a Happy Mother's Day.

#### **Presentation: Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT) a partner of NYC Department of Environmental Protection – Sandy Ramirez & Marilyn Mason, SOBRO.**

The HEAT program educates the community residents and stakeholders about issues surrounding the illegal use of fire hydrants. Ms. Ramirez reminded us this is a summer program. She discussed the dangers associated with leaving fire hydrants open. HEAT goes out to the community such as at block party, host of other event and directly to residents to educate on the proper use of hydrants and requests for caps. They would like to partner with organizations having an event this summer. At their events they engage the community in many games; and they have giveaways for the residents. They can be reached at 718-292-3113.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES- HOUSING & LAND USE- MUNICIPAL SERVICES & EDUCATION - PARKS- YOUTH SERVICES**

**Economic Development Committee-** 1) *Stan's Sports Bar, Inc. 836 River Avenue. Renewal.* The Committee motion to provide a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zonia Ortiz. After the vote of 25 in the affirmative and 6 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 2) *Stadium Pizza Bar Restaurant Inc., 11-115 E. 157<sup>th</sup> Street. Renewal.* This item has been tabled. 3) *Vega Alta Sports Bar Inc., 880 Gerard Avenue. Renewal.* The Committee motion to provide a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After the vote of 26 in the affirmative and 5 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 4) *Yankee Twin Eatery & Bar, 844 River Avenue. New Application.* The Committee motion to provide a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After the vote of 25 in the affirmative and 5 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 5) *Olga Restaurant Corp., 1324 Jerome Avenue. Alteration.* The Committee motion to provide a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leandro Monzon. After the vote all were in favor except for one abstention, the **motion carries.**

**Municipal Services Committee** – NYC Transit provided details of the upcoming project to paint the elevated steel structure along East 157<sup>th</sup> Street to East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street and River Avenue. This will be a 12 month project and the work will begin in the spring of 2018. The cost for this project is \$7.8 million. Additionally, the committee was presented with information on organic curbside collection in order to make compost that will be used to create healthy soil to nourish plants and to turn into renewable energy. Said compost produced is shared among community gardens and sold to commercial landscapers. Compost is produced from food scraps and yard waste.

**Housing & Land Use Committee** – There was a joint meeting with the Economic Committee. They had a presentation from the Bluestone Organization to build a nine story building with 45 unit affordable housing development at 1182 Woodycrest Avenue, corner of W. 167<sup>th</sup> Street. Nine of the units will be allocated for seniors 62+ years of age. The Committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support to 1182 Woodycrest LLC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After the vote of 27 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries.**

**Parks and Recreation Committee-** The Committee will embark on a new Parks' Survey for 2018. It will include a photo and a narrative. It will be transmitted to the elected officials. As a result of previously doing this, they received funding for Corp. Fischer Park which is currently in the design phase. The Ogden/Plimpton Park also received some funding and they are getting a full renovation. The Committee went to several parks and gardens and took photos. We would like your support and advice on what can be done. May 25, 2018 there will be a movie night at Franz Sigel Park.

**Health Services Committee** – The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month at the Murray Cohen Auditorium in Bronx Lebanon Hospital at 6:30 pm. It encourages everyone to come and participate. On April 26, 2018 there will be a Health Summit at Hostos Community College from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The conversation will be on #not62. You must RSVP to [areyes@health.nyc.gov](mailto:areyes@health.nyc.gov).

**Youth Services & Education** – The Committee had a presentation from Bronxcare, a special program geared towards health services for adolescents and young adults. This program was established in 2002 for the purpose of identifying youth with several health issues such as psychological, mental and sexual health. Referrals are provided by several resources. Their Fine and Fit program provides counseling for those facing extreme obesity. Dietary management, psychiatric intervention and healthy living skills are offered in six month sessions to gauge the need for Bariatric surgery. They are certified as a Safe Space for youths. Final preparation for the Family Youth Day is underway. Volunteers are still in great need. Anyone interested please reach out immediately. Also reaching out to community based organizations to participate.

### **Community Board By-Laws**

The Chair advised everyone that a copy of the By-Laws has been provided in their folder. She asked them to review it and make any suggestions via e-mail to the Board office specifying in detail the area of the document and what the changes are. Additionally, she reminded them this will be in the Agenda in September.

### **44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Report by Detective Oviedo**

- An announcement was made informing the public that there will not be a Precinct Council meeting for the month of May.
- June 13, 2018 – Precinct Council meeting at 1072 Grand Concourse at 6:30 pm.
- Build A Block – for more information visit the website: <https://buildablockNYC.com>.
- NCOs will meet along with their supervisor for quality of life issues. Reach out to your NCOs for these kinds of issues. If you receive no response, inform Detective Oviedo.
- Parking along 161<sup>st</sup> and 165<sup>th</sup> areas from Morris Avenue to the Grand Concourse. He has reached out to all organizations in law enforcement along with Internal Affairs. Advice has been made to remove placards or face disciplinary charges. If you know of any violators, get plate numbers and contact the precinct.

**Report by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** represented by Bharati Kemraj

- May 1, 2018 – Stop The Jail, at 1:00 pm. Location: Tow Pound, 141<sup>st</sup> Street & Concord Avenue
- May 1, 2018 – New Community Board Members Training, Metropolitan College, 463 E. 149<sup>th</sup> Street from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.
- May 10, 2018 – Community Board Members Appreciation Evening at Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

**Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.**

*NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock*

- Protect New Yorkers from Delaware River fracking.
- For the month of May, the senator will focus on vital health services, legal services, discrimination and small business opportunities. Updates can be found in his newsletter.
- Any questions or information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or [tbrock@nysenate.gov](mailto:tbrock@nysenate.gov).

*Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab*

- Monthly Services
  - Free legal housing clinic, second and fourth Thursday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
  - Tenant Support Unit, first and third Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
  - Immigration screening – May 16, 2018 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- You may contact our office at 718-538-2000 or 910 Grand Concourse for more information or to set up an appointment for any of the above mentioned services.

*Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Emmanuel Martinez*

- Tenant Specialist – Tuesdays 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at 780 Concourse Village.
- Praise the Park Gospel Concert at Crotona Park on June 3, 2018.
- Be Your Boss Part II – local business owners, entrepreneurship to stimulate economic growth within the Bronx. April 30, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Mott Haven Bar & Grill. Tickets are \$15.
- Seeking volunteers for youth involvement. Any recommendations please contact our office.

*Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson by Stacey Strong*

- April 23, 2018 – Free tennis lessons for youth from ages 5 through 18 at Crotona Park, Monday to Friday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Sponsored through the New York Junior Tennis & Learning.
- Free civil legal services – Thursdays by appointment from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at 1377 Jerome Ave.
- May 9, 2018 – Job Fair at 1666 Bathgate Avenue from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring resume. For more information contact 718-530-7000.
- May 9, 2018 – Property Owner Clinic at the Bronx School for Law Government & Justice, 244 E. 163<sup>rd</sup> Street from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

*Councilmember Fernando Cabrera*

- He is requesting the City to increase the budget for community boards in the Bronx.
- He is asking the Speaker and the Mayor for \$100,000 increase.
- He is requesting for all board members to fill out Community Board Survey 2018 so that he may present it to the Speaker, Cory Johnson.

*Councilmember Diana Ayala*

- Offering her services to partner with CB4 on many events.
- Office located at 156 W. 164<sup>th</sup> Street off of Ogden Avenue. Constituent hours are the last Friday of every month from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Rikers Island needs to shut down as per Litman Study, but in order to do so, need to open a community based jail. Currently there is no facility in the Bronx. They have looked at 12 different sites but have not come up with a site that would meet the requirements of being close to the courthouse and near transportation. An alternate site that is being considered is at 161<sup>st</sup> Street and Sheridan Avenue. This seems to be a promising site. Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan sites will continue to exist but will have to be renovated.
- Much opposition exist not to close Rikers and especially not to bring these jails into residential communities.

*District Attorney Darcell Clark*

- Second year in office. Keeping in touch with the community to find out what are their needs, observations and to provide updates on anything new that is going on as far as the DA's office is concerned.
- The City is experiencing record lows in crime and the Bronx is doing well too thanks to the partnership with the precincts and the community boards.
- There is more gang activity than what we like to see.
- New Community Liaison, James Santos.
- Plan is still in effect to close Riker's. Other boroughs already have jails. We are looking for a location in the Bronx. Some locations are being considered.

- Movement is being considered to change the laws for bail. This is progressing but has not passed yet. She is redoing her bail processing. However, must consider a balance with public safety and crime that takes place.
- The barge at Hunts Point will also be closed when Riker's closes.
- When a police stop results in an arrest, who determines it if was legal/probable cause? The lawyer determines if probable cause.
- Raise The Age legislation goes into effect in October. Prisoners 16 and 17 cannot be housed with adults.

**Announcements:**

*Mr. Mohammed Mardah:* African Nation Soccer Tournament, Saturdays and Sundays at Macombs Dam Park from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. 54 teams are participating. Come and support us.

*Mr. Ibrahim Ndure:* Recognized Ms. Fleesak for all her support and services with the Citizenship Program which will commence on June 27, 2018 on Mondays and Wednesday. Accepting new enrollees.

***Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.***

***Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.***