

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, APRIL 23, 2019
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Walter Harris.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr.

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Philps, District Manager

Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mr. Victor Martinez, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala

Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

GUEST PRESENT:

Jose Luis Rivera-American Cancer Society Relay for Life "Bronx", Al Pizarro-Hip Hop Blvd., Theresa Rivera-Montefiore Medical Center, Isidro Suriel-La Estrella Bar Restaurant Corp., Mariano Laboy-Morrisania CAB/44th Precinct Council, Gloria E. Rivera-Concourse Village East, Ashley Torres-CCA Metro, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Vivian E. Garcia-Lincoln Hospital, Mabintou Sissoko, Julian Peterson-Resident, Brenda Dock-Resident, Marvin McFadden-Volunteers of America, Qiana Flynn-Bronx Parent Housing Network, Yolanda Capellan-Resident, Christian Williams-Resident, Erol Liguori-SPO Restaurant, Sayeda Yeasonin-The Bronx Community TV, Astrid Rodriguez-Reyes-Resident, Elmy Urena, Children Rescue Fund FB59, Devon Greene-Resident, Emerita Torres, Timothy Harrell, Janet Peguero-Department of Small Business Services, Dany Almonte Jimenez-El Nueve Billiard Corp., Elizabeth Lopez-Resident, Dion Powell, Guy Savau-Post Graduate Mental Health, Dapo Fakanle-oedaca, Lica Ali-Resident, Manira Begum, Rayne Figueroa-Resident, Daniela Benandes, Jessie Nunoo, Jhovana Peralta-Resident, Cheryl Williams-Murray-Resident, Cory Shaw-West Bronx Recreation Center, Enrique Colon-CASA, Alejandro Vegas, Lon Wilson-New York Walkers Club, kouhiahou Diallo, Damarys Caba-Resident, Dayla Sabio-Resident, Marcel Laryhorn-Resident, Kausar Mumin.

Public Session

1. *Jose Luis Rivera/Al Pizarro*, Relay for Life, Bronx Event Chairman – Hip Hop Boulevard music festival June 1, 2019 to fight cancer in the mall at Bay Plaza.
2. *Mariano Laboy, Resident* – Extended invitation to the community to enroll in the Morrisania Health Center Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and to attend the 44th Precinct council meeting.
3. *Ashley Torres*, CCA Metro-Labor Management NYC District Council of Carpenters – Invitation to an open house on April 24, 2019 at 395 Hudson Street from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Additionally, information on their pre-apprentice program through Building Works. This is a six week program.
4. *Timothy Harrell*, NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) – Invitation to join them at the May Board meeting at the Bronx River Houses Community Center-1619 E. 174th Street on May 8, 2019 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Meetings are held monthly at different locations. Also provided, What is the Right to Know Act info.
5. *Dion Powell*, Consultant – Non-denomination Credit Union. Economic Development Initiative for Black on Black bank and credit union. Current Credit Union is located at 1185 Boston Road. They can be reached out at 718-328-3920.
6. *Yves Filius, Law Lobbyist* – New York Civil Liberties Union – The NYCLU represents over 200,000 members. There are eight chapters in New York State. They also handle State and City Legislation. It covers criminal justice and also education. Currently they are addressing banning facial recognition. He extended an invitation to come to Albany to lobby on May 13, 2019.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 (4th) Tuesday of the month. This Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 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: Mr. Rolando Aviles made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for March 26, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. After the vote with 32 in favor and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

District Manager's Report

- If there are any issues in the community call 311. They keep a number and a record. If you're not getting through, call office and give us the reference number.
- Phase B is taking place. It is from 170th Street to 175th Street. Recently met with the Community Liaison for updates. If there are any issues concerning this site contact the office.
- Grand Concourse Bridge and the 174th Street Station – work has begun. All work should be completed by the end of the year. The station will be close for a short period at some point in the future. Dates will be provided at a later time once DOT notifies the board office.

- Free swim lesson – The Community Board and BronxWorks are sponsoring free swimming lessons to residents of CB4 for children and adults. Registration will take place at BronxWorks on May 18, 2019. The first 25 to register will get free goggles.
- Bronx Point – includes the expansion of Millpond Park, state of the art movie theater and the future home of the Hip Hop Museum. The closing is at the end of the year and infrastructure work will start soon. They will be relaunching their website. We will provide a link from the CB4 website.
- June 1, 2019 – Highbridge Community Celebration at Nelson Park. It will be sponsored by NY Yankees, NYC Football Club, FDNY, CM Gibson, CM Ayala and NYPD 44th Precinct. There will be all kinds of activities.
- Early Happy and Wonderful Mother’s Day to all the mothers.

Presentation: NYC Business Portal for Bids – Small Business Services (SBS); Deshawn Mars, Eric Parker and Janet Peguero

SBS helps entrepreneurs and business owners start their business, run and expand their business. They have support programs for those looking for employment. They also work with community-based organizations to support business owners on the ground.

Overview:

Unlock economic opportunities for residents in NY.

- Serve businesses
 - Free programs
 - Workforce Career Centers
- Business solution centers
 - Walk-in centers offering free business courses
 - Free legal assistance
 - Financing assistance
- Locations
 - 400 E. Fordham Road, 7th Floor
 - 361 W. 125th Street, 2nd Floor
- Commercial lease assistance program
 - Lawyers available pro bono
- M/WBE Certification Program - \$16 billion in city contracts available
- WE NYC – empowering women to start, operate and grow businesses
- Avoid violation and save money (for current business owners). Compliance consultants.

NYC Business Portal – One stop location to access all necessary information and services

- Start small business
- Provide clear information
- Business courses offered

Portal Overview

- License
- Violation – run address to see violations/penalties
- Dashboard
 - License
 - Inspections & general authorization
 - Complaints
 - Violations

Use TIN# to access site at www.nyc.gov/nycbusiness

SBS Mobile Outreach Unit at the Jerome Avenue Corridor

- Work with local stakeholders and community organizations
- Available on a monthly basis
- Office hours
 - first and third Monday of the month at CM Gibson’s office from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

o second and fourth Tuesday of month at CM Cabrera's office from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Services available in English, Spanish and other needed languages

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

Economic Development Committee- The Committee were presented by the below listed establishments and at committee they voted to grant a letter of support as follows: **1) Casa de Cubal.** 558 Grand Concourse, **Corporate Change.** **2) Anyelisa Restaurant Corp.** – 28 E. 167th Street, **Renewal.** **3) 1470 Estrella Bar & Restaurant Corp** - 1470 Jerome Avenue, **Renewal.** **4) Olga Restaurant Corp.** – 1324 Jerome Avenue, **Renewal.** **5) El Nueve Billar Corp.** – 81 W. 170th Street, **New Application.** The Committee motioned to provide letters of support. It was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. After the vote of 30 in favor, 4 abstentions, the **motions carries.**

Municipal Services Committee – No report.

Housing & Land Use Committee –. The committee Chair provided his report and advised they had a robust discussion with HPD at their last meeting. They finance most of the housing that gets build in this community. We will continue to focus on advocating for improving our housing stock. We will be working with the Urban Land Institute to find uses for land in our community that can be used for housing. The committee Chair sent his report to the District Manager with all the lots and properties in our community. He looks forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The committee Chair informed everyone that the Parks Department is hiring for Parks Enforcement Police (PEP). This is a permanent position. They are also hiring Park Security which is a seasonal position. The information is provided at the Parks Department website. The job identification is 389381. The committee will begin surveying the capital needs and categorizing parks in the district, followed by preparing a presentation to advise the community and the elected officials of the care that our parks need. Additionally, would like to invite those interested in joining the Claremont Walking Warriors. The group walks our parks to stay fit. A survey trip took place on March 16, 2019 to the waterfront Green Spaces. The Jazz in the Park series should be coming back to Franz Siegel Park.

Health Services Committee – The Committee Chair attended the Undercliff Housewarming Celebration on April 16, 2019. This is a new seven story affordable and supportive housing located at 1434 Undercliff Avenue. It consists of 74 units for individuals and families. It is in partnership with NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, NYC Department of Social Services, the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, the US Veterans Administration, the Highbridge Community and Services for the Underserved. Of the 74 units, 19 are studio apartments for formerly homeless individuals with mental health challenges, 45 studios are set aside for formerly homeless veterans and 10 two-bedroom units for low-income families from the community. The formerly homeless will benefit from rental assistance. Veterans will also receive rental assistance and access to supportive services through HUD Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH). Additionally, the committee reminding everyone that there is a measles outbreak currently in NYC and to be aware of symptoms since it can be deadly if not vaccinated.

Youth Services & Education – The committee had an informational meeting from the New York City Charter Review in which they explained the differences between charter schools and public schools. Charter schools try to provide the best possible education. Charter schools get an initial five year charter. If the school does not perform to the acquired guidelines they may be shut down. Each year additional grades are added. At full capacity it will have 250 students, at which point the staff must unionize. Charter schools have to perform better than public schools particularly on standardized exams in order to survive. They have two authorizing agencies which are the State University of New York and the NYC Board of Regents. Charter schools do not have to follow the NYC Chancellor of Education rules. The number of charter schools in NYC is capped and cannot increase unless legislators vote to increase it. Their contracts can be shortened if they do not meet their goals.

Report by the Bronx Borough President's Office represented by Justin Sanchez

- Bronx Week – May 9th to May 19th, 2019.
- May 3, 2019 – Legionnaires: Public Health & Education event. 851 Grand Concourse-Veteran's Memorial Hall at 12:30 pm.

- May 23, 2019 – BP and Muslim community to break the fast for Ramadan at the Rotunda at 6:30 pm. To RSVP contact 718-590-3522.
- End of Cash Bail – Four-Borough Land Use.
- Bronx Annual Development Report can be accessed online
- Bronx Borough President has partnered with the Dept. of Education to offer community based organizations an education facility. Interested organizations must apply for a permit with the DOE. The fee will be waived and the BBP will cover the fee for using said space. First come, first serve basis. Request closes on June 30, 2019.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Wendy Gallegos

- The councilmember is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Capital Budget which is heading into executive budget hearing. She will fight for a lot of capital investment throughout the City, the Bronx and especially the District.
- May 10th, 2019 – Mother’s Day Health Expo at the Mullaly Recreation Center-1020 Jerome Avenue at 3:00 pm.
- June 27, 2019 – Caribbean Heritage Celebration at the Andrew Freedman Home-1125 Grand Concourse from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- April 26, 2019 - Participatory Budget results announcement at New Settlement Community Center- 1501 Jerome Avenue at 1:00 pm.
- Silent Disco – To Be Announced.

Councilmember Diana Ayala represented by Gloria Cruz

- Any issues that need to be addressed you may contact the councilmember’s office at 347-297-4922.
- Participatory Budget announcements will be available soon.
- Please note 311 is an amazing tool to be used in order to hold the City accountable of any complaints it was asked to address. Keep confirmation number handy in case the councilmember needs to get involved.

Comptroller Scott M. Stringer represented by Victor Martinez

- Hosted in March a Roundtable event in Community Board Four. Many issues were addressed. If there are any issues that the community would like the Controller to follow up, let the representative know.
- Controller supporting at State level to issue undocumented individuals licenses. Registrations benefit the City with more tax revenues such as \$11.6 million for NYC and \$5.2 million for highway and bridges plus many others.
- You may request a copy of the Controller’s report by providing your email to the representative and he will forward it to you.

Announcements:

Mr. Mardah – Bronx Week Celebration – African Nation Soccer Tournament every Saturday and Sunday.

Three games from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Come and support the tournament.

Ms. Saunders – Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.