

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019  
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS  
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. James Boyd, Jr., Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Marissa Jackson, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Yohanny Rincon.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mr. Anthony Nacerino.

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Ms. Shayra Reyes, representing US Congressman Jose E. Serrano  
Mr. Andy Toledo, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Ms. Jane Soto, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Suad Hassan, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Denise Vivar, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner  
Ms. Chantel Jackson, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake  
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala  
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member  
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Nelly Santacruz-RAIN Inc., Uriah R. Johnson-Housing Preservation & Development, Kevin Woodhouse-Concourse Village, John Wilson III-Resident, Mervin McFadden-Volunteers of America, William Pena-BPHN, Davis Beller-US Census, Ian Vulner-Resident, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Leslie Segars-WestHab Edward L. Grant, Yahaira Bermudez-Children Rescue Fund, Clara Rosado-El Bohio Restaurant, Nadege Boigris-RAIN Home Care, Mark Collins-Urban Pathways, Buzz Von Ornsteiner-CUNY City News, Juana Heniles, Frajra Arias, Betty Crawford-Resident, Oscar Oliver Didier-Bronx Office NYC City Planning, Althea Stevens-East Side House, Robert Barnes-Bronx District Attorney Office, Joanna Gulik-GEI Consultants, Herminio Martinez-G&DM, Arlene Hall-St. Simeon- Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Robert Parris-The Highbridge Green School, Kayla Hamilton-The Highbridge Green School, Cynthia Marks-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Dion Powell, Herman Twiggs-Resident, Beverly Williams-Concourse Village, Charlene Green-Resident, Kent Wilhelm-CUNY School of Journalism, Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter/New Covenant Community Development Corp., Ana Beatriz Sepulveda-Resident.

## **Public Session**

1. Nelly Santa Cruz, Director Rain, Inc. – Infinity House; New center opening at 1175 Finley Avenue. So far there are 150 members with 91 to 100 attending daily. The senior center offers benefits, entitlement and activities. Home care services, home delivery meals, zumba classes and self-defense classes.
2. Uriah Johnson, HPD – Office of Neighborhood Strategies. Announcement of Community Workshop on two affordable housing developments planned for RFP. The Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center parking lot and the vacant lot at 1640-1642 Anthony Avenue. The workshop location is at The Family School at 1116 Sheridan Avenue from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
3. David Beller, Specialist for US Census. The 2020 US Census is hiring individuals interested in collecting census data. The data that is collected is secured and kept in confidentiality for 72 years. There are \$675 billion federal funds available. If communities are not counted, they will not get their fair share of funds. They ask that the community board to use their influence to get the community involved and participate in the census.
4. Dion Powell, New Covenant Dominion Federal Credit Union. Credit unions for faith-based organizations. Looking for church real estate located near busy thoroughfares. The next phase of the credit union is Leveraging Real Estate. Additionally, the Young Professional Bronx Bruch will be held at Flavors Lounge at 3114 Third Avenue.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm. She welcomed everyone back and she also welcomed the new board members and asked them to introduce themselves.

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

**Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting:** Ms. Veronique Green made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes of June 25, 2019. After the vote of 32 in favor and 5 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

## **District Manager's Report**

- Welcome to the new board members
- ULI is underway. Thanks to Marissa Jackson, Spencer Edwards, Jackson Strong, Paul Lozito and Rasheida Alston for putting it together. Public Meeting at 1501 Jerome Avenue on October 3, 2019.
- There is still a lot of work going around the district
  - Rehab of Grand Concourse Bridge
  - Grand Concourse Phase B
  - Major Deegan Expressway – additional lanes are being constructed
- Bronx Point AKA Lower Concourse North
  - Infrastructure starts September 2020
- Public site workshop on October 3. Board members are required to attend.
- Importance of census and this community being counted
- General housekeeping
  - Please be clear on what you're asking/requesting, and we will accommodate accordingly.
- Sign up for CB4 e-list

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

- Welcomed the board members and the new members
- National Night Out was a great success. Detective Oviedo thanked Ms. Mildred James for her ongoing support.
- The 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will take place on October 9, 2019 at 1072 Grand Concourse at 6:30 pm.
- Citizens Police Academy – Currently accepting applications for those interested in participating in the 16 – week program every Tuesday from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Transportation will be provided from the precinct to the academy.

## **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) *SUYO Gastrofusion*. 1401 Plaza Drive, **Renewal**. 2) *El Nuevo Bohio*. - 1155 Webster Avenue, **Renewal** Accept with corrections. The Committee motioned to provide letters of support for the above mentioned as presented by the Committee. It was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. After the vote of 40 in the affirmative, one in the negative and one abstention, the **motion carries**. 3) *El Maco Restaurant* – 1481 Jerome Avenue, **New Application**. 4) *Andrea's II Restaurant Corp.* – 239 E. 165<sup>th</sup> Street, **New Application**. The Committee motioned to provide letters of support for New Application for items 3 and 4. It was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After the vote of 37 in favor and 5 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

**Municipal Services Committee** – The committee had a presentation from the Department of Transportation on Safe Routes to Schools for P.S. 73 at the intersection of E. 164<sup>th</sup> Street and Gerard Avenue. The improvements will shorten crossing distances, control vehicle turning and improve pedestrian visibility. The Committee motioned to grant a LOS to NYCDOT for these improvements. It was seconded by Mrs. Zonia Ortiz. After the vote of 39 in the affirmative and one abstention, the **motion carries**. They also had an overview by DOT on the Rehabilitation of the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87) between W. 161<sup>st</sup> Street and the Highbridge Interchange. The project will eliminate existing structural deficiencies using cost effective techniques. It will improve traffic flow and facilitate traffic operations while improving safety and mobility. The construction will be of the Sedgwick Avenue water main and utility upgrades, reconstruction of Sedgwick Avenue and construction of new retaining wall and northbound auxiliary lane. The reconstruction of northbound Major Deegan Expressway (MDE) and the elimination of the southbound viaduct, reconstruction of the southbound MDE and rehabilitation of Depot Place Bridge. Completion of the project will span three years. The Chair reminded all of the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 4+44 Police Officers and Firefighters Outstanding Service Awards and she also announced that Police Commissioner O'Neill as the keynote speaker. She also announced that the FDNY will have open houses on October 5 and October 6 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for station house tours. More information is available at [nyc.gov/fdnyopenhouse](http://nyc.gov/fdnyopenhouse).

**Housing & Land Use Committee** –. The committee had two requests for Letters of Support. 1) Window Replacement at 711 Walton Avenue. The building is located in the Landmark District. As such, any alterations that must be done at the property have to get approval by the Landmark Preservation Commission. The Committee proposed to grant a LOS to replace the windows in the common areas to match in uniformity the existing tenant windows with the condition that as any future window replacement requests are needed, they will get the same approval without having to present once again to CB4. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After the vote of 41 in the affirmative and one negative, the **motion carries**. 2) Request for a Letter of Support for a Weekend Construction Permit at 1325 Jerome Avenue. The Committee motioned to grant a LOS for weekend construction with the condition that it will be for Saturday (8am-5pm) and Sunday (10am-4pm) hours from October 2019 to March 2020. It was seconded by Ms. Mildred James. After the vote of 36 in the affirmative and five in the negative, the **motion carries**. The motion is for six months and at the end of said period, they have the option to request an extension.

**Parks and Recreation Committee-** The committee Chair thanked the community and the Board and announced his stepping down as Chair. He pointed out the many activities that the committee has engaged in such as the open green spaces of the community. He encouraged the visiting of those green spaces. He mentioned the surveys which the committee compiled of all parks in the community and their distribution to the elected official and Parks Department. The change of tennis fees from \$200 to \$100 through the efforts of the committee. There has been the acquisition of land for Bridge Park which is tabled at this time. There is waterfront development for parkland. There is a need for capital infusion for Franz Siegel Park; as well as the need for a comfort station. Another need that has been suggested is a need for a dog run. Mr. Algarin is stepping down and will be on the ballot for Civil Court judge at the upcoming election.

**Health Services Committee** – The Committee Chair spoke on the current national crisis on vaping and its danger. Recently there have been nine deaths related to vaping among the youth population. Vaping is the cause of many lung illnesses. Data shows that 1 in 6 students use e-cigarettes. That same data shows, that smoking one e-cigarette has the same nicotine equivalent of 20 cigarettes. The liquid in e-cigarettes contain formaldehyde

which is a carcinogen and is used mostly for embalming cadavers. It also contains benzene, another carcinogen that is mostly found in paint thinner. Additionally, some heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead can be found in e-cigarettes. For more information on this matter, go to [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search e-cigarettes.

**Youth Services & Education** – No Report.

### **Public Health Task Force Resolution**

The committee brought forth a resolution to the floor as per the Points of Agreements of the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan to bring forth a wellness program. Through the Wellness In The Schools (WITS) food program they hope to establish wellness by providing a nutritional program. Therefore, the Public Health Task Force proposed to use \$10,000 of the \$42,000 provided to the community board to P.S. 53 for the Wellness In The Schools program. This resolution was motioned by Dr. Grace Zarate and seconded by Mrs. Zonia Ortiz. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries**.

### **Report by the Bronx Borough President's Office represented by Andy Toledo**

- Orientation for new board members will take place on October 21, 2019 at Lehman College from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- DCAS – Sexual Harassment Training deadline is December 13, 2019.
  - September 24, 2019
  - October 29, 2019 – Bronx Supreme Court building in Room 915 at 5:30 pm.
- September 26, 2019 – Public Forum on the Opioid Crisis Training at Lincoln Hospital at 6:00 pm
- New BP representative will be assigned next month

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

*NYS Senator Jose E. Serrano* by Suad Hassan

- Constituent hours in various senior center and libraries
- Emergency Preparedness Month
- June Soto will be the new representative for the Senator
  - Contact info: [jasoto@nysenate.gov](mailto:jasoto@nysenate.gov)
  - Any events you would like the office to know about or attend can be sent to [.serrano@gmail.com](mailto:.serrano@gmail.com)
  - Office can be reached at 212-828-5829.

*NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera* represented by Denise Vivar

- Co-Chair of the Senate Joint Task Force on Opioid Prevention
- Hepatitis Forum October 8, 2019
- Health and Halloween Fair on October 19, 2019 at BronxWorks from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- Tenant Specialist on Tuesdays
- Free Notary Services
- Free Family Law consultation

*Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner* represented by Karim Arab

- Free Immigration Screenings
- Free Housing Legal Services
- Tenant Support Specialists every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

- SCRIE assistance
- Red Cross – free smoke alarm installations
- Employment Newsletter – job opportunities
- Homeowners Newsletter

*Assemblyman Michael Blake* represented by Chantel Jackson

- Legislative Budget
  - Criminal justice reform package
    - Speedy trials
    - Elimination of misdemeanor
- MWBE
- Mitchell-Lama housing legislature
- Secured \$300M in funding for repairs
  - Infrastructure improvements
- Jose Peralta NYS Dream Act – provides for undocumented students to pursue an education
- Increased the public school budget by \$1M for a total of \$27.9 million
- Green Light NY – undocumented individuals the opportunity to apply for a driver's license
- Census 2020 – is extremely important for this district. For the first time can be done online.
- Donated 1500 backpacks over the summer.
- Tenant Tuesdays at 780 Concourse Village West
- The office is looking for individuals that are civically engaged to participate as interns.

*Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark* represented by Robert Barnes

- October 5, 2019 – End Domestic Violence with a Bronx 5K Run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at E. 161<sup>st</sup> Street between Walton Avenue and Grand Concourse
- October 26, 2019 – Another Chance Program at the Thessalonian Worship Center-941 Rev. James A. Polite to dissolve outstanding summonses.
- Any questions and/or concerns contact our office at 718-590-2272

*Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson*

Welcomed and greeted everyone and congratulated all the new board members

Budget passed for \$93 Billion for the City of New York

- Invested a lot in criminal and social service programs
- Summer Youth Program
- Work and Learn Program – all year round youth employment
- COMPASS and SONYC – summer camps for middle schools expansion
- Cultural institutions
  - Bronx Museum of the Arts

- Bronx Zoo
- Wavehill
- Botanical Gardens
- Orchard Beach
- Universal Hip Hop Museum
- Bronx Children’s Museum
  - Funded new bus for the museum
- Social Service
  - Social workers
  - Summer meals program
  - Parks enforcement officers
  - Silent Disco
  - Meals for Seniors
  - Book bags for kids
  - Movie Nights
  - Funding for schools
- Funding for Schools
- Bio Bus – An education and science bus that travels within the district
  - P.S. 88
  - P.S. 94
  - M.S. 22
  - P.S. 199
  - Grant Avenue Elementary
  - Teller Avenue Campus
  - Two new schools – 593 and 594
  - M.S. 328
  - P.S. 114
  - Webster Middle School
  - High School for Law, Government & Justice

Most of the funding for these schools were laptops, laptop parts and smart boards

- Jerome Avenue Rezoning
  - Meet quarterly and go over Points of Agreements
  - Meet with the CB4 and CB5
  - \$41M for the 161<sup>st</sup> Street underpass
  - Additional streetscapes at 170<sup>th</sup> Street and 167<sup>th</sup> Street
- 170<sup>th</sup> Street subway station is getting an elevator

- Parks – Scoping Meetings
  - Bridge Park
  - Ogden/Plimpton playground opening
  - Design for new school at 1302 E. L. Grant Highway
    - 458 students
  - 97 W. 167<sup>th</sup> Street 100% affordable senior housing
    - HPD selected provider and developer
- Two Senior Programs
  - Findley Houses at 1175 Findlay Avenue for 62+ years
  - Highbridge Gardens – New food program at PSS Highbridge and will be run by DIFTA
  - Sedgwick will be under BronxWorks.
- FLAGS – 165<sup>th</sup> Street & Teller
  - Traffic pattern study
- HPD/CB4 – October 3, 2018 – Second publicly owned site to building affordable homes
  - Morrisania Diagnostic Center parking lot
  - 1640-1642 Anthony Avenue
- Quality of life issues and concerns
  - Public urination
  - Sleeping on the street in front of our office and on some kind of substance
  - Programs to help people with addiction
  - 161<sup>st</sup> Street BID corridor
  - Coalition for the Homeless and Bronx Works
  - Hot meals on the street
- Participatory Budget

*Councilmember Diana Ayala* represented by Gloria Cruz

- HPD Outreach – Housing Resources In Your Neighborhood
  - Prepare to apply for affordable housing
  - Understand your rights and responsibilities
  - File a housing complain
  - Finance improvements and repairs
  - Register your building
  - Remedy a violation

At the Bridge Builders located at 156 W. 164<sup>th</sup> Street from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

- Public Charge Town Hall Meeting on September 25, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Metropolitan College of New York-463 E. 149<sup>th</sup> Street. A forum to answer questions for our immigrant community.

**Announcements:**

Chair Kathleen Saunders – Changes with the staff

- Ms. Marissa Jackson, Treasurer for the Board will now be the Chair of Parks
- Mr. Avery Smith will replace Ms. Jackson as the Board Treasurer

*Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.*

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