

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, FEBRUARY 26, 2019  
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. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Spencer Edwards, 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, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, 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. Beverly Bond, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Jimmy Rivera.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Jamal Patrick.

**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. Victor Martinez, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Mr. Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Mr. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala  
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Deborah Allman-NYPL Highbridge Library, Dan Leventhel-Bronx Lacrosse, Jayden Maldonado-Bronx Lacrosse, Benjamin Mocio-Bronx Lacrosse, Malik Garvin-Bronx Lacrosse, Jamie Borden-BPHN Life Together, Brenda Dock-Resident, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Ali Cruz-Resident, J. Cartergena-Resident, Antonio Restaurant NY Corp., Leslie Segars-WestHab, Valerie Smith-WestHab, PO Juantia McMillan-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, James Rather-DCP Bronx Office, Belissa Rives-WHEDco, Rashad Brown-Resident, Jessie Nunoo-Resident, Mabintov Sissoko-Resident, Gloria Rivera-Concourse Village, Julian Peterson-Resident, Miriam Chanlatte-Resident, Adalberto Urena-Tito's Bar & Kitchen Corp., Kylie Gil-Resident, Jhorana Peralta-Resident, John Halpin-Resident, Marvis McFadden-Volunteer of America, Tracy DaSilva Jones-Bronx Morris, Trevis Roberts III, A. Philip Randolph, Andrew Figueroa-A. Philip Randolph, Netanay Bayard-A. Philip Randolph, Betty Crawford-Resident, Marco Castro-WHEDco, Christian Williams-Resident, Alejandro Vegas-Resident, Anthony Nacerino-Resident, Raudeliz Castillo-Paradise Café Restaurant NY Corp., Bibi Karim-BronxWorks, Jonathan Clark-B.R.A.N.C.H Missions, M. Palmer-B.R.A.N.C.H Missions, Kerry McLeon-WHEDco, Vivian Ortiz-Garcia-Lincoln Hospital, Arlene Hall-St. Simeon's Church, Robin Jackson-CWA Local 1180, Alberto Angeles, Damarys Caba, Charmaine Graham, Michael Allen-Resident, Sharon Allen-Resident, Lisa Grant- PGCMH, Jennifer Hammer-CVAP Program/NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

## **Public Hearing: City Charter – FY2020 Capital & Expense Budget**

The District Manager delivered a highlighted commentary of the Capital & Expense Priorities.

### Capital Priority #9

*Request:* Expand public programming and activation of City-owned sites.

*Explanation:* request that EDC work with DCP and other agencies to determine the best use of city-owned parcels along Jerome Avenue and the Bronx Terminal Market areas. Uses should include the development of affordable housing at various income levels.

*Response:* More information is needed from CB4 before making a funding decision.

Mr. Strong, Chair of the Housing & Land Use is leading an effort to create a more formal request.

### Capital Priority #16

*Request:* Other homelessness prevention program request.

*Explanation:* Recommendation for DHS to strengthen its partnership with HPD to increase the number of new affordable housing units made available to those in the community. CB4 has the largest cluster sights citywide, high proportion of homeless facilities and DHS intake center within the district.

*Response:* The agency continues to strengthen relationship with HPD. Current collaborations are underway to convert cluster housing into permanent housing.

Though several permanent housing is being created, several properties are including supportive housing which covers a large range of uses. There is an over saturation of supportive housing, so we want to be vigilant and diligent of what type of supportive is brought to this district.

### Expense Priority #2

*Request:* Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation

*Explanation:* Request to increase bus service in areas such as Highbridge, to improve access for area residents/merchants of the Bx3, Bx11, Bx36 or Bx18, Bx6, Bx35 and extend line along Bx32 to 167<sup>th</sup> Street, Bx40 and Bx42.

*Response:* Contact MTA directly at 646-252-2660 for info regarding the status.

MTA will be attending the Municipal Services Committee on March 6 and we encourage everyone to attend.

### Expense Priority #10

*Request:* Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs.

*Explanation:* CB4 request that DCP engage in a master plan exercise to determine the highest and best use of city-owned parcels along Jerome Avenue and Bronx Terminal Market. Consider the development of affordable housing in various income levels. Consider a significant expansion of public school seat capacity in CSD 7 and CSD 9 communities. Expansion of CB4 open space network. Develop a State of the Art Recreation Center similar to West Bronx Recreation Center.

*Response:* More information is needed from CB4 before making a decision. CB4 should contact DCP Borough Office.

## **Public Session**

1. *Deborah Allman*, New York Public Library – Announcement of programs available at the Highbridge Library and temporary closing of the Grand Concourse Library branch for renovation. All library programs are being conducted at the Highbridge and Tremont branches.
2. *Dan Leventhal*, Bronx Lacrosse – Bronx Lacrosse – This is a local non-profit youth development program that has partnered with the Highbridge Green School and the Rafael Hernandez Dual Magnet School to bring competitive lacrosse to the Bronx. The program was developed to improve educational and life opportunities for underserved students in the South Bronx. Students are tutored and mentored during and after school.
3. *Jennifer Hammer*, 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct – CVAP/Police programs along with Safe Horizon that provides information and resources to crime victims. Hours are from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:24 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, February 26, 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:** Mr. Barry Nissen made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for January 22, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. After the vote, the motion carries.

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

- Community Council Meeting March 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Latino Pastoral Action Center-14 W. 170<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Permits – to obtain street event permits contact 718-568-4792 or mdesantis@cityhall.nyc.gov.
- On February 24 there was a shooting at 1115 Clay Avenue on the second floor. Victim was shot by three unknown perpetrators. The footage is currently being reviewed. The victim is uncooperative and it is unknown if it is drug related.
- There were shots fired at 1155 Gerard Avenue.
- Connect to Twitter for crimes in the neighborhood.

**District Manager's Report**

- March 1, 2019 – Spring Bank located at 69 E. 167<sup>th</sup> Street will host Financially Fit Friday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Come join them to learn about free income tax preparation, free one-on-one financial counseling, credit report and score, first time homebuyer resources and getting started with a small business. Additionally, you have the opportunity to a raffle for a \$250 CD, gift certificates to Modell's and Sweet Water Yoga.
- March 30, 2019 – Our board member, Dr. Zarate is hosting and sponsoring an Easter Autism event at P.S. 28 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- June 1, 2019 – Highbridge Community celebration along with the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct and the New York Yankees with a rain date on June 8, 2019. There will be basketball and soccer tournaments, free bikes and helmets, bouncing houses, etc. Save the date will be sent.

**Presentation by WHEDCo on the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study. – Marco Castro**

WHEDCo presented data gathered via surveys for the Community Needs Assessment addressing the area of the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study area. This was divided into two studies – Business Needs and Resident Needs. There were 724 participants from people who live, work or study within zip codes 10452 and 10453. Their focus was to try to understand issues people are experiencing and how WHEDCo could respond or mediate. The full report can be accessed at whedco.org. The areas addressed in the survey were:

- Health – how do they rate their health- good, very good or excellent.
- Community Needs – prioritizing the improvements they would most like to see in the neighborhood. The top three responses were, less garbage on the streets, greater police presence and more community centers or social service organizations.

- Housing – Renters were asked about possible housing issues they experienced in the last year. 80% of respondents worry about being able to afford living in the neighborhood. 51.5% experienced rent increases of more than \$100 and over two-thirds pay more than half of their monthly income.
- Childcare/Education – Respondents were asked about experiences with childcare and after school. 61.7% do not have childcare for children under 5 years old. Over half (56.2%) find childcare affordable. More than 57.1% are not in an afterschool program mainly because there is no space. 80.2% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of their children’s school education in grades K-12.

On the Business Needs side, 41 merchants including 21 auto related businesses and 20 retail, wholesale, and industrial businesses were surveyed. This information will be used to connect businesses to support services and resources to help them thrive. They were asked

- the amount of years in business
- whether this is their only location
- have sales improved
- who are their typical customers
- how do customers hear about their business
- if their customers do not shop at their business, then where are they going

Assistance with bookkeeping and preparing/filing tax returns was cited as key needs as well as budgeting and cash flow management.

WHEDCo response is –

1. Monthly legal clinics (March 5, 2019 at Bronx Museum from 11 am to 1 pm)
2. Business workshops (March 12, 2019 at 50 E. 168<sup>th</sup> St. from 6 pm to 8:30 pm)
3. In-State technical support
4. Connecting businesses to service providers
5. Workforce development research

Can we, the Board put our concerns in writing and get a response? Most certainly. Any questions can be sent to the DM and he will forward them to WHEDCo.

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

**Economic Development Committee-** 1) *CEC Entertainment, Inc. / Chuck E. Cheese*. 700 Exterior Street, **Renewal**. The Committee recommends that no letter of support be given to this establishment because this is an establishment for children. Additionally, the establishment is providing very little security only from Thursday to Sunday. There have been many disorderly situation reported to the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct as a result of consumption of liquor. After the vote, the **motion carries not to provide a letter of support**. 2) *Bronx County Fairs & Expo, Assoc. Inc.* - 213-215 E. 170<sup>th</sup> Street, **Base Operating License**. 3) *Antonio Restaurant NY Corp.* 211 E. 167<sup>th</sup> Street, **Renewal**. 4) *Paradise Café Restaurant NY Corp.*, 1021 Ogden Avenue, **Change of Corporation**. 5) *Tito’s Bar & Kitchen Corp.* - 1221 Jerome Avenue, **New Application**. The Committee motioned to provide letters of support for items 2-5. After the vote, **motions 2-5 carry**.

**Municipal Services Committee** – The Committee is now in the process of planning for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Police Officers and Fire Fighters Outstanding Awards. It also extended an invitation to all to attend the next meeting on March 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm as the DOT, DDC and MTA discuss some new bus redesign.

**Housing & Land Use Committee** – The Committee has a request from Highbridge Community Development Corp. for a *change of use* for vacant land on Edward L. Grant between Plimpton and Nelson Avenues from a parking lot to a senior housing building. The motion was seconded by John Howard Algarin. After the vote, the **motion carries**. Additionally, the Committee was presented with a new Zoning Text Amendment for Mechanical Voids in residential towers. The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support for this amendment. It was seconded by Ms. Mildred James. After the vote, the **motion carries**.

**Parks and Recreation Committee-** No Report.

**Health Services Committee** – The Committee had a presentation by the Friendship Benches NYC project, a non-traditional public meeting space with the aim of reducing mental health treatment gaps. These services are

provided through counseling, crisis intervention, peer support and referrals from NYC Well. They also had a request for a Letter of Support from Webster House located at 1075 Webster Avenue a 200-unit SRO which provides permanent supportive housing among other services for formerly homeless adults. The request is for continued services for this location that is operated under Volunteers of America. The committee motioned to provide said Letter of Support. After the vote, the **motion carries**. Additionally, they were presented with heart disease information by the Center of Health Equality. Heart disease is the leading cause of death among adults with over one million dying every year.

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

### **Report by the Bronx Borough President’s Office represented by Justin Sanchez**

- Partnered with the Department of Education to form a community space and the Borough President will cover the cost of the permit for you.
- State of the Borough address on February 21, 2019
- Camp Junior through Fresh Air Fund. Two weeks in the summer free for youths. Information session on February 27, 2019 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Lincoln Hospital.
- Dominican Heritage celebration on February 28, 2019 at 6:00 pm at 1700 Jerome Avenue.
- March 13, 2019 – Construction trades job fair at 851 Grand Concourse from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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

*Congressman Jose E. Serrano* represented by Shayra Reyes

- Chairman of Commence & Appreciation Committee to create a core and free environment
- Transportation – highlight efficiency and safety.
  - Legislation to change from private to public inspection of transportation systems.
- Census coming up in 2020 is now hiring and will provide many temporary jobs.
- Women’s History Month celebration on March 22, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Bronx Museum of Art.

*New York State Senator Jose M. Serrano* represented by Terrell Brock

- Peralta Dream Act bill passed which provides access to education for immigrant children.
- Focus on combatting gender based violence by providing resources, guidance and violence prevention strategies.
- Free legal services
- Constitutional hours at High Bridge Library.
- If anyone is experiencing unusual cold temperatures contact the borough office at 212-828-5829.

*Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson* represented by Stacy Strong

- March 3, 2019 – State of the District. 3:00 pm at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. Will address what happened in 2018 and 2019 future events.

*Councilmember Diana Ayala* represented by Gloria Cruz

- March 12, 2019 – Tenant Housing Fair at St. Luke’s Church
- Constitution hours on the last Friday of the month at Highbridge Community Center.

- Immigration workshop once a month.

*Comptroller Scott M. Stringer* represented by Victor Martinez

- M/WBE University – various workshops available
- Summer Internship – deadline is March 8, 2019. This is a paid internship for grads or undergrads.
- Metro-North Rail – Agreement to add more stops and lowering the cost. Discussion underway with MTA and CTDOT.

**Announcements:**

None

*Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.*

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