

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, FEBRUARY 27, 2018
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Mr. Robert Garmendiz, 1st Vice Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Naimah Bilal, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrows, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Connie Morales, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Napoleon Black, Ms. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Ms. Teresa Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Fielder, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Mr. Avery Smith.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mr. Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Ms. Bharati Kemraj, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Mr. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Ms. Carolyn Jones, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
Ms. Joana Guerrero, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson

GUEST PRESENT:

Veronique Green-Resident, Qiana Flynn-Bronx Parent Housing Network, Ines Marino-Spring Bank, Melanie Stern-Spring Bank, Barbara Flaxman-Resident, Marilyn Ramos-Resident, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct, Jacqueline Calderon-Resident, Jorge Valdes-Resident, Arelis Laporte-Resident, Evelyn Rivera-President 11 West 172 Street Tenants Association, Amanda Cragen-Resident, Peter Castillo-Angiolina's Restaurant, Andrea DaCosta-Resident, Natalie Nunez-Resident, Michael Durkin-Resident, James Rather-Bronx Department of City Planning, Anthony Matulis-Art by JAVA, Shakiya Snipes-Resident, Hector M. Tirado-Maribella Paradise Restaurant Corp., Alex Garcia-MFDSNY, Bibi Farim-BronxWorks, Adma Castillo-Bronx Works, Albin Infante-Mofongo El Mocano Restaurant & Lounge Corp., William Cepeda, Loureann Laureano-Resident, Jose Luis Nunez-El Patron Nightclub Cabaret Restaurant Inc., Esmeralda Perez-El Patron Nightclub Cabaret Restaurant Inc., Eugenia James-Resident, Kevin Woodhouse-Resident, Betty Rose Green-Resident, Kimberly Gardner-Resident, Wanda Ellis-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Arlene Hall-St. Simeon's Episcopal Church, Lon Wilson-N.Y. Walker Club Inc.

Public Session

1. *Natalie Nunez*, Resident – She is concerned with the public staircase on W. 167th Street and Anderson Avenue/Shakespeare Avenue. There is a large amount of garbage thrown consistently in this area. She is requesting for measures to be taken to clear this situation. The DM recommended that she report it to 311 and also to advise the office of the call so they can follow up.
2. *Jacqueline Calderon*, Program Director of Hudson Housing Development Group – This is a cluster site at 1055 University Avenue for single women, men and for families. They provide resources in community. They are currently in need of pampers, food, clothing, coats, etc. for their families. She would like to be able to refer them to other resources in the community.
3. *Veronique Green*, Resident – She would like to make the Board aware of a needed pedestrian walk and stop sign at Gerard Avenue and 169th Street.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by First Chair, Robert Garmendiz. The First Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 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, February 27, 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: Ms. Beverly Bond made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for January 23, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zonia Ortiz. After the vote of 23 in the affirmative and 7 abstentions, the **motion carries**. .

District Manager's Report

CAPITAL PRIORITIES:

- Corp. Fischer Park – Committed \$4.6 billion for the design and construction.
- Deficit of school seats – Requesting 1000 additional seats to cover current and future needs.
- Improved accessibility to transit infrastructure
 - Elevators on the B, D and 4 lines. Response is to reach out to MTA.
- Grant Park – partially funded by Bronx Borough President. A portion of 170th Street has been demapped to enlarge the park.
 - Rehab portion closed and fund the expansion.
- Underpasses at 167th, 170th and 174th Streets
- Repair and build new step streets – There's a total of 17 step streets.
 - Prioritize four as part of Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Planning at W. 169th Street, Anderson Avenue, 167th Street and W. 168th Street.
- Reconstruction of the 161st Street corridor
- Intense lighting along Jerome Avenue
 - Pilot program at 170th Street and at Burnside Avenue

EXPENSE PRIORITIES

- Parks Administrator to manage programming
- Expanded bus services
 - The Councilmember and the city are increasing service
 - Exploring other bus options
- Increase enforcement of dirty sidewalks
 - Commercial corridors
 - Department of Sanitation increase the levels of cleaning
 -
- Expanded afterschool programs for middle school students
 - Funding already available in the district
 - Organizations are encouraged to apply for funds
 - Asking the community to let organizations know of these grants
- Creation of a local working network
 - Job First
 - 12-18 month process
 - Different stakeholders, employers and businesses
 - This is already in the works
- Expanded programs for housing inspections to correct code violations
 - Rights to Council
 - Certificate of No Harassment
 - These are already happening
- South Bronx Works Housing Task Force

Thank you to Detective Oviedo and the 44th Precinct for the job that they do with the Community Board and the Economic Committee.

REPORT:

- Black History Month
 - February 15, 2018 - Mrs. Zonia Ortiz was honored by Councilmember Ayala for her outstanding work in the community.
 - February 26, 2018 – Board Chair Kathleen Saunders was recognized and given a Proclamation by Congressman Serrano and Senator Serrano along with other African American women such as Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and former Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene.
- #4 train improvements on actual structure
 - Paint from 161st Street to 170th Street
 - Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 - Saturday & Sunday: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Let's be stewards of where we live and take care of our streets and parks. They're as good as we take care of them.
- Ogden/Plimpton – Construction begins on March 5, 2018 and it will last for one year.
- Dog poop – Sanitation enforcement of canine waste.
 - Report it to 311
- Jerome Avenue
 - We are in its final countdown. The Subcommittee voted on February 7, 2018 and the full Council will vote later this month or early March.
- Downtown Revival Initiative
 - \$10 million from the state to the Bronx Civic Center and Third Avenue Hub area
 - Open house last week
 - Can still provide feedback at www.bronxciviccenter.com.
- Youth Day 2018 is scheduled for May 17, 2018 and a rain date for May 29, 2018. Anyone wishing to be a sponsor can contact the office. The Committee will need volunteers for the day. Contact Mr. Delts.

Presentation: Access to financing for small businesses, Spring Bank's products and services. – Ines Marino.

The representatives did a brief presentation on some of the services that Spring Bank who has been in our community for the past 10 years offers.

- Grow Loan Program - We offer loans starting at \$10,000 with an average of \$75,000 regardless of challenges such as low credit score or a lack of collateral.
- \$10,000 line of credit - Fill out one page application, include business bank statement for the last 6 months, business liability insurance/workers comp, business lease. This is available as long as the business is legally incorporated, operating and generating revenues for the at least 12 months, provides a personal guarantee from business owners with greater than 20% ownership, an owner's minimum credit score of 600 and there are no tax returns required to be eligible.
- Start Loan - loans of up to \$1500, no minimum credit score requirement.
- The Employee Opportunity Loan - for unexpected emergencies, every day expenses, paying off high cost debt

Ms. Marino can be reached at 718-879-5022 or emailed at imarino@springbankny.com and Ms Stern can be reached at 718-879-5198 or emailed at mstern@springbankny.com.

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *Wonderland Midway Corp. 100 E. 151st Street, Temporary Amusement Device License* to operate a carnival for the 2018 Bronx Spring Fair from March 23, 2018 to April 1, 2018. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries.** 2) *Maribella Paradise Restaurant, 1460 Macombs Road, New Application* for a full liquor license. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Mr. Jackson Strong. After the vote of 26 in the affirmative and 4 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 3) *Angiolina's Restaurant, 1322A Jerome Avenue, New Application* for wine, beer and cider. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. After the vote of 25 in the affirmative and 5 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 4) *Nuevo Tulcingo Azteca Corp., 134 E. 170th Street, New Application* for wine, beer and cider. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Ms. Zonia Ortiz. After the vote of 26 in the affirmative and 4 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 5) *Mofongo El Mocano Restaurant & Lounge, 985 Morris Avenue, New Application* for wine, beer and cider. The location of this business is the former site of Bamboo Lounge of which this owner has no affiliation with. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. After a vote 24 in the affirmative and 6 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 6) *Kimo Management Group Corp., 1401 Plaza Drive (170th Street & Macombs Rd.), Corporate Change.* Said business is requesting a LOS to remove Mr. Derek Francis, a previous affiliate from their corporation papers. This is for a corporate change only and not for their current liquor license which is still in effect. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Mr. Jackson Strong. After the vote of 24 in the affirmative and 6 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 7) *Exotic Lounge, Inc., 10 W. Mt. Eden Avenue, Request for change in hours of operation.* This establishment is requesting to extend their closing hours at 2:00 AM to instead close at 4:00 AM. After a full discussion, the Board recommends that their hours should be Monday through Wednesday from 4:00 PM to 1:00 AM, Thursday through Saturday from 4:00 PM to 3:00 AM and Sundays from 4:00 PM to 2:00 AM for a two month basis at which time, they can return and request a re-evaluation of their initial request. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Mr. John Howard Algarin. After a vote of 26 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 8) *El Patron Nightclub Cabaret Restaurant, Inc., 1465 Jerome Avenue, 2nd Floor, Renewal of full liquor license.* The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Ms. Mildred James. After the vote of 28 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries.**

Municipal Services Committee – No Report.

Housing & Land Use Committee – No Report.

Parks and Recreation Committee- No Report but participated in Lower Bronx Pier 5 development regarding park land.

Health Services Committee – The Committee had a presentation by Safe Horizons on the increase in human trafficking which currently ranks #2 globally. Cases have been documented as a result of victim reports. They are working with the Coalition of Latin American Consulates to bring awareness. Anything that may seem out of the ordinary should be reported. The Committee also had a presentation by Ms. Bido of the Health Action Center informing them regarding the red lining exhibit or the practice devaluing neighborhoods based on race and ethnicity of its residents and its effects on health. The Woodycrest United Methodist Church at 89 W. 169th Street through ThriveNYC is offering a mental health first aid course on March 3, 2018. This is a free 8-hour course. Further information may be acquired by contacting 718-538-7500.

Youth Services & Education – Need volunteers for Youth Day. We have identified three schools around Mullaly Park. Theme colors for the event are pink, white and blue. We have secured the deejay and we will have a Zumba session available. Volunteers are needed. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the office or reach out to the Committee Chair, Mr. Delts.

44th Precinct Report

- March 14, 2018 – Community Council Meeting at the Concourse Rehabilitation Center – 1072 Grand Concourse at 6:30 pm.
 - NYPD Counter-Terrorist Presentation: Active Shooter Drill
- Events – How to properly apply for events. Handout available with instructions on how to apply for a permit.
- 161 BID officer unit
 - 1 Supervisor
 - 4 Officers
 - They deal with quality of life issues
- March 15, 2018 – 24th Anniversary of Sean McDonald memorial mass at Christ The King, 141 Marcy Place at 10:00 AM
- NCO Sheets
 - 5 Sectors A – E
 - Can call about complaints about hookah smoking, noise in hallways, drinking in hallways, etc. These are complaints that are not a priority 911 call but are to the NCOs.
- Extension of hours, liquor license. Endorsements to the Board to make a decision
- Community Affairs Office can be reached at 718-590-5525/27
- **Report by Bronx Borough President *represented by Ms. Bharati Kemraj***
 - Board members are reminded that they must re-apply for the Board every two years.
 - March 14, 2018 – Irish Heritage celebration at the Rambling House at 4292 Katonah Avenue at 5:30 PM.
 - March 8, 2018 at 5:30 PM – Greek American Heritage Month at the Parish of Zoodohos Peghe at 3573 Bruckner Blvd.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- February 23, 2018 - Black History Month celebration with CM Vanessa Gibson and Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner.
- February 26, 2018 – Honored former Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene and Community Board Chair, Kathleen Saunders at his Black History Month Celebration at Hostos Community College.
- March Constituent hours’ will offer free immigration services through Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. Dates to be announced.
- Any questions or information contact 212-828-5829 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Carolyn Jones

- 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.
- February 23, 2018, Black History Month celebration with Senator Serrano and CM Vanessa Gibson
- Free Tax Services at the district office from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM for those who earned \$66,000 or less. Dates: March 31, 2018 and April 7, 2018.
- You may contact our office at 718-538-2000.

Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Joanna Guerrero

- Has been at Albany for the past two days rallying support for the 88,000 homeless people living in shelters across the state.
- Discovery for Just Bill Bond
- NYCHA constituents who are experiencing heating and hot water issues
 - Currently helping residents of 850 Cauldwell Avenue where conditions are deplorable
- NYCHA Tenant Association presidents
 - Morrisania Houses
 - Morris Houses
 - Franklin Avenue Houses
- Tenant Tuesdays at HRA from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at district office – 780 Concourse Village West
- Participated in the Black, Puerto Rican and Asian Caucus
- Fire at 530 E. 139th Street
- February 28, 2018 – Black History Celebration at the Renaissance Youth Center on Third Avenue at 6:00 PM.
- For further information or to be included on their mailing list contact 718-538-3829 or nurilloj@nyassembly.gov

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Stacy Strong

- February 23, 2018 – Black History Celebration
- March 4, 2018 – Inauguration celebration at the Bronx Museum of the Arts at 1040 Grand Concourse at 2:00 PM

- March 16, 2018 – Women’s History Month, Women’s Fellowship Breakfast at the New Settlement Community Center-1501 Jerome Avenue from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- March 22, 2018 0 Women’s History Month Celebration at the Mullaly Recreation Center-1020 Jerome Avenue at 6:00 PM.

Comptroller Scott M. Stringer represented by Antirson Ortiz

- Vacant lot, NYCHA issues
- 1007 vacant lots throughout the city.
 - No development
 - Affordable housing crisis
 - Need for schools
 - Need lots to be developed properly.
- NYCHA
 - Surplus of \$40 million per year
 - Wants to use it in a 10 year period
 - Need to know how many are in the Bronx community
 - City-owned lots
- Can FOIL a request (Freedom of Information Law)

Announcements:

*Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.
Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.*