

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, JANUARY 22, 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. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mr. Jamal Patrick, 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.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Jodi Morales.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mr. Joshua Cortes, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Hon. Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller
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
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner
Mr. Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake
Ms. Josimel DellaCruz-representing NYC Council Fernando Cabrera
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

GUEST PRESENT:

Brenda Dock-Resident, Catherine Roman-Hard Rock Café/NYYSteak LLC, Janet Peguero-Department of Small Business Services, Shaya Morgan-PANY, Yesy Robles-Walkabout Ed Foundation, Amanda Morel-Student, Rayanne Figueroa-Student, Dorothy Hubbard, Joseph A. Bastone-Yankee Tavern, Marco Castro-WHEDCO, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct, Juantia McMillan-NYPD 44th Precinct, Emily Kim-Zeta Charter School, Israel Morales-American Dream Charter School, Melissa Mellkonika-American Dream Charter School, John Halpin-Resident, Ben Wild-Walkabout Bronx High School, Melissa Swinea-136 Coop Board, Nancy Del La Rosa-101 E. 161st Restaurant Corp., Diony A. Nunez-101 E. 161st Restaurant Corp., Michael Durant-Resident, Lon Wilson-Resident, Robert Ettinger-Resident, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Paul Onyx Lozito-Resident, Daniel Lightfont-Public Allies New York, Don Daedalus-Resident, Santo Sanchez-La Fuente Steak House Corp., Carlo Schiattarella-American Dream Charter School, Suzanne Markland-Public Allies New York, Mene Cisse-Public Allies New York, Betty Crawford-Resident, Jennifer Hammer-CVAP Program/NYPD 44th Precinct.

1. Marco Castro – WHEDCO – Announcement for Small Business Resource Fair & Breakfast, February 26 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at the New Settlement Community Center, 1510 Jerome Avenue. This is an invitation for all business owners and aspiring business owners.
2. Rayanne Figueroa and Leah Ruediger – WHEDCO-Bronx Right – Request for approval and the spreading of news to local businesses and the MTA for installation of street lights in the neighborhood in order to keep the streets safe. Particularly in the areas of 167th Street and River Avenue and Mullaly Park.
3. Suzanne Markland-Suwarah – Public Allies. The group of ladies is launching a project on college readiness in the Bronx for high school students starting with the 9th grade. They are seeking community board and community feedback. How they will launch said project is by connecting with high schools and surveying the students. The program will provide a website (still in development) that will provide peer-to-peer interaction, relatable topics, resources such as YouTube videos and list of all their events. Any further information that may be of interest or to provide any feedback may be done by reaching them at operations.navigaionnyc@gmail.com.
4. Jennifer Hammer – Safe Horizon—Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) at the 44th Precinct. The program addresses the needs of the community. It provides support and resources to survivors of all crimes. They can also advocate for needs like housing and public benefits.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. She called the meeting to order at 6:44 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 January 22, 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: Ms. Veronique Green motioned to accept the General Board Minutes for November 27, 2018 with corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ariane Garcia. After a vote of 30 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct by Detective Roberto Oviedo

- Community Council Meeting February 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Concourse Rehab Center-1072 Grand Concourse
- Applications for the Citizen Police Academy are now available – 16 week intensive course
- Clergy Coalition meeting on March 5, 2018 at 11:00 am at the Church of God located at 923 Woodycrest Avenue
- 12 new officers graduated from the academy and have been assigned to the 44th Precinct

District Manager's Report

- On November 19, 2018, CB4 along with the NY Yankees hosted 19th annual 4+44 NYPD & FDNY Outstanding Service Awards at Yankee Stadium. Thank you to the Municipal Services Committee.
- La Isla Community Garden's first annual tree lighting took place in Highbridge thanks to the efforts of Zonia Ortiz and the community garden.

- The 161st Street BID and Billy's sponsored our holiday party.
- Jerome Avenue Study Update
 - Will meet with CM Gibson next week. An update will be provided in February.
 - Jerome Avenue Workforce Development meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2019 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The location is to be determined.
 - Jerome Avenue Public Health Task Force is scheduled for February 7, 2019 at the New Settlement Community Center from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. These meetings are opened to the public.
 - As per the Points of Agreement for the Jerome Neighborhood plan, a Program Manager would be hired to oversee all business and workforce strategies. SBS has hired Ms. Janet Peguero. She will be the liaison between SBS and the community. She will be at the mobile outreach unit at CM Gibson's office every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and at CM Cabrera's every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. On January 31, 2019 it will be in front of CM Gibson from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.
- Bronx Point: The development team is working on revisions to the construction drawings for final submission to the Public Design Commission. This year's focus is draft contracts and draft local hiring plan.
- The 161st Street BID is in its initial stages of creating an expansion plan. A Steering Committee will be formed to assist in this process. The boundaries have not been determined.
- Whedco will be at the Board's next meeting to share data collected in their Business Needs Study and Community Needs Assessment.
- March 1, 2019 – CB4 is partnering with Spring Bank to bring you "Financially Fit Friday".
 - Free tax service
 - Credit report and credit score review
 - Free one-on-one financial counseling
 - First time homebuyer's resources
 - Financial products for savings and building credit
 - Getting started with your small business
 - Raffles
 - \$250 CD giveaway
 - Gift Certificates to Modell's
 - Gift Certificate to Sweet Water Yoga
- CB4 will be partnering with the 44th Precinct on Spring Fling at Nelson Playground. The event will kick off the summer season. Details will be provided at a later date.
- April 8, 2019 – Parliamentary Procedure Part II

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *Yankee Tavern – 72 E. 161st Street aka 865 Gerard Avenue. Renewal.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support and it was seconded by Mr. John Howard Algarin. After a vote of 31 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 2) *Hard Rock Cafe. – 161st Street & River Avenue. Renewal.* The committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Ms. Mildred James. The vote was 30 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions to grant a letter of support. The **motion carries.** 3) *KAD Food Corp./Met Food – 1150-66 Woodycrest Avenue. Renewal.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support. It was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After a vote of 30 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 4) *New York Yankee Steak.- 161st Street & River Avenue, 2nd Floort. Renewal.* The Committee motioned to grant a letter of support. It was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After a vote of 30 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 5) *101 E. 161st Street Restaurant Corp. aka El Molino Rojo – 101 E. 161st Street. Renewal with Class Change to full liquor license.* The committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. The vote was 29 in the affirmative and 4 abstentions to grant a letter of support. The **motion carries.** 6) *La Fuente Steak House Corp. – 1306 Jerome Avenue. Corporate Change.* The current owner is moving out of state and her mother will be taking over the business. The

Committee motioned to provide a letter of support. It was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After a vote of 30 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

The committee had a small business services presentation – Assisting Local Businesses with Navigating Government.

Municipal Services Committee – The 44th Precinct presented their report at committee. Currently the committee is prepping for the 20th anniversary of the Police Officers and Firefighters Outstanding Awards. The Chair invited those interested to attend their meetings the first Wednesday of the month.

Housing & Land Use Committee – No Report.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The committee had a scheduled presentation by Waterfront Alliance; however, because of lack of quorum they rescheduled it for a later time. The committee invited them to participate on our survey tours so that perhaps they can assess ways to access the Harlem River. Additionally, they need the DM assistance in extending an invitation to Mr. Clinton Johnson, Parks Director to attend committee meetings and provide quarterly reports. An invitation is also to be extended to the person in charge of recreation for the Parks to attend in May to advise and report what are the plans for the parks.

Health Services Committee – The committee Chair invited everyone to pick up a copy of the Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center health calendar at the sign in desk. She advised that the Center of Disease Control reports there were 80,000 deaths from influenza from 2017-2018. It's not too late to get the vaccine! Pick up a placard on What You Need To Know About the NYPD's New Marijuana Enforcement Policy. Some things to know is that smoking marijuana in public or possessing any amount is illegal in NYC. You may be arrested and charged with a crime. It may result in a summons rather than an arrest, but if you lack ID or have a warrant in your name, you will be arrested. If summoned, you will have to appear in court and face fines up to \$250, 15 days in jail or both.

Youth Services & Education – There were three requests for letters of support at committee. They are as follows: 1) *Walkabout Bronx H.S.* – This school is scheduled for District 9 in 2020. They will start as a charter school and eventually transition to a regular school. The school will be based on the BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) Walkabout Model, which provides real world learning opportunities and job skills. The committee motioned to grant a letter of support to Walkabout Bronx High School. The motion was seconded by Bishop Earl McKay. After a vote of 31 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the motion so carries. 2a) American Dream School – 700 Gerard Avenue. This will be a dual language school in school district 7 within the landmark district. The request is for two separate letters of support. One request is for the structure itself and the other for the program. Mr. John Howard Algarin motioned for the community board offer 700 Gerard Avenue a letter of support for the construction of the façade with the caveat that the project developer collaborate with the District Manager and the Board in formulating the final design of the façade. Ms. Beverly Bond seconded said motion. After a vote of 27 in the affirmative, 5 Nos and 1 abstention, the **motion carries**. 2b) The second part of the presentation is for programming at the school. The committee motioned to provide a letter of support for programming at said school. It was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. After the vote of 28 in the affirmative, 1 No and 4 abstentions, the **motion carries**. 3) Zeta Charter School requested a letter of support. The committee motioned for a letter of support for the Zeta Charter School. It was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. After a vote of 29 in the affirmative, 2 Nos and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

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

- Applications are now available for those interested in joining the community board. The deadline is February 8, 2019.
- February 21, 2019 – State of the Borough address at 455 Southern Blvd. To register go to bit.ly/sotbx19.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- Early voting legislative bill
- Consolidation of federal and state partners
- No excuse absentee voting
- February 25, 2019 hosting Black History Month with Congressman Serrano
- For more information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera represented by Denise Levar

- Appointed as new Chair of Health Committee
- Passed the Comprehensive Contraceptive Contraception Act
- Voting of Election Reforms
- Voted to protect people from discrimination based on their gender identity
- Black History month at the William Holden Senior Center – February 21, 2019 - 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Parking Calendar in member's folder

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio represented by Joshua Cortes

- Mandated two weeks off for personal leave for everyone
- My Health
- Pre-K expansion in district
- New Mayor's Office to protect tenants. Borough Hall.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

- The City is spending \$3billion on homeless services. That money needs to be reinvested and align our homeless services with affordable housing.
- There are 1100 vacant parcels of land in the city right now.
- Working on building new opportunities for LIRR and Metro-North.
- Make sure every child in every zip code gets the education they need.
- Mandated to look for missing computers and for an audit of the Department of Education.

Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson represented by Stacy Strong

- January 25, 2019 – Governor Cuomo's State of the District 2019 NYC Region at New Settlement Community Center-1501 Jerome Avenue at 6:00 pm.
- January 30, 2019 – Public Charge Community Forum with CM Ayala and Senator Serrano at PS 73-1020 Anderson Avenue from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- January 29, 2019 – City Hall Resource Fair at the Latino Pastoral Action Center-14 W. 170th Street from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- Legal Services – Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 3pm to 6 pm.
- Tenant Support Specialist – Every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11 am to 3 pm.
- Immigration Screening Services monthly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The next available dates are on February 21, March 19, April 23, May 21 and June 25. To set up and appointment, contact the office at 718-538-2000.
- Free tax preparation services on February 5, March 1, March 14, April 2 and April 12, 2019. Must bring social security card, W-2, 1099, bank information and expenses information. Contact the office for any further information.
- Career Services Event on February 1 and March 1 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Please RSVP.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.