

The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021 | 6PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM PLATFORM
Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Jacqueline Altamirano Marin, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Robin Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Anita Long, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Mr. Elliot Viera, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Arelis Pineda.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Bishop Earl McKay, Dr. Grace Zarate.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Brian Polanco, representing NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Tiara Davis, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera
June Soto, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
Hon. Luis Sepulveda, NYS Senate Member
Ritchard Ewings, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda
Hon. Chantel Jackson, NYS Assembly Member
Monica Miranda, Legislative Director for NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson
Office of Assembly Member Chantel Jackson
Stephanie Herrera, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala

GUEST PRESENT:

Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct/Community Affairs Unit, Andre Beganski-CUNY Journalism Student, Sophie White-Resident, Krishna Kakkera-Nursing Student Monroe College Bx., Domonique Lee Alston-Kwame Ture (formerly West Bronx), Lino Caceres-CB4 Consultant, Amanda Harrington-NY City New Service, Kimberly Jefferson-NYC Public Library Melrose Branch, Jacqueline Carter-Resident, Ezequiel Esparza M.-Resident, Chris Campbell-The Outfield, Christopher Bell-Resident, Jeanette Reed-NYC Department for the Aging, Dave Howard-1000 Grand Concourse, Jim Kusi-1000 Grand Concourse LLC, Ariel Heilman-Resident, Takisha Dozier-Bronx Children's Museum, Josue Melendez-NYC Department for Aging, Heminio Martinez, Belinda

Gallegos, Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter/S.A.V.E.D 4 Life, 1188 Grand Concourse-Resident, 929-***-9363, 620-***-4619.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Public hearing commenced at 6:05 p.m.

1. Public Hearing

- Paul Philps presented background on the annual District Needs Statement process.
- CB4 has 28 Capital; 29 Expense; and 10 Continued Support requests.
- Continued support requests include:
 - Grant Park
 - 161 Street Reconstruction
 - Cooperative Housing Development (currently being funded through the Anthony Avenue RFP which was recently awarded)
 - Corporal Fischer
 - Goble Playground
 - Skate and Bike Parks in Mullaly Park
 - Other notable changes include specific line items for Claremont Park and individual requests for step streets.
 - Other than that, there have not been substantive changes from last year's submission.
 - No questions or comments were presented.
 - 22 voted in favor, 3 in favor with modifications, 3 abstentions

2. Public Session

- Jeanette Reed, NYC Department for the Aging, Senior Employment Unit, presented.
 - They are actively recruiting older unemployed Bronx residents to apply to the Senior Employment program.
 - This is a short term paid workforce program that offers job placement assistance to people who need to transition back to employment.
 - Candidates must be unemployed, aged 55 and older, have limited income, and have a desire to return to work. The highlight of the program is that they get paid while they search for work.
 - Participants receive a stipend of \$15 an hour for 15-20 hours per week.
 - Email jreed@aging.nyc.gov for more information.

3. Welcoming remarks and announcements by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair

- Jonah Nigh will step down from his role as Recording Secretary effective this month. Veronique Green will take on the role until the next election (June 2022).
- Reminded members about the importance of attendance.

4. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Martha Reyes

5. Roll Call

- 35 Present; 2 Excused, 4 Absent
6. Discussion/Adoption: Capital and Expense Budget Priorities Request FY2023 Board Chair, District Manager and Board Members.
- See public hearing section.
7. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes
- Mildred James motioned to approve the September 2021 minutes. Lilliam Rosa seconded the motion.
 - No one opposed, and there were no abstentions. Motion carried.
8. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct
- Detective Oviedo presented.
 - Trunk for Treat event: Thursday, October 28, at 3pm at the 44th.
 - Next Community Council Meeting: November 10th at 6:30 p.m. (second Wednesday of every month). 85 East 165th Street.
 - Turkey Giveaway: November 23rd at 1 p.m. in front of the 44th. First come, first serve.
 - Let Detective Oviedo know if any friends or neighbors have accessibility issues; he and Carmen will deliver the turkeys to their homes.
 - NYPD is hiring. Starting salary is \$42,500 and increases to \$85,292 after 5 ½ years.
 - You must have 60 college credits and minimum GPA of 2.0 from an accredited institution.
 - Veterans (i.e. 2 years of service, any branch) automatically qualify.
 - There was a long conversation with board and community members concerning quality of life issues including break-ins, street vendors, drag racing, the homeless population, movie sets, among other issues.
 - Contact directly at 917-318-9186 or Roberto.oviedo@nypd.org
9. Report by CB4 District Manager by Paul A. Philps
- No official report presented.
 - Reminded members to vote and discussed vaccinations and boosters.
10. Committee Reports
- Housing and Land Use
 - Chair Jackson Strong presented.
 - Letter of Support was requested for existing windows replacement at 1000 Grand Concourse.
 - Mildred James seconded committee's motion.
 - 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Motion carried.
 - Youth Services and Education
 - Chair Zonia Ortiz presented.
 - Hoping to present the board with the community resource manual in January or February.
 - Health and Human Services
 - Chair Jason Caraballo presented.
 - Presented COVID/vaccine data from NYC.gov.
 - Discussed VIP Community Services' efforts in the vaccine equity partner engagement project.

- Noted that Anita Reyes has been named the Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
- No reports from Parks, Economic Development, or Municipal Services committees.

11. Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Local Elected Officials or their representatives

- Ritchard Ewings represented NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda.
 - Contact directly at 718-991-3161.
 - Reminded attendees that ERAP can pause an eviction proceeding while the application remains pending.
 - Eviction moratorium coming up--January 15, 2022.
- Alexis Ruiz represented Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
 - New member orientation was successful.
 - EEO form due for new members.
 - Reminded members to vote.
- Tiara Davis represented Senator Gustavo Rivera.
 - Contact directly at 718-933-2034 or tdavis@nysenate.gov
 - November 15 from 11am-4pm two representatives from the Comptroller's office will be on hand at their office to help with any unclaimed funds (i.e. from ERAP applications).
- June Soto represented Senator Jose M. Serrano.
 - Contact directly at 212-828-5829 or scheduler.serrano@gmail.com
 - Offices closed due to maintenance issues. Hoping to open within the next two weeks.
 - Still providing PPE.
- Stephanie Herrera represented NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala.
 - Helping constituents with ERAP applications.
 - Also concerned with quality-of-life issues in 44th.

12. Old Business/New Business

13. Announcements/Adjournment

- Travis Thomas represented Siena House Shelter and S.A.V.E.D 4 Life Cancer Corporation.
 - Siena House needs winter coats for young mothers and their children.
 - S.A.V.E.D 4 Life Cancer Corporation is seeking in-kind donations of two spaces, one-day a week, to set up cancer resource stations.
 - Cancer rate is rising in the Bronx, particularly prostate cancer.
- John Fielder noted that Bronx Fathers Taking Action is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary.
 - If constituents have fond memories from or about the program, please contact Angel Gad at the Borough President's office to let them know.
 - It is unclear if the program will exist in the new administration.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Mr. Jonah Nigh