

The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021 | 6PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM PLATFORM
Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. James Boyd, Jr., Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Robin Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Anita Long, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kedisha Samuels, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Michael Durant, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Lionell Jackson.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mr. Constantious Stavroulakis.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member
Hon. Luis Sepulveda, New York State Senate Member
Hon. Fernando Cabrera, New York City Council Member
Hon. Chantel Jackson, New York State Assembly Member
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Khadim Niang-Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Cecil Brooks, Jr., representing US Congress Ritchie Torres
Justin Cortes, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson
Stacey Strong, representing Council Vanessa Gibson
Ritchard Ewings, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda
Joanna Mendez, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda
Jose Rodriguez, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala
Charlene (Joyner Staff), representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner
Emmanuel Martinez, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson

GUESTS PRESENT:

Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct CAU, Travis Thomas-S.A.V.E.D 4 Life, Rachel Gill-BronxWorks, Emily Hespeler-BronxWorks, Arianna Holmes-Project Hope, Miguel Marrero-Project Hope, Jasmine Butler-Project Hope, Arnaldo J. Lopez-Pregones PRTT, Priscilla Aguilar-Pregones PRTT, Takisha Dozier-Bronx Children's Museum, Anayess Dominguez-Catholic Charities MOSAIC Beacon, Joya Sutton-MOSAIC Beacon Community Center, Marie Stroud-Catholic Charities MOSAIC Beacon, Deborah Allman-NY Public Library Grand Concourse Branch, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Sarahn O'Uhuru-Resident, Michelle Mootreddy-Bodega cats Presents, Chris Campbell-Resident, Joyce Hogi-Harlem River Working Group, Michael Sharp-NYC Department of Finance, Jason Cohen-Bronx Times Newspaper, Reynaldo Punzalan-Friends of 4 Parks, Emilia Tineo-Resident, Elliot Viera-Resident, angel Perez-Credit Life Bar & Grill, Barbara Maddux-Resident, Winnie Campbell-NYC HPD, Jennifer Martinez-Resident, Dennis Boyd, Charmine Graham, Margaret Alexander, Luke Szabados, Yvette Mosely, Susanne, HM, Christina's iphone, Tiffanie, ipad, Angel iphone, iphone, Kate, Arlene, ***-***-0073.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. Public Session

- Enrique Colon from CASA presented.
 - CASA Workshop on Rent Stabilization/New Rent Laws Wednesday, March 24 from 6-8pm.
 - Contact Enrique directly at 646-301-2131 or e.colon@newsettlement.org.
 - Tenants have the right to an attorney if they face an eviction case in New York City.
- Miguel Marrero and Arianna Holmes presented for Project Hope.
 - It is a crisis response program to help families who have been impacted the challenging effects of Covid 19.
 - Legal services available.
 - Hotline is 646- 329- 7176 (M-Sunday 1am to 7pm).
 - Contact directly at Arholmes@northsidcenter.org, Mmarrero@northsidecenter.org
 - <https://nyprojecthope.org/>
- Emily Hespeler, Nutrition Educator, BronxWorks, SNAP-Ed, presented.
 - Contact directly at Ehespeler@bronxworks.org
 - www.snapedny.org
- Joya Sutton, Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities MOSAIC Beacon; and Anayess Dominguez, Youth Worker, Catholic Charities, presented.
- Anayess Dominguez: Youth Worker, Anayess.dominguez@catholiccharitiesny.org Catholic Charities
 - Contact directly at Joya.sutton@archny.org
 - Pantry is 3-5 on Tuesday serving participants with last Name A-L, Wednesday serving Seniors 65+, Thursday last Name M-Z.
 - You must fill out an application and have current ID.

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

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Bishop Earl McKay

4. Roll Call

5. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes

- The February 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct.

- Detective Roberto Oviedo presented.
 - Meeting with the Yankees regarding traffic patterns, street closures, parking etc.
 - It was requested that street closure plans are made public so residents are prepared.
 - No permits being granted right now per Mayor's Executive Order.
 - The precinct has some discretion to help with one-off events. Needs one week notice or more.
 - More patrolling for 156th between Concourse Village East and Concourse Village West was requested due to recent break-ins.

7. Report by CB4 District Manager by Paul A. Philps

- Reiterated importance of following COVID protocols.
- Questioned the lack of deference to CB4 by the Liquor Authority.
 - NYS Assemblymember Chantel Jackson requested to continue this conversation in another meeting.

8. Presentation: Proposal Street re-naming of two Community Board Four advocates

- Stacey Strong, representing Council Vanessa Gibson, presented.
 - Two presentations:
 - Bishop Ceacer Gooding co-naming Macombs Road & West Mount Eden Ave to "Bishop Ceacer Gooding Road"
 - Naimah Bilal co-naming Goble Place & Macombs Road to "Naimah Bilal Way"
 - These were already submitted to the city and approval occurred prior to CB4 review due to filing deadlines and disruptions to administrative flows as a result of COVID.
 - Normally community boards advise prior to renaming.
 - Dates for the naming ceremonies will be sent to Mr. Philps.

9. Committee Reports

- **Economic Development Committee**
 - Committee Chair Beverly Bond reported.
 - Summarized committee work and progress from the past two years.
 - Discussed the extensive vetting done prior to the full board meeting presentations.
 - Five renewal applications were presented:
 - Anotonio Restaurant (221 East 167th)
 - Chipotle Mexican Grill (260 East 161st)
 - NPK Donut Inc. Court Deli Restaurant (96 East 161st)
 - Kanita Lounge/Gota Lounge (136 East 174th)
 - Follow up will continue next month
 - Credit Life Bar & Grill (1275 Edward L. Grant Highway) – alteration
 - Two new applications were presented:
 - La Barricada Restaurant & Sport Bar Inc. (1306 Jerome Ave)
 - Follow up will continue next month

- Emergency Snack Bar/ESB Kitchen & Bar Corp (!372 Jesup Ave)
 - Follow up will continue next month
 - Recapped a presentation by the Bronx Chamber of Commerce.
 - All motions carried.
- **Parks**
 - Committee Chair Paul Lozito reported.
 - Requested letter of support for the Pregones Theatre.
 - Working on the renovation property at Walton Avenue between 149th & 150th Street.
 - Motion carried.
 - Discussed the renaming process for Mullaly Park
 - Aiming for Juneteenth.
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- **Municipal Services**
 - Committee Chair Rosie Dais reported.
 - Presented 44th Precinct monthly activity report
 - Reported on double and triple parking on 750 Grand Concourse
 - Recapped DOT presentation on safety improvement project on East 161st from Macombs Dam Bridge to Grand Concourse and the Grand Concourse from East 161st to East 165th
 - Concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety were raised by the committee to DOT (e.g. aggressive drivers, sharp right turns, etc.).
 - Discussed Yankee Organization’s Community Cleanup programs and PSA proposal
 - Discussed Police Officer and Firefighter Outstanding Service Award event
 - Event tabled for now.
- **Housing**
 - Committee Chair Jackson Strong reported.
 - Did not meet this month.
 - Upcoming pipeline includes projects concerning Yankee Stadium (i.e. talks with EDC) and four zoning text amendments.
- **Youth Services & Education**
 - Committee Chair Zonia Ortiz reported.
 - Did not meet this month.
 - Work on the community resource manual continues.
- **Health & Human Resources**
 - Committee Chair Jason A. Caraballo reported.
 - Presented COVID stats update.
 - March 11 – 17; 10451 – 7.75% positivity rate; 10452 – 8.08%; 10456 – 7.7%
 - Vaccination data
 - 10451 – 26.44% at least one dose; 10452 – 23.92%; 10456 – 20.69%
 - Recapped presentation by Project HOPE
 - Free service program available to adults, veterans, children and families that addresses emotional, mental health and developmental disability challenges as well as crisis counseling to help cope during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Discussed social determinants of health, a healthy recipe contest idea for social media, home health service availability, among other topics.

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

- Hon. Fernando Cabrera (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Unveiled Big Pun Plaza yesterday.
 - Hold up at Comptroller's office for funds for security cameras.
 - Going through preliminary budget hearings.
 - Bronx will have the e-scooter pilot program soon.
 - Recommended 888-NYC-WELL for free counseling services.
 - \$6 billion coming from federal government to help cover budget gaps.
 - Bronx got only 1% of SBA loans from the city (relative to the other boroughs).
- NYS Assemblymember Chantel Jackson (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Visit <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Chantel-Jackson> for updates
 - In 3 months co-sponsored over 100 bills, sponsored 13, mainly concerning children, families, education, and mental health.
 - Hosted workshops on women's rights in the workplace, mental health and stress, civic engagement, and more.
 - Credit 101 event April 1st
 - <https://zoom.us/j/93630971896?pwd=aStOUEY4Rld5R0F6ZjY0Nms2MzhWZz09>
 - VIP Services have a lot of vaccines on hand.
 - Contact directly to put on the waiting list, (718) 583-5150.
- Hon. Luis Sepulveda (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - State budget is \$180 billion.
 - Contact directly at 718-991-3161 or Rlitchard@senatorsepulveda.com.
 - Added nuance to the 1% figure noted by Mr. Cabrera, namely that many Bronx businesses don't have the infrastructure (e.g. paper trail, tax returns, accounting, etc.) to access these types of loans, particularly immigrant owned businesses.
 - Given out 55,000+ masks.
 - Created vaccination wait list.
 - <https://forms.gle/KvNzKXN7bzprfvzGA>
 - The Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT) passed the Senate.
 - Limits the use of segregated confinement for all incarcerated persons to 15 days, implements alternative rehabilitative measures, including the creation of Residential Rehabilitation Units (RRU), expands the definition of segregated confinement, and eliminates the use of segregated confinement for vulnerable incarcerated populations. Waiting for the Governor to sign.
 - Senate's budget proposal contained a \$750 million commitment to residents of NYCHA developments.
 - The Senate resolution increases total school aid by \$5.7 billion.
 - More info here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senate-one-house-budget-resolution-leading-new-york-through-covid-19-beyond>
 - Can help assist those who are facing eviction.
 - Feel free to call cell directly until midnight: 347-582-8173
 - New York will legalize the recreational use of marijuana.
 - Should initially generate \$300-\$400 million in the first year.
- Council Member Vanessa Gibson (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
 - Yankee Stadium will remain a vaccination site even though baseball season is starting.
 - Reiterated importance of getting vaccine.
 - The American Rescue Act will give NYC \$6 billion over two fiscal years.
 - Budget hearings are finishing up.

- Executive budget hearings in May.
 - Will push for pre-pandemic service (e.g. trash pick-up), summer youth program
- Introducing a bill to provide relief for small businesses facing fines (i.e. amnesty program).
- Working on a bill concerning the universal right to counsel concerning evictions
- Reported on the uptick in fires in our district.
- Contact directly at 718-588-7500
- Email is District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov
- Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
 - Reminder to all board members to complete sexual harassment training.
 - Reminder to new board members to complete EEO certification and have it notarized.
 - Contact directly at 718-590-3913 or aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov
- Khadim Niang, representing City Comptroller Scott Stringer
 - Discussed LGBTQ resource guide
 - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/lgbtq-guide/overview/>
 - Contact directly at kniang@comptroller.nyc.gov
- Jose Rodriguez, representing Council Member Diana Ayala (via Zoom chat only, did not present in person)
- Added context regarding the SBS funding CM Cabrera was speaking of.
 - In November, the Mayor announced a set of financial relief programs to assist small businesses in low-to-moderate (LMI) income neighborhoods.
 - These grants, loans, and assistance programs were meant to mitigate some of the financial stress caused by the pandemic.
 - However, there have been inequities with the awarding of said funds.
 - The majority (66 percent) of the money from the Small Business Continuity Loan Fund went to businesses in Manhattan; 18 percent went to businesses in Brooklyn; nine percent for those in Queens; five percent for those in Staten Island; and less than one percent for businesses in the Bronx. Similar inequities were seen with the money from the Employee Retention Grant Program, with 53 percent of Manhattan businesses receiving funds, while only 25 percent of businesses in Brooklyn, 16 percent of businesses in Queens and three percent of businesses share between the Bronx and Staten Island.
 - Contact directly at jrodriguez@council.nyc.gov
- Cecil Brooks, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres
 - Discussed American Rescue Plan Act
 - Also focused on immigration concerns
 - Let their office know if anyone you know has been detained or is otherwise having issues
 - Discussed local quality of life concerns, particularly park cleanliness
 - Contact directly at 718-541-2552 or cecil.brooks@mail.house.gov

11. Old Business/New Business

- Lionell Jackson and Kitty Saunders resigned from the Board.

12. Announcements/Adjournment