

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2022 | 6 pm
Online Via Zoon Platform/ [Bronx Community Board 4 \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.nyc.gov/bronx-community-board-4)
MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Jacqueline Altamirano Marin, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, 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. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Mr. Jackson Strong, Mr. Elliot Viera, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Kweku Brew.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Avery Smith, Dr. Grace Zarate.

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Philips, District Manager

Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Jackie Benavides, Office of US Senator Chuck Schumer

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson

Hon. Luis Sepulveda, NYS Senate Member

Hon. Althea Stevens, NYC Council Member

Tiara Davis, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera

June Soto, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano

Ritchard Ewings, representing Senate Luis Sepulveda

Monica Miranda, Legislative Director Office of NYS Assembly Member Chantel Jackson

Christian Hollins, representing NYS Assembly Member Chantel Jackson

Brittney Ron, representing NYS Assembly Member Amanda Septimo

Skye Jackson-Williams, representing NYC Councilwoman Althea Stevens

GUEST PRESENT:

David Harney-FDNY, Fabricio Caro-FDNY/CAU, Owen Foote-Department of Design & Construction, Richard Velez-FDNY/CAU, Danesh Jaiprashad-Resident, Reynaldo Punzalan-Friends of 4 Parks Alliance, Ann-Marie Faustin-Bronx Parent Housing Network BPHN Inc., Chris Campbell-The Outfield, Jason Cohen-Bronx Times, Jasmine Garcia-Bronx Draffhouse, Junior Martinez-Bronx Draffhouse, Miriam Rodriguez-Circle of Dreams, Rolando Aviles Jr.-Resident, Jacqueline Carter-Resident/Parks Committee Member, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Zeeshan Ott-NYC School Construction Authority, Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter/S.A.V.E.D 4 Life, Anthony Jordan-SOBRO, Arnaldo J Lopez-Pregones Theater, Winifred Campbell-NYC HPD, Ejirooghene Ojeni-HR&A Advisors, Inc., Joyce Hogi-Harlem River Working Group, Nicole Holloway-NYC School Construction Authority, Alexica Quezada-Resident, Esther Polanco-Volunteer of America Greater NY, Geraldine Villatoro-Resident, Rev. Addie Banks-Resident, Sabrina Sultana-MPH Candidate Public Health Policy, Michael Santos, Margaret Banks, Melique Williams-Rodriguez, Chris Grove-Department of Citywide Administration Services, Fatime Cadoo-Resident, Brenda Singpracha, John Kelly, H Martinez, Gabriel Florimon, Hal Choi, SB.

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Agenda Items:

The public hearing commenced at 6:01 p.m.

1. Public Session:

- a. David Harney, Chief of Staff and Deputy Fire Commissioner for Support Services Moderator - EMS Station 17
 - i. ULURP applications for EMS STATION 17 new facility Application # C 210293 PSX & CEQR Number 20FDO001X: In the matter of an application submitted by the NYC Fire Department and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, under Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the site selection of property located at 1257 Morris Avenue (Block 2450, Lot 42) for use as an ambulance station, Borough of Bronx, Community District 4. [NYC Planning - Zoning Application Search](#)
 1. The goal is to increase the EMS support facilities citywide. By increasing the number of EMS stations to be able to reduce angels out of service college and keep those units available in response areas. Voting will occur next meeting in February 2022, presented electrical vehicle and underground parking.
 - ii. Application # C 210294 ZSX in the matter of an application submitted by the NYC Fire Department (FDNY) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) under Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the grant of a special permit under Section 74-67 of the Zoning Resolution to allow an FDNY Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Station use to be located in a residence district, in connection with a proposed 2-story EMS station building, on property located at 1257 Morris Avenue (Block 2450, Lot 42) (15,000 s.f.), in an R7-1 District, Borough of the Bronx, Community District 4.
 1. For additional information regarding the Department of City Planning Zoning application portal: <https://zap.planning.nyc.gov/projects/P2018X0310>
- b. Geri Toro constituent
 - i. Concerns with being assaulted within the community as well as, noise complaints. The constituent was to share her contact information with the Police Community Council president- Ms. Mildred James for additional support to build a rapport with NCOs to combat her concerns.
- c. Danesh Jaiprashed constituent
 - i. Concerns with trash along Gerard Ave over the past three months.
- d. Reynaldo Punzalan- Friendsof4.org
 - i. Zoom Event: What do you want to see in your parks on January 30th at 7 pm.

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

- a. Another year dealing with COVID, advise everyone to mask up and get vaccinated based on your doctor's recommendation.
- b. Remembrance for Bishop Earl McKay, for the positive work he has done within the community. Bishop McKay passed away on December 12, 2021.
- c. 2 NYPD Officers lost their lives on duty, Officer Wilbert Mora and Jason Rivera, prayers for their families and all the men and woman who serve in our communities to have safe tours.

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- d. Jonah Nigh community board member was on the CBS cooking show Maya Rudolph and Andy Samberg hosting - <https://www.peacocktv.com/watch-online/tv/baking-it/8740609464948940112/seasons/1>.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Martha Reyes:

4. Presentation:

- a. NYC Fire Department tips on fire prevention and safety awareness- Fabricio Caro, Director of Community Affairs – FDNY email: fabricio.caro@fdny.nyc.gov.
- i. Fire is a risk in every building, whether you sleep, study, or work there, you should always have an escape plan. You may need to escape within a few minutes of a fire’s start, so your safe exit depends on an immediate warning from smoke alarms and advanced planning of escape routes. To request a fire safety presentation or for further educational fire safety resources visit www.fdnysmart.org, or visit [fire-safety-educational-publications \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.fdnysmart.org/publications).
 - ii. For further information and how to connect with the FDNY email, communityaffairs@fdny.nyc.gov, If there are additional questions contact Mr. Caro or Bronx Borough Manager Richard Velez email: richard.velez@fdny.nyc.gov.
- b. NYC Schools Construction Authority- Nicole Holloway, External Affairs Manager for the Bronx:
- i. Introduction of the New School
 1. The New School will be located on Edward L Grant Highway W. 169th Street across from Cromwell Ave in the Bronx. The new school is to alleviate the overcrowding in the nearby district schools, projected date is to open in 2024, construction will start in February 2022.
 - a. The New School will hold 468 students from Pre-K to 5th grade, with a play yard on the southeast section of the site, two sections of the school will have two exits located at the Edward L. Grant and the play yard. Each grade will have it on the floor and three classrooms along with smaller classrooms for a student who will need additional support. The new school will have music, a library, a multipurpose room, urban and farming rooms.

5. Roll Call (Reserved for Board Members):

- a. Board Member 39; 35 Present; 3 Excused; 1 absent

6. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct:

- a. Not present during the meeting.

7. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes:

- a. John Fielder motioned to approve June 22, 2021. Zonia Ortiz seconded the motion. 35 in favor, 3 abstained, 0 opposed, motions carried to approve the June 22, 2021 minutes.
- b. John Fielder motioned to approve November 23, 2021. Zonia Ortiz seconded the motion. 25 in favor, 10 abstained, 0 opposed motions carried to approve the November 23, 2021 minutes.

8. Report by CB4 District Manager Paul A. Philips:

- a. Happy New Year to the community members and constitutes.
- b. Highlighted Bishop Earl McKay’s accomplishments for the community.
- c. Reminder COVID is still among us, encourage people to be safe, wear a mask, follow CDC guidelines.

9. Committee Reports (called by the Board Chair):

- a. HOUSING & LAND USE

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i. No meeting for January 2022.

b. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE

i. No meeting for January 2022.

ii. Jason Caraballo Chair of the Health & Human Services committee shared COVID update statics from the DOH website: [COVID-19 Tracker | Department of Health website \(doh.gov.ph\)](https://www.doh.gov/ph/covid-19-tracker) from January 16th to January 22th, 2022 district 10451, 10452, and 10456 with the positivity rate and new cases have increased with the Omicron since last General Meeting. Vaccination with one dose within the areas has been increasing ranging from 30% since the last meeting.

1. Please consider following the CDC guidelines for taking precautions with wearing a mask, getting vaccinated, getting tested, etc.

2. Next meeting February 2022.

c. PARKS

i. Paul Lozito Chair of the Parks Department informed of updates:

1. No Meeting for January 2022.

d. YOUTH & EDUCATION

i. Zonia Ortiz Chair of the Youth & Education informed updates:

1. No meeting for January 2022.

2. Happy Holidays and the Next meeting in February 2022 every third Thursday of the month.

e. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

i. Beverly Bond Chair of the Economic Development informed of the updates:

1. Voted items:

a. Renewal for Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider

i. Bronx Drafthouse (884 Gerard Avenue)

b. Application for letter of support for DCA Licensing purpose

i. Bronx County Fairs & Expo Association Inc. for 2022 annual community carnival Bronx fairs at Yankee Stadium Parking Lot.

1. March 31st- April 10th at 100 East 151st Street, Bronx, NY, Lot (Spring Fair)

2. April 13th – 17th, 2022 at 151 East 151st Street, Bronx, NY, Parking Lot (Easter Fair)

f. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

i. Rossmery Dais Chair of the Municipal informed of the updates:

1. No scheduled meeting for January 2022.

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

a. Bronx Borough President Office:

i. Alexis Ruiz, Community Board Liaison, tel: 718-590-3913 email: aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov

1. Board Members need to complete EEO Policy and submit it to the Bronx Borough office via email or fax call for further details.

b. Council Woman, Althea Stevens, email: altheastevens21@gmail.com, Instagram: althea_stevens_d16, Twitter: althea4theBX, located at 1377 Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10452 tel: 718.588.7500.

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- i. The office is open virtually feel free to contact and schedule an appointment, present ideas or questions.
 - ii. Council Discretionary Funding applications are available: discretionary funds to nonprofit organizations' capital projects (such as construction and equipment purchases). To apply for capital discretionary funding, visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nonprofits/funding-opportunities/city-council-discretionary-funding.page>.
 1. Training opportunities for new/current nonprofits who need support.
 - iii. Upcoming updates for:
 1. Community Advisory Council
 - a. Health & Wellness committee
 - b. Senior committee
 - c. Housing committee
 - d. Youth committee
 - e. Multicultural committee
- c. Senator, Luis Sepulveda office: 718.991.3161
- i. Goals:
 1. Obtain more funding for public schools, mental health programs/treatment, affordable housing, and that will improve the economic development of the Bronx community.
 2. Create a plan to decrease gun violence in the Bronx community.
 3. Creating a program to educate landlords and their tenants on the importance of fire safety, and having an evacuation plan.
 - ii. Applying for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/> will provide some level of protection to delay the eviction process.
 - iii. Constitutes who are homeowners who need assistance with arrears apply for NYS Homeowner Assistance Fund, <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/>. Homeowners/ Co-Op owners will be able to use the funds on mortgage, property taxes, property insurance, maintenance, and/or fees.
 - iv. The team has been handing out COVID home test kits, <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/>, four test kits per household free, with no charge on the manufacturer or USPS.
- d. Monica Miranda Legislative Director for the Office of Assembly Member Chantel Jackson-
- i. "Constitutes matters" can be directed to help79districtbx@gmail.com. Scheduling requests can be directed to schedulingbx79@gmail.com. Address: 780 Concourse Village West Ground Floor Bronx NY 10451, Website: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Chantel-Jackson>, Office Number: 718-538-3829
- e. Tiara Davis- Senator Rivera's Office number 718-933-2034:
- i. Condolences to the families who lost loved ones assisted with clothing and food needs.
 - ii. Applying for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>.
 - iii. Constitutes are encouraged to call the office for additional resources or assistance dealing with COVID-related issues, or personal needs- appointments only.

11. No Old/New Business

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.