

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2022 | 6 pm**  
**Online Via Zoon Platform/ [Bronx Community Board 4 \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.bronxcommunityboard4.nyc.gov)**  
**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, Mr. Michael Durant, 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, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, 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, Dr. Grace Zarate.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Arelis Pineda.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Jonah Nigh.

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Paula Caquias, representing Mayor Eric Adams  
Greer Mayhew, representing Comptroller Brad Lander  
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson  
Tiara Davis, representing NYS Senate Gustavo Rivera  
June Soto, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Ritchard Ewings, representing Senate Luis Sepulveda  
Shanell Goring, representing Council Member Pierina Sanchez  
Christian Hollis, representing Assembly Member Chantel Jackson  
Monica Miranda, Legislative Dir. Office of Assembly Member Chantel Jackson  
Newki Polanco Fernandez, representing Assembly Member Latoya Joyner

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Police Officer Shala-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct/CAU, Detective Carmen Tejada-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct/CAU, Devon Brown, Priscilla Ocasio, Patience Yeboah, Mariel Reyes, Monique McMahon-Stancil, Howard Brown, Velez Barbara-Resident, Wanda Jackson, Felicia Yarber-Harriet Tubman Charter School, Keyana Lundy, Jessie Kravet-Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, Priscilla Alexander-P.S. 199X, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Winnie Campbell-NYC HPD, David Antonio, Magda Perez-NYCHHC Lincoln Hospital, Rudy Cordero, Naniala Camara, Dee Jordan, Joyce Hogi-Harlem River Working Group, Delores Jordan, Galaxy S10e, 917-\*\*\*-\*640, 347-\*\*\*-\*304, 845-\*\*\*-\*745.

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**Agenda Items:**

*The public hearing commenced at 6:04 p.m.*

**1. Public Session:**

- a. Jessie Kravet NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx 198 East 161 st Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor tel: 718050801220 Subway 4, B, and D to Yankee Stadium Bus: Bx1, BX2, BX6, and Bx13
  - i. Center opens 9-5 pm, call the City 24- hour Domestic Violence Hotline 800-621-HOPE (4673 for immediate safety planning, shelter assistance jkravet@endgbv.nyc.gov

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

- a. Spring is here, go out and experience the NYC parks.
- b. If you see something, say something.

**3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Martha Reyes:**

- a. Remembrance for Bishop McKay.
- b. Requested a moment of silence for all the lives lost.

**4. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct:**

- a. PO Shala and PO Carman did not provide an update.
  - i. Requested for NCO to be present during General Board Meetings.
  - ii. Addressed parking protocols and increase in gun violence.

**5. Roll Call (Reserved for Board Members):**

- a. Board Member 39; 33 Present; 2 Excused; 4 absent

**6. Nominating Committee Appointment by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair:**

- a. The nominations are the elections for the Executive Board- Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair for each committee conducted every two years.

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

- a. Paul Lozito motioned to approve January 25, 2022. Martha Reyes seconded the motion. 20 in favor, 9 abstained, 0 opposed, motions carried to approve January 25, 2022.
- b. Mildred Jones motioned to approve February 22, 2022, with the adaption to changes and changes to the minutes. Lillian Rosa seconded the motion. 20 in favor, 9 abstained, 0 opposed, motions carried to approve February 22, 2022.

**8. Committee Reports (called by the Board Chair):**

- a. HOUSING & LAND USE
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of March 2022 and the year.
    1. Presentation on a new campus for Success Academy, 600 students K-8<sup>th</sup> grade preliminary information regarding the school requesting feedback for the school, may return to the Board meeting for a letter of support.
      - a. Concerns:
        - i. the traffic volume for the school
        - ii. Fine Arts curriculum layout

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- iii. Students from the CB4 district will attend
  2. Reviewed the District Needs Statement FY23 submission narrative and budget priorities.
- b. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE
- i. AIRnyc presented and provided support services to people within the community and local organizations.
  - ii. Reviewed the District Needs Statement FY23 submission narrative and budget priorities.
  - iii. 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) from March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 22<sup>th</sup>, 2022 district 10451, 10452, and 10456 with the positivity rate and new cases have increased with the new variant of Omicron BA2 since last General Meeting. Vaccination with one dose within the areas has been increasing to 85.5% at least 1 vaccine and 75.3% fully vaccinated since the last meeting.
    1. Please consider following the CDC guidelines for taking precautions by wearing a mask, getting vaccinated, getting tested, etc.
    2. Next meeting April 2022.
- c. PARKS
- i. Paul Lozito Chair of the Parks Department informed of updates:
    1. Presentation by Sarah Balistreri, Environmental Educator from Trees New York, pending additional information regarding the different programs in the community can participate.
    2. Reviewed the District Needs Statement FY23 submission narrative and budget priorities.
- d. YOUTH & EDUCATION
- i. Zonia Ortiz Chair of the Youth & Education informed updates:
    1. Presentation by Rosa Cruz-Cordero & Sofia Rosario from Centro (the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College) on their mission to the community.
    2. Welcomed a new community board member to the committee and reviewed the committee protocols and procedures.
    3. Reviewed the District Needs Statement FY23 submission narrative and budget priorities.
    4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month.
- e. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- i. Beverly Bond Chair of the Economic Development informed of the updates:
    1. Voted items:
      - a. Temporary License Application Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider
        - i. Tito Farmer Marker Inc. (1225 Jerome Avenue)
          1. Catering services
            - a. In good standing with 44<sup>th</sup> precinct.
          2. Motion Avery Smith and Second Rasheida Alston for a letter of support. 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 4 abstain motions carried.
        - b. New Application for Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider
          - i. La Sabrosura 1 Restaurant Corp. (25 A East 170<sup>th</sup> Street)
            1. Had a violation in good standing with the 44<sup>th</sup> precinct
            2. Motion Avery Smith and Arelis Pineda Second for a letter of support. 25 in favor, 3 opposed, 7 abstain motion carried.

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c. Application for Alteration Liquor/Wine/Beer&Cider:

1. Legends Hospitality LLC/NEW York Yankees Partnership (One East 161<sup>st</sup> Street)
  - a. Motion Avery Smith and Arelis Pineda Second for a letter of support. 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 6 abstain motions carried.

f. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

i. Dr. Grace Zarate committee member informed of the updates:

1. Drug Activity:
  - a. Neighborhood Community Officers (NCO) will conduct rooftop video surveillance to record the hand-to-hand exchange of drugs. Where drugs are hidden - Information will be given to Narcotics Unit to act on video surveillance received from NCO's video recordings. Emphasis will be placed on certain locations of known drug activity.
2. Traffic Congestion:
  - a. The three courts located within the area of 161 Street – 167 Street (Family, Housing, and Supreme) contribute to the congestion of cars within this area. The 44<sup>th</sup> precinct is partnering with the Department of Transportation to give tickets and/or tow illegally parked cars.
3. Subway:
  - a. The 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct deployed police officers to patrol 167<sup>th</sup> street and 170<sup>th</sup> street subway stations to combat crime in the subway. Mayor Adam and NYPD are vetting police officers (they will wear jackets indicating they are police officers) who will be assigned to the newly formed Anti-Crime Unit to address: Gun violence & Gang activity

**2. 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](mailto: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.
  2. Zoom meetings have been extended to April 15, 2022.
  3. Reappointment board members continue to serve until you receive a notification from the Bronx Borough Office of your end date. Phone interviews will be connected starting in April 2022.
  4. 14<sup>th</sup> Bronx Borough President Inauguration on Marth 27, 2022 at Lehman College.
    - a. If you should wish to attend, please call 646-470-5378 or click the link placed in the chat to RSVP. [BIT.LY/GIBSON2022](https://bit.ly/GIBSON2022).

b. Christian Hollins, Scheduler for Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, office: 718.538.3829 and the assembly office at 518.455.5272 or [schedulingbx79@gmail.com](mailto:schedulingbx79@gmail.com).

c. Newki Polanco, constituent Liaison for assemblywomen Latoya Joyner email: [polancofernandezn@nyassembly.gov](mailto:polancofernandezn@nyassembly.gov).

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- d. Greer Mayhew, The Bronx Borough Director for Comptroller Brad Lander's Office, email: [gmayhew@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:gmayhew@comptroller.nyc.gov) tel: 929.512.1647.
  - i. If in need of assistance, please feel free to reach out to the office.
  
- e. June Soto, Senator Serrano's office tel: 212.828.5829 email: [scheduler.serrano@gmail.com](mailto:scheduler.serrano@gmail.com).
  - i. Office open to assist the constituents with the PPE, if anyone or any organization in the district needs supplies please call the office.
  - ii. Two Senate programs aimed at recognizing the student and keeping them engaged in the Spring.
    - 1. The Senate Youth Leadership Recognition Awards honor outstanding students who have excelled not only academically, but through leadership in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Eligible students include high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and the deadline for nominations is March 25th. You can nominate students at [serrano.nysenate.gov](https://serrano.nysenate.gov)
  
- f. Ritchard Ewing, Community Liaison NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda for the CB4 district email: [ritchard@senatorsepulveda.com](mailto:ritchard@senatorsepulveda.com), office: 718.991.3161
  - i. The office partnered with the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to create a webinar to discuss the resources of NYC Free Tax Prep and speak about the current tax season. Remember that If you earned \$72,000 or less in 2021, you can file your taxes for free with an IRS certified volunteer preparer. My team will add the link in the chatbox. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page>.
  - ii. The office is open for in-person services by appointment only. The team continues to provide very important services to our constituency. Invitation to all looks through the social media networks via @NYSenSepulveda where there are highlights some testimonies from our constituents who have been able to receive assistance with their complicated cases. If you need assistance, please call the office at 718-991-3161
  - iii. Bills Passed:
    - 1. Fair Pay for home care workers, increasing salaries and working conditions.
    - 2. Request additional funding for ERAP.
  - iv. Encouraging all to continue to necessary precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID. For testing locations for COVID-19, you can send a text COVID-19 or COVID test to 855-48 or call the office to receive assistance for PPE supplies.
  - v. 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.
  
- g. Shanell Goring, Community Advocate for NYC Council Member District 14 Pierina Ana Sanchez: 250 Broadway, Suite 1725, New York, NY 10007 phone:212.788.7074 fax: 212.778.8849.
  - i. Open for Constituent services Monday to Friday 10 am – 3:30 pm- Bronx Location: 2065 Morris Ave tel: 347.590.2874 email: [district14@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district14@council.nyc.gov).
  - ii. Updates:
    - 1. Participatory Budgeting:
      - a. NYC Started budget report focusing on cost-saving reducing headcounts between last fiscal and current fiscal years throughout the city of New York by 10,000 attritions, no one is getting lead off.

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- h. Tiara Davis- Senator Rivera's Office number 718-933-2034:
    - i. Chair of the health
      - 1. Health care for all
      - 2. PPE in the office contact for assistance, to schedule a time to retrieve the supplies.
    - ii. Constituents are encouraged to call the office for additional resources or assistance dealing with COVID-related issues, or personal needs- appointments only. The office has been handing out COVID home test kits, <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/>, four test kits per household free, with no charge to the manufacturer or USPS.
3. No Old/New Business
- a. New Business:
    - i. Felicia Yarber, the Junior Academy Director of Harriet Tubman Charter School in CSD 9, email: [felicia.yarber@htcsbronx.org](mailto:felicia.yarber@htcsbronx.org) tel: 718.801.0639.
      - 1. Serve students in grades K-8<sup>th</sup> grade, space is available in all grades. Apply to [Harriet Tubman Charter School \(htcsbronx.org\)](https://www.htcsbronx.org).
        - a. Lottery selection for students on April 1, 2022.
        - b. All staff vaccinated- Seeking teachers and staff.
    - ii.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.*

Submitted by Veronique Olivette Green, BBM, MSW