

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**Public Hearing/General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 24, 2023 | 6 pm**  
**Bronx Museum of the Arts**  
**1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY**  
**MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Mr. Howard Brown, Mr. Dustin L. Carter, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Veronie Lawrence, Ms. Prettystar Lopez, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahon-Stancil, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Tricia Claxton, Ms. Maria Cuevas Mateo, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Ms. Hillary Pena, Ms. Davina Phillips, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Ms. Jessica Toro, Mr. Dorian E. Waltower.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. Avery Smith.

**STAFF:**

Thomas Alexander, District Manager  
Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams  
Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres  
Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Lisne Bautista, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens  
Esperanza Diaz, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz  
Bryan Rodriguez, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Esther Polanco-Volunteers of America, Freddy Ramos-Volunteers of America, Magda Perez-Lincoln Hospital/Public Affairs, Yolanda Capillari-Kalopsia Restaurant Corp., Claudia Davila-HS of NY, Police Officer Shala-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Shakeema Rogers-Grand Concourse Library, Angela Rivera-El Timbirichi Restaurant Corporation, Sandra Horne-Abbott House, Mariano Laboy-Morrisania D&T, Pabea Kusa-Community Resident, Avri Guzman-ACEI 2 Charter High School, Jessica Reynoso-AECI 2 Charter High School, Chauncy Young-Harlem River Working Group, Cindia Ortiz-Resident, Chandra Moore-Resident, Clarisa Alayeto-DREAM Charter School, Deahna Penn, Olmepo Mors, Arthur Wallace-NABVETS, Jacqueline Carter-Community Resident, Kenismael Santiago-Pagan-Bronx Office of Department of City Planning, Garfield Richard-NYC Parks & Recreation, Loretta Sneed-NYC Parks & Recreation, Cristian Reinosomontes-NYPL Highbridge Branch, Nancy De La Rosa-101 East 161 Restaurant Corp/161 Bar & Grill.

## **PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. Lise Bautista from the City Councilwoman Althea Steven office spoke about the participatory Budget and invited the residents to submit their ideas, requests, concerns and needs of their community for fundings to be allocated accordingly.

2. Sandra Horne from Abbott House spoke about the Foster Parent Resource Fair for prospective foster parents. She also stated that there is a dire need for prospective foster parents in the Bronx.

## **WELCOMIG REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** by Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6: pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedure 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, Sectio 84-90 of the Public Officers Law). Each Community Board Shall meet at least once each month. Community Board 4 shall meet every fourth (4) Tuesday of the month, in person. This Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the meeting was held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Ms. Martha Reyes, Health & Human Services Committee Chair.

## **Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting minutes:**

Minutes from September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were approved (100% in favor).

**ADOPTION:** Capital and Expense Budget Priorities Request FY 2025 for Public Hearing of the FY2025 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Bronx Community Board Four were reviewed, corrected, and approved by Board Chair, District Manager and Board Members.

**Roll Call for Board Members:** Present 29, Excused 5, Absent 12 = Total Board Members 46

**Nominating Committee Appointment:** Nominating Committee was selected to fill vacant positions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Treasury and Recording Secretary. It was also asked if any Board Member was interested in current positions to submit their names to the Board Office.

**Report by NYPD 44th Precinct:** Zoja Shala-NYPD 44th Precinct, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct reported the crime and theft rate in the district for the last 28 days. Burglary is on the rise from 23% to 32%. In 2023, the crime rate has gone down by 27%. Officer Shala announced a Halloween Event for Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 12pm-4pm at Inwood Avenue & Globel Place. Also, the next Precinct Council meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

## **District Manager Report:**

Mr. Thomas Alexander had a brief discussion on the events had within the month and reminded the Board of the importance of minutes recording, attendance and quorum.

## **Committee Reports (Called by the Board Chair):**

## **HOUSING & LAND USE:**

Mr. Jackson Strong, Committee Chair reported on the committee and provided an update about new housing and overcrowding issues in the district.

1. Meets 1st Monday of Each Month

2. Mr. Strong spoke about the issue of overcrowding houses that exist in our district. He stated that the community should make their voice heard and make legislature pass. They should also make proposals to support policies and put pressure on elected officials.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:** Ms. Martha Reyes, Committee Chair reported on the committee. Ms. Reyes reported that there is a countrywide crisis in terms of fundings. She provided information about the influenza shot for people over 55 years of age.

Marie McCullough, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair also reported of the existence of a pneumonia shot for people over 65 years of age.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**  
Yohanny Rincon, Parks Chair reported on the committee.

1. The Parks Committee meets every 2nd Tuesday of every month.

2. Letter of Support request Harlem River Working Group regarding the lack of water access in the Bronx along the Waterfront, proposal for on-water recreational activities in NYC Parks in CB4. 100% in favor, motion passed.

3. Ms. Rincon informed the board about the Parks Committee yearly Survey Field trip that was to take place on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This trip is being taken to assess the needs of the parks in the district in order to request capital funding to make the necessary repairs and improvements accordingly.

**YOUTH SERVICES & EDUCATION:**  
Ms. Zonia Ortiz reported on the committee and stated the committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month.

1. Letter of Support request from Vote 16 NYC and Generation Citizen to initiate a process of obtaining a resolution to support the NYS Legislation call to lower the voting to 16 for NYS and NYC Elections. 3 opposed & 4 abstain, 39 in favor- motion passed.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**  
Report was made by Committee Chair, Mr. Leandro Monzon

1. **KALOPSIA RESTAURANT CORP** (located at 1324 Jerome Avenue) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**Renewal**) 3 abstain & 43 in favor, motion passed.

2. **101 EAST 161 ST RESTAURANT CORP/161 Bar & Grill** (located 101 East 161 Street) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**Renewal**) 3 abstain & 43 in favor, motion passed.

3. **DELICIAS OM RESTAURANT & SEAFOOD INC** (located at 1439 Edward L. Grant Highway) Wine, Beer & Cider (**New Application and Temporary Retail Permit**) 3 abstain & 43 in favor, motion passed.

4. **LE TROU LE TROU CORP** (located 7 East Clarke Place) Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (**New Application and Temporary Retail Permit**) 3 abstain & 43 in favor, motion passed.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES:**

Mrs. Rosmery Dais, Committee Chair, reported on the Committee.

1. The committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month.
2. Letter of Support request for Street Co-Naming at Marcy Place and Walton Avenue to Sgt. Cornelius H. Charlton Way. Motion passed, 100% in favor.

## **Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President and Local Elected Officials:**

1. **Leonardo Coello**, representing Mayor Eric Adams - Congratulations on the new District Manager Mr. Thomas Alexander and spoke on the Mayor's up to date happenings.
2. **Skye Jackson**, representing Councilwoman Althea Stevens  
Town Hall at Claremont Center about Public Safety in the neighborhood Constituent hours- Mon. & Wed. appointment only, Tues. & Thurs. walk-ins and follow-ups, Fri. no appointments.
3. **Terell Brock**, representing Senator Jose M. Serrano  
reported how Senator Serrano has passed 17 bills. He was the keynote speaker at a celebration that took place in Roberto Clemente State Park. District Office- 335 East 100th Street bet. 1st and 2nd Avenues, Mon.-Fri. 9AM to 5PM, (212) 828-5829 or [serrano@nysenate.gov](mailto:serrano@nysenate.gov)
4. **Courtney Aubain**, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres- Discussed How Congressman Torres has been fighting to allocate 5million dollars to create more subsidized housing. Office is open Mon-Fri. from 10AM to 5PM.
5. **Esperanza Diaz**, representing Councilman Oswald Feliz- District Office located at 573 West Fordham Road, (718) 842-8100.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello from Friends of 4 Parks announced a Halloween Extravaganza taking place on October 28th, 2023, from 1pm-5pm at Fran Sigel Park, RSVP is welcomed for this free event.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:44 PM

Submitted by Yohanny Rincon