

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**Public Hearing/General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 26, 2024 | 6 pm**  
**Bronx Museum of the Arts**  
**1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY**  
**MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Triciah Claxton, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, 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. Michelle Mootreddy, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Jessica Toro, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Maria Cuevas Mateo, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Ms. Monique McMahon-Stancil, Ms. Davina Phillips, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Dorian E. Waltower.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure.

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson  
Rusking Pimentel, representing NYS Senate Luis R. Sepúlveda  
Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Sharon Williams, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais  
Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens  
Nicol Aguila, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Marvin McFadden-Volunteers of America, Esther Polanco-Volunteers of America, Robert Flores-DOE P.S. 359, Jeff Perez-Bronx Lacrosse, Mariano Laboy-Morrisania D&T, Nick Leffler-Bronx Lacrosse, Michael Garcia-Resident, Brian McCullough-BronxWorks/Bronx Point, Juan Saldana-NYC Department of Sanitation, Jerreth Smith-DOHMH/Bronx Neighborhood Action Center, Raymond Arroyo-SPO Restaurant LLC Zona de Cuba, Riki Santos-SPO Restaurant LLC Zona de Cuba, Shakima Gillings, Ariana Bon-WHEDco, Police Officer Damir Cirikovic-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Commanding Deputy Inspector Anthony Mascia-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Andre Prepl, Edward Bunge-Resident, Magda Perez-Lincoln Hospital, Kerry A. McLean-WHEDco, Shakeema Rogers-NYPL Grand Concourse Library, Diane Strom-Bronx Care Health System, Peter Sherman-Bronx Care Health System,

Jumanah Escalera-Bronx District Attorney Office, Jose Luis Nunez-El Patron Night Club Cabaret Restaurant Inc, Daniel P. Silvera-Bridge Builders Community Partnership, Ruvi Lopez-BXEDC, Virginia Guerrero-Astor Services, Chaplain Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter/Saved 4Life Cancer Corp.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. Robert Flores, Parent Coordinator at Concourse Village. They are currently moving. Passing out flyers moving to 639 St Anne's Ave Extending to middle-school. They are a blue ribbon school. They just became an IV school so now they are connected internationally.
2. Juan Saldana, Department of Sanitation. Informing that it is essential that bins have secure lids, put your bins out by 8pm. It only includes perishable wastes, no metals. The bins are for residents.
3. Karen McLean, WHEDCO Initiative. They are focused on financial access, co founded a financial coalition. Spoke about Bronx redlining. They spoke about financial services and resources to undocumented folk. The Credit union will be located in the South Bronx, they haven't decided yet.
4. Jerreth Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator from Bronx Neighborhood Action Center. They offer free pest control services for children with asthma. Bronx men health study specifically from Bronx Black and Latino men.
5. Jeff Perez, Bronx Lacrosse. A sports group for 5th-12th grade near Cardinal Hayes, promoting student engagement through sports, through Lacrosse. They are growing, they are in need of an office space. They are located on 161st near the REC center by Yankee stadium.

(Public session closed at 6:25)

**WELCOMING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Led and delivered by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, at 6:25pm. Mr Garmendiz mentioned that we met quorum early, and opened our meeting at 6:25pm. Mr Garmendiz addressed the police officer who was killed on duty, and expressed his condolences.

(Closed welcoming remark and announcements at 6:27)

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Led and delivered by Martha Reyes, Health & Human Services Committee Chair, at 6:27pm.

(Invocation and pledge of allegiance closed at 6:29pm)

**REPORT BY NYPD 44TH PRECINCT:**

Anthony Mascia, Commanding Officer, addressed the death of the officer and the CR teams who helped and how crucial they are. Increase in crime by 3%, 1 murder up, rapes 3vs3, robberies are down, up felony assaults 86vs65, 40% increase in domestic violence, burglaries down 29% (one person did 12 burglaries in about three days), stolen cars 18 vs38 for the same time last year. Shootings are up 5 vs 3. They have been getting a lot of guns, working with the DA and. YCO's arresting juvenile perps. Additional cameras in Foster and Claremont Park. Our precinct's response time is down. They upped the size for the precinct NCO officers, they handle regular. April 10th NYPD 44th Precinct Community Precinct Council Meetings.

(NYPD 44th Precinct report closed at 6:50pm)

**REVIEW/CORRECTION/ADOPTION OF GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

1. Veronique Green motioned to adopt the January 23rd General Board Meeting Minutes, Jessica Toro 2nd. 1 abstention. 0 opposed. Motion passed.
2. Shekera Algarin motioned to adopt the February 27th General Board Meeting Minutes, Jessica Toro 2nd. 1 abstention. 0 opposed. Motion passed.

(Review/Correction/Adoption of Minutes Close at 6:54pm)

**DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT:**

Led and delivered by Thomas Alexander, District Manager, at 6:54pm. Addressing the need for volunteers in the Health & Human Services Committee. We need a quorum for many committees. Mr Alexander addressed the fact that we need to vote more, CB 4 wants to start a voter registration drive. He brought voter registration applications from the Board of Elections office in English and Spanish. Mentioned the Bronx Defenders and their civic engagement course and mentioned he will ask them for help in the voter registration drive. Urged people to contact the CB4 office for resources and asked them to get more involved. Emphasized that we need to vote. Said that there are 4 or 5 board members who have not reapplied for CB4 for the upcoming year. Emphasized that young people need to be engaged in the initiative of being civically engaged. Stressed the 311 system, says we need to call it as much as possible, with that we can advance getting issues addressed.

You can register, if you're done with parole. You need to do a change of address form if you want to vote. If you are changing political parties, you need to re-register.

(District Manager Report ended at 7:03pm)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Economic Development:

- Beverley Bonds did the report (Leo Monzon was excused) She explained how the committee works and the kind of relationship the NYPD has with the small businesses in our neighborhoods, customers and residents.

1. EL PATRON, they cooperate with camera access, Mr Mascia thinks they're great to work with. The committee motioned, Martha Reyes 2nd. For a letter of support for a license renewal (2 abstentions) [VOTING ITEM]

2. ZONA DE CUBA, The committee motioned, Martha (2 abstentions) for a letter of support for a license renewal. [VOTING ITEM]

3. CHUCK E CHEESE, NYPD were concerned about camera access and wanted the NYPD to access the cameras from a corporation to LLS. There was no 2nd motion, no vote, no LLS grant. [VOTING ITEM]

- Municipal Services:

- Rossmery Dais, Committee Chairperson.

- NYPD went to the MS committee to report on stats
- less lawyers available for families
- some lawyers have around 200 case loads
- continued discussion on 4+44 awards event, honors NYPD and FDNY officers. They are looking to institute a couple of changes
- 1st Wednesday of the month

- Parks:

- Yohanny Rincon, Committee Chairperson, the scheduled presentation for New Yorkers for Parks didn't go through because the CB already provided a letter of support for them during the Summer. presentation about river commons and a new public green space between 167th St and 168th St. they explored the idea of a community survey. Claremont Park Ballfield Prep is taking place soon. They meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

- Youth Services and Education:

- Zonia Ortiz, Committee Chairperson, reported on Apple Bank and the Youth Savings Account. Also reporting on the Kwame Toure Rec Center and the services they provide for the youth and adults. She touched on the membership fees. Ms Ortiz also touched on the community resource manual and reminded committee members to keep collecting data on their areas of interests.

- Health & Human Services Committee:

- Martha Reyes, Committee Chairperson, deferred to Peter Sherman and Diane Strom from BronxCare Human Trafficking Task Force to give a presentation on human trafficking:
  - They are founded by the world childhood foundation. They discussed the difference between smuggling and trafficking.
  - Trafficking Victims Protections Act. Talked about Sex trafficking of adults and minors and where it can happen, labor trafficking and the places it can happen in. They tried to show a 4 minute long video from DHS and showed the number to Federal Law Enforcement and National Human Trafficking Hotline. They are not a direct service provider, they bring agencies together and work as a liaison. (Committee presentation report ended 8:18pm)
  - Highbridge Redevelopment, Samaritan sent a report, but they are not asking for a letter of support.
  - We have ranked 62 out of 62 counties, which means we are the sickest, from the County Health rankings from the University of Wisconsin, the National Findings Report.
- Housing & Land Use:
  - Led and delivered by Jackson Strong, Committee Chairperson. Mr Strong reported on a housing resolution, focusing on two points: shelters and housing unaffordability. Mentioned we should probably have a stipend counsel. He said the lawmakers are not serious about solving the issue, discussing ways and reforms for the housing issue.  
(Committee Reports Ended at 8:33pm)

**REPORT FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

1. Brandon Gonzalez, Council Member Stevens: Bronx Zoo, Community Day on Saturday. Ariva tax Prep on Fridays. They have fair fare metrocards.
2. Jumanah Escalera, The Bronx District Attorney's Office: Prom Dress and Suit Drive, collecting suits and ties and everything, the distribution will be on May 4th, will be located at Bay Plaza. You need to take a High School Student ID, E 198 161st.
3. Terell Brock, State Senator José Serrano:  
Off-site constituent hours to share questions or concerns with the constituent affairs team, shared the dates.
4. Sharon Williams, Assembly Member Landon Dais. Up and running Monday-Tuesdays are walk-in days 910 Grand Concourse

718-538-2000. Talked about NAICA, helping with first time homeownership.

(Report From Elected Officials Ended at 8:40pm)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Led and delivered by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair at 8:40pm. No Unfinished Business or New Business. Mr Garmendiz wished everyone a Happy Easter and Good Ramadan.

(Unfinished Business/New Business Ended at 8:40pm)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS:**

Led and delivered by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR'S GENERAL BOARD MEETING WAS  
ADJOURNED AT 8:40PM.**

General Board meeting minutes taken by Prettystar Lopez, Interim Secretary.