

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS  
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165<sup>th</sup> Street

**Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mr. Rolando Aviles, Mr. Napoleon Black, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Ms. Connie Morales, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Ruby Santana, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Jackson Strong, Mr. Mohammed Suleman, Mr. Oshrie Zak.**

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**Mr. John Howard Algarin, Ms. Naimah Bilal, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Ms. Teresa Wright, Dr. Grace Zarate.**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Ms. Bayeena Bilal, Ms. Jennelle Boyd, Ms. Lynn Sanchez, Mr. Ernest Serrano.**

**STAFF:**

**Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Mr. Ramon Cabral, representing US Congressman Jose E. Serrano  
Ms. Maria De La Cruz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Mr. Tom Lucania, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Ms. Farhana Hassan, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Annalicia Finol, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Ms. Miriam Tabb, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner  
Mr. Casey Parent, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake  
Mr. Jeffrey Velasquez, representing NYC Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson**

**GUEST PRESENT:**

**Ms. Moira Cray- NYC Autism Charter School, Ms. Shelia Mulcahy- Brilla College Prep, Ms. Meiling Viera-Delgado- NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Ms. Jelani Griffith- Resident, Sgt. Kevin Graygen- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Police Officer Marc O'Connor- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Ms. Kimberly Jefferson- NYC Public Library Melrose Branch, Mr. Jason A. Caraballo- Resident, Mr. Arron Min, Ms. Courtney Fields- Concourse Village West, Mr. Donavin White- Resident, Mr. Jose Luis Nunez- Resident, Ms. Arlene Hall- St. Simonon's Church, Police Officer Hubbard- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Police Officer Flynn- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Ms. Betty Crawford- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council President, Ms. Wanda Ellis-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Ms. Cynthia Cox- Concourse Village West District Leader, Ms. Vivian Louie- Pathways in Education Charter School-New York, Police Officer W. Melendez- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Police Officer B. Roman- NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Ms. Chrelle Silvera- Resident, Mr. Konstantin Detchlor-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Ms. Iris Rodriguez-Rosa- Bronx Borough Commissioner NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Mr. John Sanchez- Northeast Charter Schools Network, Ms. Lauren Click- Bronx Museum of the Arts.**

**FY2017 Capital and Expense Budget Commentary for the Preliminary Budget – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Mr. Robert Garmendiz and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Ms. Mildred James. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair reviewed the 15 items on the Capital Budget Priorities and Requests. Item #7 – Provide more housing for medium income households is part**

of the Mayor's housing plan. The Board would like to ask what the existing resources are. They want a re-assessment of middle income residents. Do seniors with middle income have to move out of the community? The position of this Board is to get middle income housing. However, how can it get funding. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair reviewed the 10 items on the Expense Budget Priorities and Requests. Item #2 – Forestry services, including street tree maintenance. This item will be funded in Spring 2017. Item #4 – Provide new traffic or pedestrian signals. The locations need to be studied first. Item #8 – Clean catch basins. The responsible agency (DEP) needs more information from the Community Board before making a funding decision. The Boards asks for the constituents to contact them so that they can represent them.

The Board will be responding on this preliminary budget. Anyone who has any further suggestions should contact the office. Otherwise, the Board will be responding to the preliminary budget by the end of the week.

### **Public Session –**

1. Meiling Viera-Delgado, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene – The Board was presented with information on the Zika Virus. The Zika Virus is spread through mosquito bites and may cause birth defects. It is advised that pregnant women delay any travel plans to affected areas. If that is not possible they should speak to their physician prior to and immediately upon return. In addition, this virus can be transmitted sexually and condom use is strongly advised. Anyone that has traveled recently and may be pregnant should seek medical attention immediately.
2. John Sanchez, Northeast Charter Schools Network – NYC Press Conference and Day of Action is scheduled for March 3, 2016 at 11:00 am at 1176 Franklin Avenue. RSVP at 646-300-5743 or [jsanchez@netcharters.org](mailto:jsanchez@netcharters.org).
3. Donavin White – The resident complained to the Board about Yankee Stadium and its fans. During the period of April to October there is an ongoing amount of noise and traffic congestion surrounding the area around Yankee Stadium. The NYPD does not do anything to alleviate these concerns. The Board Chair advised they have been in communication with both the Yankee organization and NYPD about this problem. It will once again address this problem to them.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. After the conclusion of the FY 2017 Capital and Expense Budget preliminary review, the Chair welcomed everyone. She called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedures 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, Section 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<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of the month. This Tuesday, February 23, 2016, the meeting is held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** led by Bishop Earl McKay.

**Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting:** Mr. Robert Garmendiz motioned to accept the minutes for October 27, 2015 and it was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. The minutes were approved. Ms. Mildred James motioned to accept the second set of minutes for November 24, 2015; and it was seconded by Ms. Francis Hudson-Marrow.

**Action: Removal of Board Members**

A motion was made by the Executive Committee for the removal of two board members for lack of attendance. Contact was made to the board members by the Board and no response was received by them. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz for the removal of Ms. Bayeena Bilal. After the vote, the motion carries. The motion was seconded for the removal of Ms. Lynn Sanchez. After the vote, this motion also carries.

**Search Committee Update**

Committee members are Beverly Bonds, Bishop McKay, Lilliam Rosa, Martha Reyes and Kathleen Saunders. The committee has received 15 resumes. The Board will be kept up to date on the selection. After a selection has been made the Board will have an opportunity to meet the candidate and ask any questions.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES- HOUSING & LAND USE- MUNICIPAL SERVICES & EDUCATION - PARKS- YOUTH SERVICES**

**Economic Development Committee-** No Report

**Municipal Services Committee-** No Report

**Housing & Land Use Committee-** Mr. Michael Kramer a real estate director for Parkit Management came before the committee to request for upzoning of his property at Jerome Avenue & 169<sup>th</sup> Street from an M1 zone to an R8. The area is currently used for auto related businesses. They will return to the Housing & Land Committee along with more of their partners to present and request for an upzone of said property. We invite everyone to attend our committee meeting on March 7, 2016.

**Parks and Recreation Committee-** Our Chair, John Algarin wrote an editorial to Mayor DiBlasio and Parks Commissioner Silva requesting they repeal the \$200 fees for tennis permits. He sent it to the NY Times and the Daily News and is awaiting publication. The Bronx Times will publish it this week. The Executive Committee gave him the permission to send this editorial out. A copy of the editorial is enclosed in your folders. Also, we have two parks that we are interested that you vote for at the Parks without Borders program. The parks are Mosaic Success Gardens. Select this park and ask for water for the garden. Grant Park between 169<sup>th</sup> Street and 170<sup>th</sup> Street is the other park and we would like for the lowering of the fences on both the 169<sup>th</sup> and 170<sup>th</sup> sides. The website for voting is [www.nyc.gov/parks/PWB](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/PWB).

**Youth Services & Education-** We had a presentation from Pathways in Education for a charter school for overage youths. It will be the first of its kind in NYC and it is based on the one currently in California. It will have social worker services while influencing independence studies. The program will focus on high school students failing in traditional schools and assist them in obtaining a diploma rather than a GED. It provides one on one instruction and classroom flexibility. Their approach for the program is an individualized plan. The

grades are 9 to 12 and up to age 21. The committee recommends a Letter of Support. Mr. Oshrie Zak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Health & Human Services Committee – No Report.**

**Presentation: NYC Department of Parks & Recreation on the Mayor’s “Parks without Borders” initiative by Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Bronx Borough Commissioner.** Parks without Borders is a new approach to park design that creates more open, welcoming, and beautiful public spaces. The department is in search of what it is that people want to happen in their parks. It is asking the public for their input on design improvements whether it be shorter fences, more greenery, better sidelines, more benches, installation of fountains, etc. All communities are welcome to participate in this survey by visiting the Parks Department website at [nyc.gov/parks/PWB](http://nyc.gov/parks/PWB) before February 28, 2016. The best eight will be selected and funded for the project. The Bronx Borough Commissioner would love to hear from you on any parks relation and may be contacted at 718-430-1801.

**Presentation: Brilla College Prep Public Charter School by Shelia Johnston Mulcahy, Executive Director**  
The school is located in Mott Haven and it opened in 2013. There are 350 students from Kindergarten to third grade. It is within Community School District 7 and those residents in that community have preference for open spots. Fourteen percent of students are special education, 89% qualify for free lunch; two thirds are Latinos and one third is African American. The teacher to student ratio is one to eight. There are 15 computers in each classroom. Five parent workshops are scheduled throughout the year. Another branch will be opening in the Highbridge Section in 2017-2018 and it is projected to have 120 slots. The lottery preference for that location is Community District #9. Mr. Gregory Delts of the Youth Committee motioned for a Letter of Support\* for the Brilla College Prep Public School. It was seconded by Ms. Connie Morales. The motion passed. \* Due to time constrain, and an approval vote to provide a Letter of Support at committee level, the Letter of Support was already provided.

**Presentation: NYC Autism Charter School by Moira Cray, LMSW, BCBA, Director of Transition & Community Outreach.**

- The only school in New York State for Autism
- Located in East Harlem
- Eco School
- 1:1 teacher to student ratio
- Giving all children with autism a chance
- Our children learn to:
  - Have a conversation
  - Play catch
  - Independence
  - Academics
  - How to tolerate medical visits
  - Getting dressed independently
- Internship for future teachers from local colleges and universities
- No application fee. No cost for tuition.
- Website: [nycacharterschool.org](http://nycacharterschool.org)

The motion was made by Mr. Gregory Delts and seconded by Ms. Zonia Ortiz to provide a Letter of Support to the NYC Autism Charter School. The motion was approved.

**Presentation: Boogie on the Boulevard, Lauren Click, The Bronx Museum of the Arts.** The announcement for the Boogie on the Boulevard summer street closings, for five Sundays during May to September from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The street closings have been extended from 162<sup>nd</sup> Street to 170<sup>th</sup> Street. Only the middle lanes will be closed. The event will be sponsored by 90 community partners. The motion was made by Ms. Martha Reyes for a Letter of Support and seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Report by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** represented by Tom Lucania.

- State of the Borough address.
- Concourse Yard development.
- Gov. Cuomo's K-Solar program.
- Dominican Heritage celebration at Fiesta Deluxe Catering Hall on February 25, 2016 at 12:00 pm.
- Free Financial Counseling by appointment only at 851 Grand Concourse. Call 718-590-3554.

**Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.**

*Congressman Jose E. Serrano represented by Ramon Cabral*

- March 9, 2016, Town Hall Meeting, "Conversations with Congress" at Hostos Community College, 3:30 pm.

*NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera represented by Annalicia Finol*

- Legal Clinic, March 10, 2016 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Legal Clinic, March 24, 2016 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Tenant Support Unit from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm every Tuesday.
- All events are at 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506. For appointments contact 718-933-2034.

*NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Farhana Hassan*

- Thank you to those that attended the Black History month celebration on February 22, 2016 at Hostos Community College.
- March 4, 2016, free Tax Preparation, 1916 Park Avenue, Suite 202 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

*Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Miriam Taab*

- February 26, 2016, Black History Month Celebration along with Senator Jose Serrano and Councilwoman Vanessa L. Gibson at the Bronx Museum of Arts-1040 Grand Concourse at 5:30 pm. RSVP at 718-588-7500 or [District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov).
- Free Housing Legal Clinic every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- March 19, 2016, free Tax Prep services at district office, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- March 26, 2016, Second Annual Women's History Month event at P.S. 73-1020 Anderson Avenue, 11:00 p to 3:00 pm. Activities include: meditation, yoga, zumba and massage therapy.
- Starting a, Friends of Joyce Kilmer Park. Anyone interested in joining please contact our office.
- Office is at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK and contact number is 718-538-2000.

*Councilwoman Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Jeffrey Velasquez*

- February 26, 2016, Black History Month Celebration along with Senator Jose Serrano and Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner at the Bronx Museum of Arts-1040 Grand Concourse at 5:30 pm. RSVP at 718-588-7500 or [District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov).
- Free Legal Clinics on the last Wednesday of every month from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm by appointment. 1377 Jerome Avenue.
- Free Immigration Services, Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm by appointment.

- Contact 718-588-7500 for appointments or further information.

*New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer represented by Maria de la Cruz*

- March 8, 2016, Women's History Month celebration at 31 Chamber's Street from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- March 31, 2016, Bronx Town Hall meeting, 990 Pelham Parkway South from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- For further information on these events contact 212-669-8720.

### **Report by NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct**

#### **P.O. Flynn:**

The 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct has reorganized its patrols into a new neighborhood plan. It is a new community policing program called Neighborhood Coordinating Officers (NCO). It is divided within five (A-E) sectors throughout the precinct, with two officers per sector. An additional four officers have been assigned exclusively to handle housing issues. They are expected to attend community meetings and become familiar with the faces in the neighborhood. Each officer has been assigned a cell phone number where members of the community can reach them. The 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct looks forward to any feedback the community can provide on this program.

#### **P.O. Oviedo:**

The Field Training Program is for newly assigned officers in the field. The officers rotate in the field during all four shifts in order to get the ins and outs of policing. This program helps the officers establish community relations between businesses and the community within the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct. In addition, they visit all the houses of worship in the community and become familiar with them. They want to establish a tight bond with the community.

*The next 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will meet on March 9, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Findlay Houses – 1175 Findlay Avenue. For more information please contact 718-590-5525.*

### **Announcements:**

Mr. Ebrahim Ndure – I would like to thank the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, particularly P.O. Butera and P.O. Bell for coming to the Islamic Center.

Free citizenship program at the Highbridge Library, Monday & Wednesday 5 pm to 7 pm and Saturday 11 am to 12:30 pm.

***Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.***

***Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.***