

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. James Boyd, Jr., Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Walter Harris, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Mr. Avery Smith.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Ms. Shayra Reyes, representing US Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Mr. Khadim Niang, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Ms. Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Ms. Jane Soto, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner
Ms. Aaliyah Mais, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala
Mr. Justin Cortes, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson
Hon. Rafael Salamanca, Jr., New York City Council Member

GUEST PRESENT:

Carmen Rivera-VIP Community Services, Elba Rodriguez, Mervin McFadden-Volunteers of America, Linda Moshett-Volunteers of America, Fordmunth Frem, Maya Barrera-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Zaira Hidalgo-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Edwin Pagan, Johnny Pagan, Patricia Ablakura-Resident, Zena Sawaged-Mayors office to End Domestic and Gender Based Violence, Anita Long, Kedisha Samuels, Charmaine Graham, Brenda Dock-Municipal Services Committee member, Ashley Sanchez, Veliza Fabio, Walter Davis Jr., Ishaira Garcia, Kevin Woodhouse-Concourse Village, Daniel Luna, Shakira Pendley, Rachel Gill-BronxWorks, Joseph Michialis-Yankee Twin Eatery Bar, John Michialis-Yankee Twin Eatery Bar, L. Caraballo, Jamie Bordon-BPHN, Michael Rivera-BPHN, Susaue Goelz, Latoya Clark-New York Public Library, Hillary Colon-APRHS, Kerry Chicon-Bronx DA's Office, Robert Barnes-Bronx DA's Office, Mariano Laboy-Resident, Jennifer Guayllazaca, Damaris Guayllazaca, Victoria Paulino, Sampson Oberg, Jose Infante, Roslyn Rosas, Mabel Rodriguez, Nelson Vasquez, Melissa Lennox-Montefiore Medical Group-CHCC, Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter, Walter G. Rodriguez-Resident, Chris Campbell-NYC, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association/ 44th Precinct Vice President, Lon Wilson-N.Y. Walkers Club, Marc Frasier-Resident, Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Mary Dribe, Cynthia Cox-Concourse Village, Chlali Graez, Tom Glacken, Sr.-Glackens Bar & Grill Corp., Tom Glacken-Glackens Bar & Grill Corp., Ester Lopez-Resident, Nayelin Adams-Resident, Jasper Diaz-No Casino at Willets Point.

Public Session

1. *Kerry Chicon, Bronx DA's Office – Division Chief of Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations* – Criminal Justice Reform went into effect on January 1, 2020. The DA previously discussed the changes at the last Town Hall meeting, what the legislation means and how they are going to implement it in their office. Additionally, the downstate District Attorneys came together and wrote an editorial in today's NY Times suggesting some changes to these laws. They are positive and support the changes, but still believe they need some edits and some further changes.
2. *Mariano Laboy, Resident* – Mr. Laboy extended an invitation to membership to the Community Advisory Board. He also extended an invitation to attend the 44th Precinct Community Council on March 11, 2020.
3. *Zena Sawaged, Outreach Liaison to the Mayor's Office to end Domestic and Gender-based Violence* – The office is bringing awareness to NYC based resources available for anyone encountering sex trafficking, intimate partner violence, domestic violence and elder abuse.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. She acknowledged merit awards presented to two board members, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz and Mr. Mohammed Mardah by the Bronx Borough President for their work within our community.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Bishop Earl McKay.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting: Bishop Earl McKay moved to approve the minutes of both November 26, 2019 and January 28, 2020 and they were seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After two individual votes, both sets of minutes were accepted and the motion carries.

District Manager's Report

- Attended jury duty the previous month and was glad in doing so.
- February 6, 2020 – attended grand opening of the local Food Bazaar.
- February 10, 2020 – Attended the 24th meeting of the Jerome Avenue Collaborative
 - Work Force development
 - Points of Agreement
 - Currently have Mission Statement, goal targets, etc.
 - Next step is to establish a Steering Committee and Board of Directors
- February 12, 2020 – Jerome Avenue Task Force
 - Presented draft plan to both CM Cabrera and CM Gibson
 - In the next two months we will be prioritizing 60+ recommendations, developing strategies and feedback from the community and identifying responsibilities by agency
 - Will also publicize a document
- February 18, 2020 – Westside Federation for Seniors Supportive Housing
 - Parcel is adjacent to Corporal Fischer Park.
 - 100 units of senior housing with 1 BR, 2 BR and studios. 30% of the units are for the formerly homeless.
 - The facility will include a health and wellness center
 - They will come to the Board for the ULURP process
- February 20, 2020 – Attended the honoring ceremony by the Bronx Borough President for Mr. Mardah and Mrs. Ortiz for their work and contribution to the community.
 - Also attended the Bronx Borough President's Reception at the Rotunda
 - Attended the MTA Redesign public hearing at the Bronx Museum
- February 25, 2020 – Jerome Avenue Collaborative meeting to discuss the mission and goals. There will be a Public Meeting in the fall.
- February 29, 2020 – 2020 Parks Meetup at Symphony Diner, 496 E. 161st Street

- DOT – CVW Mitigation Town Hall
- February 24, 2020 – DOT Citibike Workshop at New Settlement Jerome Center-1501 Jerome Avenue
- Soccer Stadium – This is in reference to an article that appeared in the newspaper. The DM would like to clarify that the Board had only one meeting with the developer. They did not share a design for a stadium with the Board. There was a lot of misinformation in the article aside from it being misleading. They have not met yet with the City. There is no position to take yet, because we do not have a position to take anything on.
 - The ULI will focus on the soccer stadium. When available, the report will be on their website.
 - The report does not represent our views as a community board.
 - No final copy of the report has been seen
- Lastly, it is important how we conduct ourselves as individual human beings. Respect is important. We must treat each other with respect and we must treat our guests with the same respect.

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

Economic Development Committee- The committee reported the following requests for letters of support. **1) Glackens Bar & Grill Corp.,** - 135 E. 149th Street – **Renewal.** **2) Yankee Twin Eatery & Bar** – 844 River Avenue, **Class Change.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Spencer Edwards. After the vote, the **motion carries.**

Municipal Services Committee – The committee was presented by the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) on their Better Buses Initiatives along Edward L. Grant Highway at 167th/168th streets which is a vision zero priority area. Because of its long crossing distances, unprotected bike lanes and speeding encouraged by its wide roadway, this area impedes pedestrian safety. DOT proposes to create bus boarding islands and safer bike lanes, etc. By doing so, this will improve the speed of buses, bus stop accessibility, shorter crossing distances, improvement of pedestrian crossing and bicycle safety. However, there will be a loss of 6-20 parking spots. The committee also had a presentation requesting a Letter of Support for the design and construction of a new FDNY EMS headquarters at 1257 Morris Avenue between 167th & 169th Street. This new facility will replace the existing one at 1080 Ogden Avenue between 165th Street and 166th Street. This new facility will be the restocking station for the ambulance supplies, it will be open 24 hours and it holds 11 units. It will provide 24 parking spots; therefore, they will not use any residential parking. The construction will take approximately two to three years to complete. At committee, it was voted unanimously to grant a Letter of Support. They will come back to committee at a later time with proposed renderings of the design and construction. The Committee motioned to provide a LOS for the design and construction of an EMS Headquarters at 1251 Morris Avenue. It was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. After the vote, the **motion carries.**

Housing & Land Use Committee – The committee did not have any voting items at their last meeting. They did, however, discuss the Budget Priorities for FY2022 that will be submitted in October. The committee Chair advised that as far as the soccer stadium is concerned, we do not have a specific proposal on it. We are still discussing in general whether municipal land will be used for the stadium or any other project that will benefit and incorporate the best use of the land. We are also grateful for the Urban Land Institute and the work on the recommendations and help to craft the community's vision.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The committee announced the Bike ride meetup to Lehman College. The committee will continue the process of the Park Surveys in the district. The Chair extended an invitation to attend the Parks Committee to learn more about the Committee's involvement in the parks in the district and the district needs of those parks.

Health Services Committee – The committee had a presentation from VIP Community Services. They are requesting a letter of support for the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) at 946 College Avenue. They've appeared in front of this community board six years before and are now requesting a renewal of the letter of support. This is for a 65 unit facility housing single individuals. A motion was made by the Committee to provide a letter of support to VIP Community Services, Inc. for the renewal of their application to the Department of Health at the SRO located at 946 College Avenue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. After the vote, the motion carries. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report will be available next month and the Bronx ranking will be posted on it. There is a new Health Director of the Health Policies at the Bronx Borough President's office. She is Dr. Nancy Kheck. She has been invited to attend the committee when her schedule

permits. Ms. Reyes reached out to the Operation's Manager of the Green Market requesting them to extend their hours or provide an additional day. They comply by adding a day on Fridays at the Lincoln Hospital location and will also be opened all year long. Additionally, the Norwood at Dekalb Avenue will also be opened all year round on Thursdays. The committee continued their discussion on the District Needs Statement and they are asking for a comprehensive health center in view of the very high number of people coming into the community. We are lacking services and currently only Lincoln Hospital and BronxCare hospital are available along with a few scattered clinics. Lastly, the Corona Virus is affecting worldwide with only a few cases in the U.S., but it is headed this way. How can the community board help? We can help by keeping people informed and educating them. Let's keep people focused on facts and recommend that they visit the Department of Health's website and download and share the fact sheet. It is recommended that people wash their hands. This is very important in order to control the spread. Seek medical attention if they develop a cough and/or a fever. The corona virus has been named by the World Health Organization (WHO) as COVID-19.

Youth Services & Education – The committee didn't have any voting items. They had two presentations. The first from BronxWorks and the services that they provide to our community. They've had \$6-\$8 million in renovation and repairs to the facility. They provide Home Instruction for Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPPY), the afterschool Compass Program and SONIC program, swimming lessons.

The second presentation was from DYCD which provides preparation classes for the TASC (GED), College Access Program, ESL, legal and housing services. Additionally, DYCD provides funding through their Beacon and Compass Programs, their Literacy Programs for youth and adults and Immigration and Refugee Assistance Programs.

By-Laws Committee – Everyone should have received in their package a copy of the By-Laws. They should have already reviewed it and notify the office in writing to Mr. Avery Smith any comments and/or recommendations they had on them as previously requested. One recommendation that was requested to add on was the Conflict of Interest. This was not added because it requires more information. We will bring it forward to the Executive Committee and will discuss it in order to see if an amendment is necessary. The Committee voted to approve the By-Laws with any necessary corrections as issued. Said motion was seconded by Mrs. Zonia Ortiz. After a vote of 29 in the affirmative and 3 in the negative, the **motion carries**.

The committee consisted of Mr. Avery Smith as the Chairperson, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Lionel Jackson, Mr. Robert Garmendiz and Ms. Kathleen Saunders. This committee will move forward as the standing committee of the Discipline, Policy & Procedures Committee as established and required by the Bronx Borough President.

Report by the Bronx Borough President's Office represented by Alexis Ruiz

- My Brother's Keeper Workshop on Financial Literacy at Eagle Academy-4143 Third Avenue on March 7, 2020 from 10 am to 1 pm.
- February 27, 2020 – Dominican celebration
- There are 11 members on this board who have yet to complete their sexual harassment training. This must be taken care of immediately especially if they are up for renewal.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

US Congressman Jose E. Serrano represented by Shayra Reyes

- March 5, 2020 – Census Informational and Employment at Concourse Village from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- Annual Congressional Art Competition for High School students. The deadline is April 15, 2020. The winner will get a ticket to go to DC and their art will be displayed in the Rotunda. If there are any questions, you can contact the office at 718-670-0084. The Congressman will be sending an email blast and posting it on social media.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by June Soto

- The Senate passed a Reform to reduce health care concerns and impose medical outcomes by improving cultural awareness and competency training for medical professionals to meet safety concerns among health disparities within the minority population.
- Black History Month – partnered with NYC Department of Small Business Services and Minority Women Owned Business Enterprises to provide information and opportunities to minorities and women entrepreneurs. There were several workshops and one took place today at the Mott Haven Library.
- Fare Funding for Schools – The Senator continues advocating and supporting this program to ensure that schools have all resources they need.
- If you would like to contact the office you can do so at 212-828-5829 or if you would like to make the Senator aware of or invite to an event, the email is scheduler.serrano@gmail.com.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- February 28, 2020 – Second Census Employment event at the Highbridge Gardens Community Center from 6 pm to 8 pm
- March 20, 2020 - Live on NY for senior services from 11 am to 2 pm
- March 14, 2020 – Women’s History Month Celebration at P.S. 11 – 1257 Ogden Avenue from 11 am to 3 pm.
- Free Immigration Screenings March 24, 2020 from 3 pm to 5 pm.
- Free Housing Legal Services every Thursday from 3pm – 6pm.

Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Aaliyah Mais

- February 28, 2020 – Black History Month Cultural Celebration at the Greater Holy Tabernacle- 3780 Third Avenue at 6 pm. Guest speakers are Alfre Woodard and Amadeus.
- Announcement of the new NYC program, “The Ausome Reading Program for children with autism. The program is available from March 14 to April 18 every Saturday at the Woodstock Branch Library for children 7 to 13 years of age.
- Tenant Tuesdays from 11 am to 3 pm at our office
- Constituent hours are Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. You may contact the office at 718-538-3829.

Councilmember Diana Ayala represented by Gloria Cruz

- The Highbridge office has moved to Bridge Builders at 156 W. 164th Street. New constituent hours are the second and last Monday of every month.
- Free legal aid info
- Free immigration info
- Mental health info
- Free youth & senior programs

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

- Chairs the Land Use Committee at the City Council

He prepared a presentation called Zoning 101 and has been going to the community boards with experts from the Land Use Division in City Hall and doing the presentation and a Q&A. They have been trying to educate the communities on how Land Use actually works. So when developers come asking for letters of support, the public will know if they are being honest and they will have a better chance of asking the right questions. This will allow the community board to leverage over non-city owned land.

- He wrote a report entitled, “Killing the Southern Boulevard Rezoning” because of his concern with low-income families being displaced and because it would have promoted gentrification.
- He will soon be presenting to the Housing & Land Use committee in either March or April.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Joseph Cortez

- Budget at City Council is in full effect
 - Application is due to the city council by March 25, 2020 if you want to be included in programmatic dollars.
- February 27, 2020 – Black History Month Celebration at 6 pm at the NY Botanical Garden.
- March 8, 2020 – State of the District 2020 at Bronx Museum of the Arts at 3 pm.
- March 20, 2020 – Women’s History Month Celebration at 12 pm at the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

City Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Khadim Niang

- March 25, 2020 – South Bronx Townhall at Metropolitan College of New York – 460 E. 149th Street from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Announcements:

Ibrahim Ndure – Free immigration application and services available at the Highbridge Islamic Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.