

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, JUNE 25, 2019  
CONCOURSE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER  
777 CONCOURSE VILLAGE EAST, BX, NY  
**Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrows, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Dr. Grace Zarate.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Bishop Earl McKay.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Mr. Jackson Strong.

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Mr. Victor Martinez, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Mr. Andy Toledo, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, NYS Senator Member  
Ms. S. Hassan, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Michaela Ritz, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake  
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member  
Mr. Michael Ivory, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Terri Davis-Merchant-HPD, Natsumi Yokura-HPD, Ashley Torres-CCA Metro, Michael Parkinson-Bronx Office NYC City Planning, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172<sup>nd</sup> Street Tenants Association, Sinado Carroll-NYC DDC, Reny Samuel-Applebee's Terminal Market, Chris Campbell, Brenda Dock, Mary Williams-Concourse Village, Matt Arancio-NYC DOT, Joan Young-Concourse Village, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Detective Carmen Tejada-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Lois Brown-Concourse Village, Hilda Gilbert-Concourse Village, Ella Michael-Concourse Village, Eduart Lisi-NY CDDC, Dorothy DeSuzia-Concourse Village, Kyle Thomas-JUMP Bikes, James Rather-Bronx Office NYC City Planning, Paul Lovato-1075 Tenants Corp., Sandy Ramirez-SOBRO, Dion Powell, Lon Wilson-NY Walkers Club, Janice M. Robinson-Concourse Village, Jessica Borges-The Excellent Car Service, Edward Lopez-The Excellent Car Service, Marie Johnson-Concourse Village, Wanda Davis-Concourse Village, Kevin Woodhouse-Concourse Village, Stephany Reyes-Bestia Kitchen Restaurant, Joel Tavarez-Bestia Kitchen Restaurant, Maria Flores-Resident, Rosetta Kirkland-Concourse Village, Winifred Quare-Concourse Village, Jean Burton-Concourse Village, Erica Flowers-Concourse Village, Beverly Bovion-Concourse Village, Jacqueline LaPena-Concourse Village, Alice Bertrand-Concourse Village, Nellie Simmons-Concourse Village, Mariel Negron-Concourse Village, Beverly Williams-Concourse Village, Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter, Cynthia Cox-Concourse Village, Surey I. Miranda-NYC CCHR, Gloria E. Rivera-Concourse Village, Debra Jones-Concourse Village, Marlene M. Negron Garza-Concourse Village.

**Public Session** None at this time.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:12 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, June 25, 2019, the meeting is held at The Concourse Village Community Center at 777 Concourse Village East, Bronx, NY.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mr. Robert Garmendiz.

**Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting:** Mr. Robert Garmendiz made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for May 28, 2019. After the vote with 30 in favor and 1 abstention, the **motion carries**.

#### **District Manager's Report**

- We encourage all to use the receptacles in the parks.
- Thank you to all board members.
- To the community, have a healthy and safe summer.

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

- September 11, 2019 – The next Precinct Council meeting will take place on this date at 6:30 pm at 1072 Grand Concourse.
- August 6, 2019 – National Night Out at East 169<sup>th</sup> Street between Gerard and Walton Avenue from 3 pm to 7 pm
- NYC Permits – to request one contact [nyceventpermits.nyc.gov/cecm/login](http://nyceventpermits.nyc.gov/cecm/login). Sound permits are \$45. Permits are not granted for areas around the courthouse.
- Fourth of July is approaching, and it is recommended to be safe and note that fireworks are illegal. Anyone caught with fireworks will be arrested.
- June 23, 2019 – shooting occurred on E. 170<sup>th</sup> Street and College Avenue
- Contact NCOs for quality of life issues

#### **Presentation: Overview Discussion CCA Metro – Carpenter Contractor Alliance of Metropolitan New York, Ashley Torres, Director of Community Relations – Bronx & Manhattan**

Ms. Torres presented on services provided by the Carpenter Contractor Alliance of Metropolitan New York. They offer an apprenticeship program in the carpentry field. Some areas in carpentry are cabinetry, millwrights, hoisting, scaffolding, trade shows, heavy construction and foundation. They offer safety training, certification in several trades. Candidates will be offered 600 hours of classroom instruction over a four year period and get paid while training. Additionally, they will have over 5000 hours on the job training. Starting salary is \$30,000 to \$31,000 per year plus benefits. After years of work can leave the field and work in the corporate office.

#### **Presentation: South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBRO), Sandy D. Ramirez, H.E.A.T., Program Coordinator**

Ms. Ramirez presented on the use of caps on fire hydrants and their presence in the community. The program was created for awareness of illegal open hydrants. Their mission is to go into the community and educate residents and business owners on the issue surrounding open hydrants during the summer months. An illegal open hydrant releases 1000 gallons of water per minute. This is why HEAT advocates for the use of spray caps

so they become like sprinklers and release only 25 gallons of water per minute. HEAT will be at various events in the community to educate the residents. They want to know of any open hydrants and ask that you follow them on social media under sober heat.

**Presentation: NYC Housing Preservation & Development Overview of redevelopment of Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center Surface Lot and 1640-1642 Anthony Avenue. Terri Davis, Merchant/Natsumi Yokura.**

RFP (the follow through on commitments that were made)

Jerome Avenue rezoning (March 2018) and Points of Agreement

Development – Site Overview

- 1225 Gerard Avenue
  - Morrisania H&H facility parking lot
  - RFA Zoning – can produce 150 units
- 1640-1642 Anthony Avenue (two lots)
  - 10,000 square feet
  - R7-1 Zoning – can produce approximately 35 units
- Timeline – two years
- Fall 2020 – developer designation
- Community engagement
  - RFP preference
  - HPD seeking feedback
  - Broad design preferences
  - ULURP
- Stringent hiring process
  - Required to use HireNYC, the Portal, use of M/WBE
  - Developers track record and their commitment to community engagement and affordability are taken into account
- Permanent affordability required with MIH
- Regulatory Agreement is a minimum of 30-35 years. Some can be 60 years.

**Presentation: NYC DOT Bronx Office Overview of Proposed Traffic Changes on Concourse Village West, Matthew Arancio, Director of Community Affairs and Planning.**

Proposed Traffic changes on Concourse Village West (CVW). What would be best to alleviate traffic on CVW?

- Request a LOS to move further with the study.
- Congestion of CVW from E. 153<sup>rd</sup> Street to E. 161<sup>st</sup> Street
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Future development
- Roadway direction
  - Presently, all cars go E. 159<sup>th</sup> Street or E. 161<sup>st</sup>
  - Too narrow to be a two-way roadway
- *Proposed Changes*
  - Traffic Counts
  - Evaluate needs of local schools
  - Talk to community members
  - Provide multiple outlets for CVW
- *Summary Proposal of Study*
  - E. 153<sup>rd</sup> Street go one way Eastbound between Grand Concourse (GC) and CVW
  - E. 156<sup>th</sup> Street two-way roadway – go both East and West between GC and CVW
  - Convert E. 156<sup>th</sup> Street between Grand & Morris Avenue into one way Eastbound
  - Convert E. 158<sup>th</sup> Street to a two-way roadway

Pros: provide multiple outlets out of CVW and remove the head on conflicts that exist at E. 156<sup>th</sup> St

Cons: In order to allow two-way traffic on E. 156<sup>th</sup> Street, will have to take away parking on one side of the roadway. DOT will study as part of this and will work with the community to evaluate and understand their concerns. The study will be brought to the community board in the fall.

Local vehicle access on E. 156<sup>th</sup> Street between CVW and GC would have to go via CVW. It cannot go West bound. They will evaluate the traffic impact associated with the proposed changes.

The benefits are that there will be a lot of extra channelization/roadway markings on the GC which will create a lot of space. Therefore, they would like to fit some angle parking spaces there. This would allow some parking back to the community. This is to be determined by the study.

Community members can send their photos of the area and concerns to [marancio@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:marancio@dot.nyc.gov) that they feel will help the study. Ms. Beverly Bond motioned to grant a LOS to move forward with the study of traffic at CVW. It was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. It was a unanimous vote to grant a LOS. The **motion carries**.

#### **Presentation: Program Overview of JUMP Bikes, Kyle Thomas-Senior Operations Manager.**

JUMP came to the Board to request a LOS to expand the current dockless e-bike sharing in other areas in the Bronx. JUMP was created to provide equitable, reliable, healthy and fun transportation to everyone across all cities and internationally. It is a pedal less bike with a battery it that gives you a boost when you start pedaling. It opens doors for people who have shied away from biking because of physical limitations. The dockless is different from the Citibike system in that you do not have to get at a dock which would take away parking spots. It can be left at any bike rack on any city street. It was launched on July 2018 in the Bronx and Staten Island. It was given the ability to have 200 bikes in each of those two zones. There are over a third of users using it two to three times per week. The average use is two miles or 20 minutes. It is usually used at transportation hubs or parks on the weekends. The cost to use is \$2 for 30 minutes and .7¢ per minute after that. Additionally, there is a Boost Program for people on SNAP, PA and NYCHA for \$5 per month for a one hour use per day. The JUMP pilot program is set to end in late August. Staten Island has acquired an RVI to continue its program, but the program in the Bronx is set to be discontinued. They are trying to prevent a shut down in the Bronx. JUMP is committed 100% to expand in the Bronx. Their warehouse is located in the area of Southern Boulevard with many of the workers from the Bronx. They are asking for a LOS to continue their services in all areas of the Bronx. Ms. Genny Sanchez motioned to continue the JUMP Bikes Program in the Bronx. It was seconded by Mr. Harris. After the unanimous vote, the **motion carries**.

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

**Economic Development Committee-** The Committee were presented by the below listed establishments and at committee they voted to grant a letter of support as follows:

1) *Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar*. 610 Exterior Street, **Renewal**. 2) *Excellence Car Service, Inc.* - 144 E. 174<sup>th</sup> Street, **Renewal**. 3) *El Nuevo Patio* – 1388 E. L. Grant Hwy, **Renewal**. 4) *Legends Hospitality, LLC/NY Yankees Partnership* – 1 E. 161<sup>st</sup> Street, **Renewal**. 5) *1353 Restaurant Corp. / Bestia Kitchen* – 1353 E. L. Grant Hwy, **Change of Operation**. Mr. Jason Caraballo motioned to provide letters of support for the above mentioned as presented by the Committee. It was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. After the vote of 30 in favor and 1 abstention, the **motions carries**.

**Municipal Services Committee** – Presentation from the Bronx Museum of the Arts on Boogie on the Boulevard. This event will take place on Sunday, September 15, 2019 on the Grand Concourse. The museum is requesting a Letter of Support. The Committee motioned for a LOS for Boogie on the Blvd to take place on September 15, 2019 on the Concourse. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Calderon. After a vote of 30 in the affirmative and 1 recuse, the **motion carries**. They also had a request from NYC DOT to improve school safety near M.S. 218 and the Roslyn Charter School and to help traffic flow in order to reduce traffic

accidents. They propose to increase visibility between pedestrians and motorists and extend sidewalks. The Committee motioned to provide a LOS to NYC DOT for the extension of sidewalks along the schools. The motion was seconded by Ms. Frances Hudson-Marlow. After the unanimous vote, the **motion carries**.

**Housing & Land Use Committee** – No Report.

**Parks and Recreation Committee**- The committee Chair listed the activities occurring in our parks as follows:

- Franz Sigel Park
  - Dog Run, Thursday Night Jazz, Bronx Soul-Walking and Jogging, Free Yoga Saturday mornings and Native American Procession coming this fall.
  - Art & Piano at Joyce Kilmer Park
  - Shape up with the Claremont Walking Warriors.

The Parks Department and NYC Capital Development Budgetary Group presented on \$4.6 million development of Corp. Fischer Park. It is a beautiful design. The Committee voted unanimously at committee to provide a LOS. The Committee motions to provide a LOS to approve the redesign plan to start the process of the development of Corporal Fischer Park. It was seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Calderon. After the unanimous vote, the **motion carries**. Additionally, the committee is rooting for the redevelopment for the comfort station at Franz Siegel Park.

**Health Services Committee** – The Committee received opioid overdose reversal training and Naloxone distribution and certification.

**Youth Services & Education** – No Report.

### **Report by the Bronx Borough President’s Office represented by Andy Toledo**

- DCAS – Will create a link over the summer to make the Sexual Harassment Training available. Every board member will have to take the training for 2019.

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

*NYS Senator Jose E. Serrano*

- Many bills were dealt with and passed during the legislative sessions that make a positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers.
- Committed to support and protect tenants as the expiration of rent regulation laws nears. Passing of a bill to remove the Vacancy Bonus.
- Tenant protection laws that are permanent.
  - Rid of vacancy decontrol – cap has been eliminated.
  - Vacancy Bonus – Usually rose by 20%. This has been eliminated.
  - Cap on MCI – made it in statute specific to the actual amount spent and not retroactive.
- Climate and the environment – passed the Climate and Community Protection Act. By year 2050 everything to be carbon neutral. Will reduce or eliminate all emissions.
- Gun-safety – More regulations on guns.
- LGBTQ Rights – banned Conversion Therapy. Very harmful and abuse technique to re-train LGBTQ individuals. Abolished the gay padding defense.
- Women Reproductive Rights -. Codified Roe v Wade so that there is no threat that the state will undo the laws that are important for a women’s right to choose her own health care decision.
- Protect children from the tipping of unsecured furniture by requiring childcare centers to anchor all furniture and electronics located in the facility.

- Banned toxic toys
- Child Victim Act – allowed those that were victims of sexual abuse seek justice many years after the act.
- Voting reform – No excuse absentee voting, extending primary election hours, making it easy to vote
- Immigrant rights – Dream Act
- Decriminalized Marijuana – small amount of use or possession and eliminated backlog of court system
- Budget
  - Increase education funding by \$1B.
  - Repair aging infrastructure
  - Criminal Justice
    - \$110M to State Parks
    - \$96M for public libraries
    - \$43M local arts
  - Health Disparities
    - Environmental causes and pollution
    - Bill to pass environmental hazards. It identifies areas overburden.

*Assemblyman Michael Blake* represented by Michaela Ritz

- New representative for the assemblyman. She is the Community Relations & Policy Analyst, but is responsible for legislative grants
- MWBE
- Census 2020 – crucial effort for this district. Encourage everyone to make connections with people that may feel alienated. We must make every effort for people to do the census so that we can get the resources that are very much needed in the district.

*Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson* represented by Wendy Gallegos

Budget passed for \$92.8 Billion for the City of New York (Schedule C in City website)

- Pay Equity
  - Early childcare providers
    - Public Defenders
    - Assistant District Attorneys
  - Youth Education
    - 75,000 slots for Summer Youth Employment Program
    - 5000 young people in the Work, Learn, Grow Program, employment all year round
- COMPASS and SONYC – summer camps for middle schools
- Social Service
  - Fare Future – foster youths from 14 years to 26 years (\$10 million)
  - Seniors - \$11.7 million for meals

- Parks – hiring more parks staff this summer. \$43 million
  - 150 Parks workers and gardeners
  - 50 Urban Rangers
  - 80 new Parks Enforcement Officers
- \$33 million for public libraries
- Cultural Institutions
  - Bronx Museum of the Arts
  - Wavehill
  - Bronx Zoo
  - Botanical Garden
  - Hostos Community College
  - Bronx Community College
  - Lehman College
  - Orchard Beach - \$5 million
  - Universal Hip Hop Museum - \$2 million
  - Bronx Children’s Museum bus replacement - \$600,000 with assistance from Bronx Borough President and CM Diana Ayala. New museum to open in 2020.
- Council Initiatives will add \$330 million more for
  - Clean up
  - Domestic violence
  - Women’s issues
  - Health care
  - CASA grants
  - Su Casa grants
- Criminal Justice Reform
  - Project Reset (only in the Bronx) is going citywide. Offers supervised release
  - Diversion centers that focus on mental health. Will offer transitional housing
- Maternal health care
- Lupus and Diabetes care
- Not 62 Campaign
- Education
  - 285 brand new social workers in schools
    - 100 bridging the gap (highest concentration of students living in temporary housing)

- 185 – highest concentration of arrest and suspension
- More money for trash receptacles
- June 27, 2019 – Caribbean Heritage Celebration, Andrew Freedman Home 12 pm – 3 pm
- June 28, 2019 – Silent Disco at Macombs Dam Park, 8 pm to 11 pm
- July 13, 2019 – Summer Pride Celebration, Bronx Museum of the Arts 11 am to 1 pm
- July 16, 2019 – Pride & Allies Meet & Greet, Bronxworks Classic Comm. Center, 6-8 pm
- Movie Nights every Friday at 8 pm – Different parks throughout the district

*Comptroller Scott M. Stringer* represented by Victor Martinez

- New Child Care report has been published.
  - Access to child care in the city
  - Expansion of 3K and Pre-K by the Mayor
  - Burden of child care has on families
  - \$21,000 per year to pay for child care per family.

**Announcements:**

The Board office will make every effort to contact the Borough President to address the concern of the negativity expressed by the media of incidents such as shootings in the Concourse area but rather it is not referred to as Concourse Village.

***Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.  
Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.***