

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS  
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Ms. Rasheida Alston, 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, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.**

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Genny Sanchez.**

**STAFF:**

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Hon. Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney  
Mr. Khadim Niang, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Ms. Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Ms. Flor D. Gonzalez, representing NYS Luis R. Sepúlveda  
Ms. Jane Soto, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner  
Mr. Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake  
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala  
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member  
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson**

**GUEST PRESENT:**

**Amy Chang-NYCFC, Prospero Herrera-NYCFC, Kweku Brew-NYCFC, Gregory Palmer-NYCFC, Paul Jeffries-NYCFC, Matthew Arancio-Department of Transportation, Commissioner Nivardo Lopez-Department of Transportation, Keith Kalb-Department of Transportation, Matt Lorenz-Department of Transportation, Bhavin Patel-Department of Transportation, Simon Mow-Department of Transportation, Emily Riquelme Beaufort-Department of Transportation, Anita Long, Gus Stavrouaris-Resident, Stephen Caruso-Department of Sanitation, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172<sup>nd</sup> Street Tenants Association, Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Dion Powell, Betty Crawford-Resident, Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, David Beller-US Census, Tiffanie Dorch-BronxWorks, Rachel Gill-BronxWorks, Jairy Padro-BronxWorks, Sharonn Williams-Table of King2, Brenda Dock-Municipal Services Committee member, Angel Perez, Flo Canada-Concourse Village, Micah Bergdale-Resident, Jasmine Garcia-Resident, Felicia Hernandez-Resident, Chris Campbell-Resident, Travis Thomas-Siena House Shelter, Robert Barnes-Bronx District Attorney Office, Marc Frasier-Resident, Lon Wilson-N.Y. Walkers Club, Clarisa Alayeto-DREAM, Nancy DelaRosa-Molino Rojo Restaurant, Dony Nunez-Molino Rojo Restaurant, Priscilla Dominguez-NYC DOE/ Community Resident, Althea Stevens-East Side House, Beverly Williams, Gourdo Diabateu-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Andala Owusu-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Ammata Nimagen-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS.**

## **Public Session**

1. *Stephen Caruso – Department of Sanitation* – Information of upcoming ban of single-use plastic bags in NYC effective March 1, 2020. More info at [nyc.gov/bags](http://nyc.gov/bags).
2. *David Beller and Tiffanie Dorch(BronxWorks)* – *US Census* – The Census forms will be sent out starting March 12. BronxWorks will be providing information and assistance in filling out the census application. Four ways to complete the census are the paper application, online, over the phone or in-person Census Taker. The Census Bureau is hiring for Census Takers at \$28 per hour. The position is part-time and flexible. The application for the position is available online. Between March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, the homeless population will be counted with the collaboration of DHS.
3. *Jairy Padro-BronxWorks* – *Information of the new SNAP education and Obesity Prevention Program through BronxWorks*.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm. Congratulations to former board member John Howard Algarin for his induction as a civil court judge.

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

**Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting:** None at this time.

## **District Manager's Report**

- Congratulations to former member and Parks Committee Chair, John Howard Algarin who was inducted as a Civil Court Judge earlier today.
- December 5, 2019 – CB4's 4+44 Committee had its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Outstanding Service Awards for NYPD and the FDNY at Yankee Stadium. Ms. D. Ezell the founder of this event was honored and given a special vase and flowers for her contribution. Special thanks to our benefactors, the NY Yankees, Highbridge Community Development Corp. and the New Settlement Apartments. And a special thanks to Rossmery Dais and the Municipal Services Committee.
- December 13, 2019 – Attended the ribbon cutting for Plimpton Playground along with CM Vanessa Gibson and Bronx Borough Commissioner and NYC Parks Commissioner Silver. There are other capital projects investments in the district such as:
  - Franz Sigel Playground – scheduled to be completed August 2020
  - Jennie Jerome Playground – scheduled to be completed November 2020
  - Grant Park – Budget \$10M+
  - Corporal Fischer – the design will be completed this year. Budget close to \$5M
- January 9, 2020 – The Executive Committee met with DHS Commissioner, Steve Banks, Anabel Palma and CM Vanessa Gibson. We expressed the significant burden of intake for homelessness in our district. We currently have 27 facilities in our district which house 3500 people. The Commissioner plans to bring our current numbers into balance by 2021. Regular updates will be provided by DHS to ensure they stay in course.
- The DM has asked each committee to review this year's District Needs Statement & Budget Priorities over the next six months. In June he will request from all the committees to submit their edits and/or additions. He will then prioritize them and in September we will submit the new and revised priorities and the 2022 District Needs Statement. Note there are 40 Capital and 25 Expense Items and that there are current funded priorities in various stages.
- Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan
  - Workforce Development

- Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Health Plan
- Housing
- Jerome Avenue Public Safety Improvements
  - 170<sup>th</sup> Street Station and Keltch Park
  - Preliminary Designs Developed and presented to CB sometime in 2021
- New Construction – The DM made it clear that neither he nor the community board will endorse any requests for Saturday hours unless the request comes through the committee and board process. Additionally, he has advised DOB to not grant any extended hours unless they have addressed it first with the community board.

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

- The 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:30 pm at 1072 Grand Concourse.
- March 13, 2020 – Police Office Sean McDonald’s 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Mass at Christ the King Church – 141 Marcy Place at 10:00 am. Refreshments will be served after the mass.

**Presentation: The New York City Football Club overview of their programs and services – Paul Jeffries, Senior Director, Community Development**

The NYC Football Club offers programs to youths 5 years to 20 years. They focus on health and education. *The Saturday Night Lights Prevention Program* is for 10 – 18-year old. *The Healthy Hat Trick* is for 5 – 14-year old. This program has a “robo-soccer” feature for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It teaches soccer through robotics. The students also learn how to build robots. *The Community Young Leader program* is for youths 15 – 20 years of age. This program prepares them for college readiness, youth development, it creates employment for youth, it’s free and those chosen for the program can participate in the *Global Youth Summit in Manchester*. Additionally, they have launched a podcast directly from the Andrew Freedman Home.

**Presentation: Department of Transportation Letter of Support request for Concourse Village West Congestion Mitigation and Traffic Safety Study – Bronx Borough Commissioner Nivardo Lopez**

This is a study to address the concourse congestion at Concourse Village West. DOT studies traffic patterns in the area. They found it to have 6-7 major schools along the corridor. They will provide opportunities for motorists to get out of the area while reducing traffic through vehicular area. Additionally, it will alleviate congestion at 153<sup>rd</sup> Street to 161<sup>st</sup> Street. Some of the traffic generators along the corridor are schools, commercial area, court house, etc. They propose to:

- Convert E. 153<sup>rd</sup> St to one-way eastbound between Grand Concourse and CVW
- Reverse direction of traffic flow on E. 156<sup>th</sup> St. one-way between GC and CVW from eastbound to westbound
- Convert E. 156<sup>th</sup> St between CVW and Morris Ave to one-way eastbound
- Convert E. 158<sup>th</sup> St to two-way street between GC and CVW

Timeline –

- January 2020 – outreach to the community, elected officials and stakeholders
- Summer 2020 – If approved, DOT implements proposed improvements
- Summer to Fall 2020 – Monitor improvements and make adjustments, if necessary

**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) Bronx County Fairs & Expo Association, Inc.,** - Yankee Parking lot at 100 E. 151<sup>st</sup> Street from March 20 – 29 for a Letter of Recommendation for a temporary **Amusement Device License**. It was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the unanimous vote, the **motion carries**. **2) El Calderon Restaurant & Sports Bar** – 1267 Jerome Avenue, **Change for Method of Operation**. **3) Molino Rojo Restaurant** - 101 E. 161<sup>st</sup> Street,

**Alteration** to location of the bar. **4) Bronx Draft House** – 884 Gerard Avenue, **Renewal.** **5) Credit Life Bar & Grill** – 1275 Edward L. Grant Highway, **New Application.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Avery Smith. After the vote, the **motion carries.**

**Municipal Services Committee** – The committee Chair advised of a successful event of the 4+44 Committee NYPD/FDNY Outstanding Awards. She also advised of the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct initiative to enforce the illegal parking on the Grand Concourse. The enforcement is to both civilians and law enforcement alike. They also had a presentation by DOT of the rehabilitation of the E. 156<sup>th</sup> Street and Concourse Village East bridges. The timeline for said project is from April 2023 to April 2027. The budget is estimated at \$85 million. The Jerome Avenue Safety Improvements projects will address areas of Burnside, Jerome & Tremont Avenue and 170<sup>th</sup> Street. The project will improve lighting, underutilized open space, roadways and lack of streetscape. The committee was also presented by DOT on the Concourse Village West Congestion Mitigation and Traffic Safety Study. They moved to grant a letter of support to DOT to continue with their study. It was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. After the vote, the **motion carries.**

**Housing & Land Use Committee** – The committee had a request for a letter of support for a 282-apartment complex at a landmarked building at 1095-149 W. 168<sup>th</sup> Street (Noonan Plaza) for the replacement of exterior ramps at the entry courtyard to meet ADA compliance and entrance arcade. It was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the vote, the **motion carries.** BronxCare Health System requested a letter of support for parking lots at 1505, 1507 & 1551 Morris as well as 1650 Weeks Avenue for their employees, doctors and nurses to replace 300 spaces lost at 1780 Grand Concourse. It was seconded by Mr. Paul Lozito. After the vote, the **motion carries.**

**Parks and Recreation Committee**- The committee reviewed the Fall 2019 Park Survey Report. They also discussed the District Needs Statement & Budget Priorities FY2022. Additionally, they were presented on the construction of a new park on the Lower Concourse at 144 E. Exterior Avenue.

**Health Services Committee** – The committee also discussed the District Needs. They suggest adding a request for additional farmer's markets on Saturdays and also request for extra bucks for distribution to the community in order to make better food choices.

**Youth Services & Education** – The committee discussed possible additions to the District Needs such as the following for Highbridge. –Workforce, Public High School and/or community center. They also considered additional funding for public schools and brochures for common resources.

**By-Laws Committee** – Mr. Avery Smith requested that board members review the by-laws provided and submit any suggestions to the board office to his attention no later than February 14, 2020. A vote will take place on February 25, 2002 to finalize them. He pointed out to pay close attention to page 12 that refers to the term limits of the board members.

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

- Reminder to board members – renewal application deadline is February 7, 2020.
- Any board members who have not completed their sexual harassment training should do so immediately
- NYS Security Grant application to boost security at non-public schools, cultural cents and religious-based institutions is available at the governor's website.

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

*NYS Senator Luis R. Sepulveda* represented by Flor D. Gonzalez

- January 30, 2020 – Imagine Schools NYC Information Session at The Longwood Academy of Discovery - 888 Rev. James A. Polite Avenue from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

*NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano* represented by Jane Soto

- MTA – receiving an elevator at B//D Line at 167<sup>th</sup> Street and at Burnside on the 4 Line.
- Second Annual Bronx Delegation Budget Forum at Lehman College on January 30, 2020 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

*Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner* represented by Karim Arab

- February 11, 2020 – Career Services Event – 910 Grand Concourse. 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
- February 17, 2020 – Free Tax Preparation. Contact 718-538-2000 for appointment
- Free Immigration Screenings
- Free Housing Legal Services every Thursday from 3pm – 6pm.

*Councilmember Diana Ayala represented by Gloria Cruz*

- The Highbridge office has moved to Bridge Builders
- Free legal aid info
- Free immigration info
- Mental health info
- Free youth & senior programs

*Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson*

- Budget at City Council is in full effect
  - Discretionary funding is an online process
    - Check box for Bronx Delegation Council
  - The Budget continues to grow. FY2020 at \$93B and currently at \$95B FY2021
  - Challenge this year is a potential cut from state budget
    - State Executive budget facing a \$6B deficit due to Medicaid cuts
      - \$2B of the cut is for NYC
- Preliminary budget released by Mayor DeBlasio two weeks ago
- Budget hearings in March and May
- Affordable, permanent and supportive housing
- Vision Zero – many agencies doing projects around this
- US Census – make sure to be counted by April 1
- Outreach efforts at Lincoln Hospital on February 12, 2020 at 6 pm
- Assistance with census - will refer to appropriate person
- February 27, 2020 - Black History Celebration at Botanical Garden, Mosholu Pkwy Entrance at 6 pm
- Free legal services
- Citizenship Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Hunger free America workshops (nutrition)
- Jerome Public Health Task Force meets once a month – led by Health Department
- Legal Mobile Truck – January 31 in front of office
- State of the District Meeting – March 8 at 3pm at the Bronx Museum of the Arts

*Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark*

- Sponsoring Saturday Night Lights

- Youth Strategy for the City
- New Criminal Justice Reform Law – Effective since January 1, 2020
  - Bail Reform – Repeat offenders
  - Discovery Reform – amended law. It takes discretion away from judges. There is no cash bond for a misdemeanor. If there is no violence there is no cash bail.
    - It is evidence that has to be exchanged between the DA and defense attorney.
    - 15 days to arraignment which is highly impossible to do
    - Extension for another 30 days is allowed

*City Comptroller Scott Stringer* represented by Khadim Niang

- February 12, 2020 – Trailblazers Program & Award Ceremony at Long Island University - 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Available Summer Internship Program – visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/jobs/summer-internship-program> to apply. Application due March 6, 2020.

**Announcements:**

None

***Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.  
Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.***