

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th 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, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Walter Harris, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Ariane Garcia, Ms. Veronique Green, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr.

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Philips, District Manager

Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Hon. Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney

Ms. Surey Miranda, representing Mayor Bill DeBlasio

Ms. Shayra Reyes, representing US Congressman Jose E. Serrano

Mr. Victor Martin, representing City Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Tom Lucania, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Ms. Jane Soto, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano

Ms. Charley Matos, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner

Ms. Chantel Jackson, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake

Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala

Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

GUEST PRESENT:

Guy Savau-Post Graduate Mental Health, David Beller-US Census, Sarah Lynn-US Census, Jamie Borden-BPHN Life Together, Malik Garvin-Bronx Lacrosse, Dan Leventhal-Bronx Lacrosse, Elvis Premsen-Bronx Lacrosse, Darius Voyd-Bronx Lacrosse, Muhammed Krubally-Bronx Lacrosse, Clorise Beasley-Bronx Lacrosse, Madison Voyd-Bronx Lacrosse, Maria Manzano-Bronx Lacrosse, Nixalia Nunez-Bronx Lacrosse, Nathan Lopez-Bronx Lacrosse, Marvin McFadden-Volunteers of America, Deborah Allman-NYPL Highbridge Library Branch, Maya Barrera-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Karia Valdez-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Brayan Hurtado-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Tim Salyor-NYC Probation Bronx, Dion Powell, Shakira Pendley-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Chris Campbell-Resident, Robert Barnes-Bronx DA's Office, Flo Canada-DYCD, Yerlene Torres-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Yoskairy Ventura-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Mabel Rodriguez, Detective Carmen Tejada-NYPD 44th Precinct, Shade Rodriguez-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Kayleen Guerrero-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Faira Hidalgo-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Andrea Garcia-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Jorge Castell-NAB#4, Patricia Ablakura-Resident, Maryam Aifu-Resident, Ester Lopez-Resident, Nayelin Adames-Resident, KM Wilhelm-CUNY Graduate Journalism.

Public Hearing on the FY2021 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Community Board Four

- The DM presented the FY2021 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities
- No recommendations were made at this time to change anything
- Letter writing campaign to the city agencies and elected officials
- Ms. Lilliam Rosa motioned to accept the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY2021 as presented by the DM. It was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the vote, the **motion** carries.

Public Session

1. *Malik Garvin – Bronx Lacrosse* – Mr. Garvin along with others presented an overview of their program and the need for local field time hopefully at Mullaly Park or Macombs Dam Park. Currently their field time is at Randall’s Island and that is a three hour commute for the players and coaching staff. They are requesting the Board’s assistance for play time in the aforementioned fields as they currently hold a permit for two hours on Saturdays and a weekly one from 3 pm to 6 pm. The DM requested they provide him with the necessary information and the name of the person they spoke to from Parks Department so that he can be the request forth.
2. *Dion Powell, Resident* – 1) Ranked Choice Voting-1st Proposal; 2) Veteran’s Halloween Brunch by The Bronx Young Professionals at American Grill, October 27th, 2019 from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.; 3) Take back the Joker’s Stairs on October 30, 2019 from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at 167th Street and Edward L. Grant Highway.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm. The Chair announced that our Board Member, Bishop Earl McKay celebrated 31 years in the ministry along with his First Lady. Additionally, on October 15, 2019 CB4 had its first Roundtable discussion along with elected officials. CM Gibson, Ted Weinstein-HPD, and a representative from Michael Blake were present. The discussion included information and concerns CB4 had and improvements for the community. The event was a success. She thanked the Panel Members and Board Members that came out to the event. Working together, we can lift up this community. There are so many things that we can make better.

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 of September 24, 2019. It was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After the vote, the **motion** carries.

District Manager’s Report

- Welcomed the students from Phillip Randolph H.S. They are attending the community board and reporting back to their economics teacher.
- Commissioned Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) earlier in May 2019. The panel will present on October 30, 2019 at 6:30 pm at New Settlement Community Center.
 - Briefing with Bronx Department of City Planning
 - DM Interviewed with Wall Street Journal
 - Thanks to the board members contribution – Jackson Strong, Marissa Jackson and Paul Lozito
 - Briefing book with detail information
 - Report at end of the year
- \$10,000 for Wellness In The Schools (WITS) is well underway

- Nutrition Lessons on November 16th
- Cooking Labs on November 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and November 26th
- International Culinary Institute three full day training on October 29, October 30 and October 31
- Jerome Avenue Neighborhood plan is underway
 - Construction of several buildings throughout the district
 - Two Working Groups formed
 - The Jerome Avenue Workforce Partnership
 - Public Health Task Force
 - Will meet at Walker Memorial Baptist Church on October 24
- Capital Projects underway
 - Corporal Fischer Park – RFP at end of year
 - Senior Housing – 97 W. 167th Street - RFP
- MTA Bus Redesign
 - Timing and spacing
- NYC DOT Bus Priority Projects
 - Benches, real-time
 - Public outreach
 - Implementation in 2020
 - Redesign available at the NYCDOT website
- NYC Charter Revisions
 - Board Members term limits
 - Additional items at the election ballot (six in total)
 - Advance notice to Community Boards
 - Ballot ULURP procedure
 - Give advance notice – 30 days before review
 - Giving CB additional time to review

Presentation – Overview/Discussion on 2020 Census – David Matthew Beller-Partnership Specialist – U. S. Census Bureau

Mission and Purpose

To serve as the nation’s leading provider of quality data about its people and economy. To conduct the census of population and housing and disseminate the results to the president, the states and the American people. The census motto is, “count everyone once, and only once and in the right place.”

Who they are

- Largest statistical agency in the United States – labor settings, community settings, operation surveys, etc.
- Mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution to do the census every ten years. The next census taking place in 2020.
- The purpose is to count every resident in the U.S. and its territories

- The information gathered is never published. All data is protected by federal law. It will never be shared to any state agencies, local agencies, ICE, federal agencies, businesses or any individual.

Dos and Don'ts

DO	DON'TS
Where people live	No personal information such as credit cards or finances is collected
How many people live in the house	No citizenship information is requested
Living arrangement of people	No disclosure of income is requested
Race/ethnicity	
Marital status	

- Census Bureau employees are sworn to protect confidentiality
- Violating Title 13 is a series federal offense
 - Violators may face federal prison up to five years and fines up to \$250,000 or both
- Data is collected for statistical purposes only

Uses

- Political representation
 - Determines the number of seats each state has in U.S. Housing of Representatives
 - Determines the annual allocation of \$675 billion in federal funding
 - Defines congressional, state legislative districts; school districts and voting precinct

If information is undercounted or under represented, you will not receive your fair share of monies.

How It Works

Four Sector Process

1. Figure out how to count people
2. Motivate people to respond
3. Actually count people
4. Release census results to the public

- Work with local government and non-profits
- Master address request
- Check every address and make sure mail can be reached
- Education and outreach with community partners about the importance of census
- Spring – count population-mid march receive census in mail.
 - Invite to do census over the phone or internet
 - If no response, then “street team” is sent out to knock on doors
 - Three attempts made to knock on doors. If not response, then an estimate is made
- By December 31, 2020, results will be released to the President, then to the public and in the spring 2021 to the legislature
- Many languages available to the public such as Spanish, Russian, Creole, etc. 59 languages in total are available. Any language that is not currently available can be requested.
- Census day is April 1, 2020

Jobs

- Now hiring through Spring 2020
- Various office positions available
- Field position – recruiting, supervisors or enumerators
 - Link-<https://2020census.gov/jobs>
 - All other positions – www.usajobs.gov
- Workers control their schedule. Must pass a background check

Challenges

- Distrust in government/administration
- Transit people
- Fiscal issue
- Complex living arrangements
- Poor response rates

Need to get the message throughout community boards, faith based community outreach, community groups, etc.

- Let people know the importance of the census
- Do hosting events
- Use social media
- Do newsletter

R.O.A.M – Response Outreach Area Mapper

- Data from last census
 - Go to census.gov/ROAM
 - Detail breakdown of geographic info center

Contact: David Matthew Beller
929-319-2744
David.m.beller@2020census.gov

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct by Detective Carmen Tejada

- The 44th Precinct and Bronx Care will be providing free turnkeys and trimmings (free meal) on November 20th at the precinct from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. You may contact the precinct at 718-590-5524 or 646-373-5923.
- There will be extra police presence in the neighborhoods and parks during Halloween.
- The Explorers participation age is 14-20 years of age.
- The 44th Precinct Community Council will take place on November 13, 2019 at 1072 Grand Concourse at 6:30 pm.

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

Economic Development Committee- No Report. Invite the community to attend their meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the Murray Cohen Auditorium in Bronx Lebanon Hospital at 6:30 pm.

Municipal Services Committee – The committee had a presentation on Bronx Point for the proposed signage for review to the public design. The development is at Millpond Park and the 145th Street Bridge connecting the Bronx to Manhattan. The Committee requests to grant a Letter of Acknowledgement to continue with Bronx Park South Mapping- ULURP #190508 MMX. It was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the vote, the **motion** carries. The committee also announced that preparations for the 20th Anniversary of the 4+44 Outstanding Awards are underway. They are asking for volunteers for this event. Anyone attending should advise the board office by November 15, 2019.

Housing & Land Use Committee –. The committee motioned to grant a Letter of Support for a Board of Standards and Appeal special permit to operate a physical cultural establishment (Blink Fitness) at 1417 Webster Avenue. It was seconded by Ms. Marie McCullough. After the vote, the **motion** carries.

Parks and Recreation Committee- Public hearing around Bridge Park South mapping. The mapping will take place next year. Planned site visits to Claremont, Joyce Kilmer, Franz Siegel assessment of parks of what needs to be done as well. The committee looks forward to improving communication with parks and making sure community is aware of events. The committee requested a LOS for ULURP #190508MMX Bridge Park South Mapping. It was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the vote, the **motion carries**.

Health Services Committee – No Report.

Youth Services & Education – The committee had an overview of services provided by the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS). The programs available are *Family Assessment Program, Close To Home, Prevention Services, The Division of Child and Family Well Being and NYC Safe Sleep Initiative.*

Report by the Bronx Borough President’s Office represented by Tom Lucania

- Welcomed the new board members – Link to community board handbook
- Sexual harassment training
- MTA Redesign – looking at final plan
 - 400 bus stops
- Tour de Bronx is this weekend
- Two new staff members
 - Ish Gonzalez
 - Alexis Ruiz

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

US Congressman Jose E. Serrano represented by Shayra Reyes

- November 17, 2019 – Census Job Fair from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Contact info is 202-734-0352

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Jane Soto

- Services for seniors at Highbridge Senior Center-1181 Nelson Ave – October 29 from 11-2pm
- Identity and Prevention workshop at the 44th Precinct
- \$24,000 for legal services Bronx Veteran’s Program
- \$20,000 Bronx Immigration Partnership
- \$13,000 for fire intervention
- \$50,000 funding for libraries
- Reminder to vote and the different voting sites available

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- Free Immigration Screenings
- Free Housing Legal Services
- Heat and Hot water event – October 28, 2019 at New Settlement Community Center 6-8 pm
- Tenant Support Specialists every 1st and 3rd Thursday
- Red Cross – free smoke alarm installations

Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Chantel Jackson

- The representative shared info from the Roundtable on October 15 with the Assemblyman
- Census
- Turkey giveaway TBD
- Will provide newsletter at the next meeting
- Tenant Tuesdays

- Can be reached at 718-538-3829

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark

- 5K Walk Run Roll for Domestic Violence Awareness was a success. Over 300 people were present.
- October 23, 2019 – Domestic Violence workshop in Spanish at 198 E. 161st Street.
- October 26, 2019 – Another Chance Program at the Thessalonian Worship Center-941 Rev. James A. Polite to dissolve outstanding summonses from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Next year criminal convictions of marihuana possession will be added. That type of crime will be expunged. Also, convictions of more than 10 years will be sealed from your record. This event is free.
- January 1, 2010 – there will be changes in the state reform
- Education programs are offered in jail through Barr College. This is important so that reentry into the community becomes an easier process.
- Any questions and/or concerns contact our office at 718-590-2272

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Stacy Strong

- Immigration, census, veteran services
- October 29, 2019 – Job Fair
- Workforce1 Mobile Outreach Vehicle – 1377 Jerome Ave-Employment Opportunities

Mayor Bill DeBlasio represented by Surey Miranda

- New representative for the Mayor.
- Contact information:
 - SMiranda@ciyhall.nyc.gov
 - Phone: 212-788-1412
 - Cell: 347-985-5692

City Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Victor Martinez

- National Domestic Violence – released a report
 - 40% of victims enter homeless shelters in FY2018
 - Most of the victims experiencing homelessness are in the Bronx and Brooklyn
- The Comptroller recommending for an increase in support assistance to support residents to housing
- Report available upon request

Announcements:

Mohammed Mardah – Census Job Fair at BronxWorks on November 9 from 1-5 pm

Genny Sanchez – graduating from Partnership for Parks on Thursday

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.