



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	9/24/2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	243 E 204th St, Bronx, NY 10458
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/ijFlr4XkvKk
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read**
- II. Public Hearing/Public Session**
 - A. Jane Addison-Amoyaw, Managing Librarian, Mosholu Library shared upcoming programming:**
 1. Location: 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467
 2. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 pm- One on One Tech Help.
 3. Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 23, & 30 at 3pm- Adult Brain Teasers
 4. Fridays October 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm- English Conversation Classes: We Speak NYC Program
 5. Mondays, October 7, 21, and 28- Informal Creative Writing for Adults.
 6. 10/10, 10/17, 10/24. 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5 at 11 am- Bangla Playtime, a program in English and Bengali for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. This will be a very special program.
 7. 10/16/2024 at 3pm- Bingo!
 8. 10/18/2024, 2 - 4 pm, Movie and Discussion: Psycho (R, 1960)
 9. 10/25/2024, 2-3:30 pm, Movie and Discussion: Frankenstein (TV-PG, 1931)
 10. 10/23/2024, 11/20/2024 & 12/18/2024, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Death Cafe: a discussion on death and dying.

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11. 10/29/2024. 5 - 6 pm- in person open book discussion.

12. 10/31/2024 5- 6 pm- online open book discussion.

B. Eric Urquiza: Heat Sensor Program: 1.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/heat-sensors-program.page> Mr. Urquiza informed us that CB7 has the highest number of heat complaints in the Bronx. He suggested that the community ask their electeds to enroll our district in this program.

1. While the response from HRA to West Bronx Housing has improved, they are calling them back directly; the wait times to get through to HRA can be as long as 4HRs and the calls often get disconnected during the transfer. PA cases that get closed in error often take several months to get reopened.
2. Even though renters have the “Right to Counsel” now, there are not enough attorneys to fulfill the need, thus tenants lack the representation they need when they go to court.

C. Chad Royer: Announced that he learned of the death of Israel Ruiz, Jr. Mr. Ruiz was a former State Senator, a City Councilmember, a Marine and a community member.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera’s Updates:

A. A gas main ruptured at 379 Bedford Park Boulevard on Sunday morning, September 22, 2024. Con Edison’s Corporate Affairs Manager, Ramon Cabral, shared with the office that service has been restored to all customers as of 9/24/24 5:25 PM.

B. This summer, the board tabled at many events throughout the district and collected 121 new email addresses from community residents. (a new total of 1,140 emails).

C. Since January 1, 2024 to September 19, 2024, we have solved 523 cases. On average, 3 per day.

1. Top agencies: Department of Sanitation, Police Department, Department of Transportation, Housing Preservation & Development, Department of

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Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Parks and Department of Buildings.

2. We also referred cases out to our elected officials, community based organizations, and other community boards.

D. We welcomed our 8 new board members:

1. Jasmin Clavasquin
2. Johanna Jackson
3. Khadija Kolya
4. Stephen Bogart Lebow
5. Marcus McLarty
6. Kayla Ousu
7. Esme Sattaur-Low
8. Yuleika Ventura

E. The Mayor's Office Neighborhood Support Team Update

1. Quality of Life Issues Link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W_UXIvwDvXQOgbctGfyOi4nTqFi9DomZE7vd6bqEMl0/edit?gid=0#gid=0

IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks

A. Thanked the board staff and board members for their service.

B. Chair Arias requested that all Board Members review the Capital and Expense budget requests for next year. Everyone's input is valuable and if you have any questions, discuss it with your committee or the Board office. Chair Arias is also reachable for questions/discussion on this topic. Betty Arce said all ideas, small or large, are welcomed.

V. Attendance (Roll Call) by Secretary Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky: Quorum Met

VI. Review of Previous Month's Minutes: Barbara Stronczer motioned to approve the minutes as presented; motion was seconded by Betty Arce.

VII. Motion(s)

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A. Budget, Personnel & Ethics, <https://bit.ly/4ek93p6>: A Motion was made to send an Attendance Violation Letter to board members, Jean Hill, Tayna Peña, Meriyen Parra-Feliz, Jake (Helene) Wilson, Leslie Harrison, Rosalie Leslie, and Gwen Thomas-Steed, found to have violated the board's attendance requirements from January 2024 to June 2024.

1. Yajaira Arias presented the motion; Barbara Stronczer motioned to discuss the vote and Betty Arce seconded the motion.
2. **Discussion:** Kenny Agosto of the Borough President's Office, reminded the Board that good attendance is very important but he did question that it was a group vote; as opposed to individually voting for each person. District Manager Cabrera Carrera explained that this was a warning and an opportunity for the Board Member to evaluate what their responsibility and availability to the Board was. It was also noted that this board does not excuse absences, as per our bylaws. It is still important to call and let the office know you cannot attend.
3. A question came up on the return of hybrid meetings, saying that it would help participation; but Ms. Arias said that at this time, the Governor has not approved a hybrid option for board members to attend meetings.
4. Motion passed with 20 yeses, 0 noes, 5 abstentions, 10 absent.

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. Curbside Composting has come to our neighborhood. Your building should have a brown bin or a regular bin labeled for composting. Ms. Arce explained the importance of this to our community and the world. Composting will be picked up on the day recycling is picked up. Composting can be kept in the freezer before it is disposed of.
2. Many complaints have been made about dirty sidewalks.
3. As of 11/12/24 buildings that have 1-9 apartments will need to have their garbage in covered bins. In two years it is projected that the garbage

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trucks will be retrofitted to have different containers that will be lifted into the truck.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. No quorum met. Next Meeting: 11/12/2024, they are meeting bi-monthly.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. Met 9/5/24 and Transit District 11 reported that crime is down in our district, although there has been violence elsewhere in the transit system. There were only 2 cases of stolen items in our area.
2. Parking rates are going up in our two neighborhood parking lots for 2025. Both lots in our area have charging stations for electric cars; as well as Lehman College. There is a fee for the electric charge.
3. It was reported that the status of the Parking lot was uncertain at the Gun Hill Road & Jerome lot. Apparently North Central Bronx Hospital has some, if not all the parking spots at this location. The board will verify what the situation is and let the community know.
4. Any suggestions for budget requests are welcomed. Let the board know. Suggestions for Traffic Safety Officers for help in crossing Fordham Road was one idea.
5. Next meeting is on Wednesday 10/3, due to the Jewish Holiday, Rosh Hashanah on Thursday.

D. Housing, Land Use & Economic – Yajaira Arias

1. The committee had much discussion on budget requests. Our community has a lot of housing issues. There is an eleven page report on this topic. Ideas for the budget are welcomed.

E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. More signage is needed in different languages
2. Many complaints about garbage in the parks this summer. Historically Parks does not like to put out baskets because they say it encourages

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collection of household garbage and the bins get stolen. The committee will work on this problem.

3. Ms. Arce reported that a street tree on Hull Ave has had its tree bed paved over. This action may kill the tree, the blocks will have to be removed. Ms. Arce will send the location and a picture to Ms. Stronczer for a resolution to this.

F. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. **No meeting was held. Next meeting: 10/1/2024**

G. Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer

1. **No meeting was held, the next meeting will be on 10/16.**
2. **11/9 is the projected date for the Bronx Victory Veteran’s Memorial flagging event. In 2025, the monument will be 100 years old.**

H. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. **Review of attendance records. Next meeting: 10/7/2024**

IX. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives:

A. Congressman Adriano Espaillat: Not Present

B. Congressman Ritchie Torres: Not Present

C. Mayor's office- Alina Dowe:

1. Operation Padlock has been a success. 10 Million dollars of unlicensed cannabis products seized.
2. Many Ghost cars and E-Scooters are being confiscated.
3. Rat Czar has rolled out “Rat Academy,” they are working with the DSNY. It is currently available in Spanish, other languages can be requested.
4. The Neighborhood Safety teams are diligently reviewing the complaints from CB7.
5. HRA & HPD complaints clients need to call themselves due to confidentiality concerns. To get help from Ms. Dowe, email her and send a text to her so she is sure to get your complaint, because documents have been going to spam. adowe@cityhall.nyc.gov and (914) 446-8393.

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6. Food Vendor complaints should go through 311. There are issues with garbage.
7. Ms. Dowe informed us that the Gun Hill & Jerome Avenue Municipal Parking Lot is now for monthly tenants.

D. NYC Public Advocate's Office: Not Present

E. NYC Comptroller's office: Not Present

F. Bronx Borough President's office: Kenny Agosto

1. The funeral of a 3 year old who fell out of the window with no window guards was attended by the Borough President's Office. If you live with a child 10 years old or younger, you must have window guards. By law, the landlord is obligated to contact the DOH if the tenant doesn't respond.
2. HPD & HRA They are working on the issues with them.
3. 311 is your friend, Mr. Agosto suggested calling later in the day. The operators are not as busy. Use nyc.gov for complaints and information for most things NYC.
4. The Asian Heritage Festival- The lighting of the lanterns was held at Borough Hall for 9/24/24.
5. Italian Heritage month will be celebrated at the Bronx Zoo on 10/16/24 at 5pm in Schiff Hall. Call Cecilia Hernandez at Phone # (718) 590-3500; room 125 at Borough Hall. This is the Office of Constituent services.
6. Kenny Agosto's contact information (347)-213-0375;
kgagosto@bronxbp.nyc.gov
7. Tour De Bronx – Earlier than usual, to not conflict with the Breast Cancer walk. www.ilovethebronx.com; to be held on 10/6, this is the 30th anniversary of the Tour.
8. They now have a combination of a Smoke Alarm & Carbon Monoxide detector. It is good for 10 Years.

G. Bronx District Attorney's office: Trevon Blondet

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1. Youth Summit-Date to be determined.
2. Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 9:30 Am, 7th Annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll to end Domestic Violence. For additional details, and to register, click here: <https://bit.ly/3BmBrZG>
3. Breast Cancer Walk-will be held in Co-op City on 10/27. Meet at the Bay Plaza parking lot.
4. For assistance and updated information click on the link at <https://linktr.ee/bronxda> 917-946-3438 Contact for Trevon Blondet
5. Community Board Members participated in a Court Tour with Mr. Blondet.

H. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office: Sari Mendoza

1. Introduced their new staff-Joel Hernandez
2. This summer a Senior Brunch was held at Lehman College.
3. 2500 backpacks and school supplies distributed at Back to School Pop Ups in the district.
4. WhatsApp Channel-In response to the community's feedback, they now have a channel.
5. Flu Shot in CB7-Held in Riverdale, but they are coming to us. Call if you need a flu shot.
6. Public Safety Fair at Poe Park -
 - a) Monthly convenings with stakeholders: organizations that help clean the area.
 - b) Syringe Disposal Kiosk at 192nd and Creston Avenue.

I. NY State Senator Robert Jackson's Office: Not Present

J. Assembly Member George Alvarez's Office: Not Present

K. Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

L. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr's Office: Ayana Armstrong

1. 9/25/2024-Back to School Event at Morris Avenue and White Plains Road. For more information, email district80@nyassembly.gov

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2. On Friday 10.18.24- from 4PM-7PM A Community Fall Festival will be held at the Allerton Playground. For more information, email district80@nyassembly.gov
3. Saturday, 10/26 A Fall Festival will be held at the Loreda Playground from 12PM-4PM.
4. On 10.25.24- Meet NYC's Department of Buildings staff by appointment at 2018 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461. For more information, email district80@nyassembly.gov

M. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office: Franklin Mateo

1. Last week they hosted 300 seniors at a luncheon, they enjoyed food, music and learned about resources available to them.
2. Assembly Member Tapia participated in a panel on substance abuse in August; new legislation was discussed to address substance abuse.
3. Their annual back to school event was held and over 700 backpacks and school supplies were distributed. 2. Contact help@yudelkatapia.com for help with constituent services.

N. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office: George Cooke

1. Congratulated new CB7 Board Members
2. Thanks for coming out to the Book bag events hosted during the summer.
3. Office is located at 573 Hoffman St. Monday-Thursday 10-5PM. (718) 842-8100
4. Mr. Cooke reminded us to call 311, it is very important. If the entire building calls, it helps.

O. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office: Adrian Cacho

1. Intro 904 Billings Lee Terrace Structural Integrity Act- In Summary, this states that the Department of Buildings is required to spot buildings at risk. Building owners will have to resolve these issues.

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2. Intro 435 - Rapid STI Testing - DOHMH expands STI testing in vulnerable communities. This expands rapid STI testing sites for workers in the impacted communities.
3. Intro: Reform 3rd party transfer program - buildings in physical distress, ensuring that neglected landlords are held accountable and assisting the Landlords with help with the repairs if needed.
4. Thank you to all who attended the street co-naming for Nicolas Feliz-Dominici. Nicolas was the toddler who died last year from Fentanyl exposure at his daycare. Office phone # (347) 590-2874
5. An announcement will come out on the Kingsbridge Armory by the EDC in October.

P. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

X. Next meeting date: 10/22/24 At Monroe College at 6:30PM

XI. Chair Arias moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24PM and Betty Arce seconded the motion.

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