



**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

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Bronx Library Center 310 E Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read

II. Public Hearing/Public Session

A. Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz:

1. AM Dinowitz acknowledged that many people are upset about the election. He encouraged us to not let the recent election get us down. According to him, the election was actually very close, it was won by less than 2%. He mentioned that we have been through this before and we need to fight for what NY needs. Senator Schumer will no longer be the leader of the Senate anymore which will make it harder to get what we need for Medicaid, childcare and education. Assembly Member Dinowitz assured us that he will help and coordinate with others in the community to ensure we get what is needed.
2. AM Dinowitz wanted to give thanks to the community for his re-election, he won by about 77% of the vote. He stated, “he has a small, but important, section of CB7.”

B. 52nd Precinct Officer Echevarria:

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1. Crime is up about 21%, a major increase in grand larceny, robberies and holiday related crime. Be aware of crimes such as snatching of jewelry, purses and scammers committed by individuals on mopeds. Be aware of your surroundings for individuals that are unstable; stay off your cell phone to stay alert.
2. Next 52 Precinct Council Meeting 11/21/24 at St. Brendan's Church at 6-8pm.
3. 11/26 Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon at Lechonera El Fogon, 2641 Bainbridge Ave & 194th St. RSVP to 52 or PO Echevarria Bronx.
4. Holiday events: Toys needed, drop them off at CB7 or 52nd Precinct. Call & they can be picked up too.
 - a) Tuesday 12/10/24 52nd Float starting at the precinct at 5PM. Route not determined yet.
 - b) 12/20/24 Holiday Wonderland Toy Giveaway - a joint event with CB7- meet at the precinct at 4pm. You can request a box to collect toys in your building. Toys are needed!

C. Sirio Guerino:

1. Mr. Guerino asked that we read page 9 of the Norwood News. A house that is four buildings away from Mr. Guerino's home, was raided by the DEA; in addition, the raided building is very close to a school. He acknowledged the continuing help he has received from the local NYPD. Mr. Guerino expressed concern that since the Board's unsuccessful attempt to preserve parts of the community (201st Street & Briggs) in 2016, that all we are getting are new apartment buildings and that he feels like there is no room for people with private houses in our community.

D. Kimberly Troncoso:

1. Ms. Troncoso represents Oyate Group, a not for profit organization whose mission is to alleviate poverty. She referred everyone to page 13

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for the links to the various programs available. Two programs that she mentioned, are Taste of Mott Haven and Global Rising Scholarship. Global rising selects 2 students from the Dominican Republic who must speak a little English and they pay for City College in NYC. See www.oyategroup.org for all they have to offer

E. Adaline Walker Santiago:

1. Ms. Walker-Santiago thanked the Board and staff of CB7 for all their hard work, she is a former Chair and knows how much work is being done.
2. The Bronx Arts & Science Charter School which started as an elementary school, is now a middle school too. The students continued in their progress even during Covid period. The phone # for more information is (347) 654-4756.
3. There was a murder near Serviam Gardens (198th St & Bainbridge Ave) and Ms. Walker-Santiago wanted to acknowledge a great deal of thanks for the NYPD's quick and professional response.
4. Access-A Ride has a pilot program (Hail Ride) that is hard to get into. She encouraged people to call regularly to get in. Questions came up and the District Manager said it will be researched, and Board members will be notified of the answers.
5. A concern was voiced that the community doesn't often hear about what happens with missing children & adults, especially trafficked individuals.

F. Marcelo Lopez:

1. Quality of Life Issue: 205th Street and Webster Ave has the street sweepers cleaning while school starts; this makes it difficult to clean.
2. Reported that PS 77 & The Bronx Community Charter School are not containerizing their garbage. However, Sanitation Chair Betty Arce said that the schools do not have to containerize their garbage. They do have to bag their recycling properly. The Charter school seems to be doing a

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better job than P.S.77, which is not doing well with containing their recycling in bags. DSNY will be notified to educate the schools.

G. Ronnie D'Angelo:

1. Mr. D'Angelo was protesting the proposed Fortune Society building that was changed to a shelter at 2586 Bainbridge Ave for recently released incarcerated individuals. He is upset that this is happening all over the area and feels that more needs to be done for citizens to take action. He has offered help to anyone who wants to make flyers, buttons or anything else. He suggested that instead of building more shelters, why not get people the mental health treatment that is needed for many of the individuals that have been incarcerated?"

H. Emma Allato:

1. She is an appointee with Vanessa Gibson, BP, on the School Board and involved with the Clergy Coalition. Ms. Allato voiced her support for the comments regarding the proposed shelter and suggests the community advocates for a presence at the table for the meetings on the shelter issue, as well as DOE issues.

I. Council Member Oswald Feliz:

1. Making sure that the city is practicing Fair Share Principles: Council Member Feliz, Congressman Espaillat and Borough President Gibson authored a letter stating that in their districts, which are the three most impoverished zip codes in the city, 30 homeless shelters have been opened. This figure of 30, does not include transitional housing or immigrant housing.
2. One hour before the rally to prevent the Men's shelter on Bainbridge Ave. from opening, Mayor Adams said the project was on pause. CM Feliz wants to see it cancelled.
3. Kingsbridge Underpass update:
 - a) A "walk-thru" was done and the Boom Health truck giving out clean needles, not really exchanging them, will be moved from the

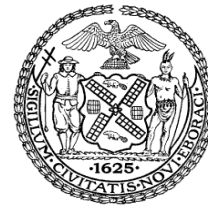
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outside of the library to another, more suitable location. It was reported that individuals were shooting up in the library bathrooms.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera's Updates: <https://bit.ly/4iw1LS8>

IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks:

A. Barbara Stroncz, First Vice Chair chaired the meeting in her absence.

District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera gave the Chair's report, click on the link above for all the details.

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

A. Attendance taken and a quorum was met

VI. Review of Previous Month's Minutes:

A. Betty Arce moved to approve the minutes and Jean Hill seconded. The minutes were approved by 21 votes with 4 abstentions.

VII. Motion(s)

A. Motion A:

1. **Executive**, <https://bit.ly/4gYJNXB>: Send a letter of Support to the NYC Department of Transportation in support of co-naming Goulden Plaza "James Baldwin Plaza"
2. The James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center (JBOLC). This is a slip road adjacent to the JBOLC at Dewitt Clinton H.S.
3. 10/20/24 Housing & Economic Development supported the proposal. There were 143 signatures on their petition.
4. 11/7/24 DOT Committee met but they did not have a quorum, no vote was taken.
5. 11/14/24 The Executive Committee voted 6 in favor of the Motion.
6. 11/19/24 General Board meeting: Jean Hill moved to approve the motion and Stephen Bogart Lebow seconded the motion to approve. General Board Meeting had 21 votes in favor, 4 abstentions and Robin Rollan did not vote because she teaches Yoga practice at the school. The Motion was approved.

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VIII. Committee Reports

A. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. DEP presented on Rainfall Readiness, flooding in NYC. Also discussed was that we are in a drought watch; Everyone should be conserving water. Drains and Catch basins should be cleaned regularly; homeowners are required to keep theirs clean.
2. DSNY presented on two new programs:
 - a) DSNY presented on waste containerization for buildings with 1-9 apts. This is in effect already, but the warning period is from 11/12/24-1/2/25. After that, the 1st offense is \$50. and it will progress in increments up to \$300. All garbage must be in containers with lids, no overflow can be put out in plastic bags. At some point, the containerization of larger building will also be included in this change.
 - b) Composting will be picked up weekly, the same day that recycling is picked up. There are virtual sessions from DSNY that can be watched by Superintendents. Fines will be issued for non-compliance. Curbside Composting training is available online on 11/21/24.
 - c) Fines for businesses will be given out if sidewalks are not kept clean; the fine is going up \$50.-\$500.
 - d) Bins purchased from NYC will have a bar code, a unique identifier; if a bin is stolen give that number to the Police but they do not replace it.
 - e) Brown Bins are no longer free for the composting, but a regular garbage pail can be used, simply add the composting sticker on it.
 - f) The next meeting is Tuesday 1/7/25.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. Committee met and a presentation was made by Literacy Inc.
2. Plans were discussed for their vision for a spring Town Hall.

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C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. No meeting held due to a lack of quorum. Foreseen to be present.
2. The next meeting will be 12/5/24 where DDC will present on the next phase of the DDC design of the construction on the Grand Concourse.

D. Housing, Land Use & Economic – Jesus Lopez-Jensen spoke on behalf of Yajaira Arias

1. Met jointly with the Health & Human Services committee at CUNY on the Grand Concourse. Malcolm Grey who does neighborhood development with the Mosholu Preservation Corp (MPC) presented on the BIDs work. He spoke about his work on the beautification of Norwood. MPC covers Jerome-Gunhill, 204th Street and White Plains Road.
2. CM Oswald Feliz spoke about his opposition to the proposed Fortune Society shelter at 2586 Bainbridge Ave (83 Units).

E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. Presenters Allison Jackson and Valerie Davis from the Parks Dept presented on Vital Parks for All. This program will help to restore and strengthen the parks citywide. \$3.2 Billion has been proposed for this project but it is unknown where the money will be coming from.
2. Parks hired 76 new workers; our district got 4 new workers. We have 11 parks in our district, so this isn't a great number.
3. Tree lighting is 12/12 at 6pm, Ms. Stronczer hopes to see everyone there.
4. A question came up on the Williamsbridge Oval fire and what the cause was? The cause is currently unknown

F. Public Safety 7 Quality of Life - No report

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. Joint meeting with housing

H. Veterans Affairs – No report

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

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1. Public hearing held on 10/22/24, the Budget and Capital Expenses were reviewed and finalized.
2. 12/9/24 the next meeting will be at Tracey Tower.

IX. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives:

A. All the elected officials including the Bronx Borough President, announced that they were having Turkey Giveaways. The number of turkeys available was very large this year.

B. Congressman Adriano Espaillat: **Not Present**

C. Congressman Ritchie Torres: **Not Present**

D. Mayor's office: **Not Present**

E. NYC Public Advocate's Office: **Not Present**

F. NYC Comptroller's office: **Not Present**

G. Bronx Borough President's office: Kenny Agosto

1. Bronx Borough President Gibson sent a statement of encouragement and hope, in light of the recent elections. She acknowledged that this is a time of division but encouraged us to work together for the greater good and rights for all.
2. The BP attended the Somos Conference in Puerto Rico; in addition to CB7 Board members and other electeds.
3. 11/20/24 November conversation resource fair dedicated to raising awareness of Health Disparities of Bronx Men, from 3:00-5pm at PS 246 in the gym.
4. BP is hosting the Bronx Borough President's Cup event. Register now at www.chessintheschools.org. The event held on 12/7/24 at PS 70 room 123. Kenny Agosto can be reached at 347 213-0375

H. Bronx District Attorney's office: Trevon Blondet

1. NY Cares coat drive at 198 E. 161st Street 10451; call 917 946-3438 for coat pick-up until 12/22/24.

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

1. The office will be closed from December 16-January 1st, 2025.

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2. Kingsbridge Road Underpass: Harm Reduction-monthly meetings have been held since May. The Boom Van outside the Library will be moved. More money in the Bronx will be requested, from the NYS Office of Addiction services.

J. NY State Senator Robert Jackson's Office: Edgar Tavares

1. Sign up for the Senator's newsletter at www.signup.senatorjackson.com
2. Office can help with employment and training issues.
3. Housing issues are a big area of expertise; help with tenant associations, housing lawyers, settlements and even moving people to other buildings

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

L. Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office: See Page 1

M. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr's Office: Not Present

N. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office: Not Present

1. They are drafting the "People's Budget."
2. Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP): A fiscal intermediary will be set-up for this program. This program allows Medicaid eligible patients to have paid homecare by eligible family members.
3. A new Constituent Director was assigned named Gabriella.
4. Ms. Tapia joined Bronx Talks last week and signed on to Senator Gustavo Rivera's letter regarding harm reduction.
5. Office location 2175 Jerome Ave office # (718) 933-6909 & Cell # (914) 727-7638.

O. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office: George Cooke; see pages 4 & 5

1. The office is located at 573 E. Fordham Rd. M-TH 10-5PM. Office is open but remote on Friday, only calls. (718) 842-8100.

P. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office:

1. CM Sanchez mentioned that this Thursday the vote will be on modifications to the City of Hope. A counter plan will be proposed, called the City for All; introduced by the speaker.

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2. J51 is a Tax Incentive set to pass by the end of the year. This will help make improvements for buildings like Fordham Hill.
3. A hearing was held on illegal lockouts today.
4. The electrical code is being updated in new buildings; not done since 2008. This will help with vehicle charging and other new changes.
5. Kingsbridge armory-an exciting announcement from the EDC will be made soon, as to what will be going in there.
6. Street Vending is a big issue-This Friday the stakeholders and small businesses will meet to discuss their respective concerns.
7. CM Sanchez contributed \$10,000 to holiday lights on Kingsbridge Road; an effort by the kingsbridge Merchant Association

Q. Council Member Erc Dinowitz's Office:

1. CM Dinowitz received many concerns about Jerome Ave food cart vendor issues. This is a very complicated issue, credit to CM Sanchez for really digging in and tackling this problem. She is doing it by hearing all the different concerns, on all sides.
2. CM Sanchez shared their shared joint concerns when she spoke about the City of Yes earlier. CM Dinowitz did express his major concerns over parking issues, Single Room Occupancy (SROs) and transit oriented development.
3. Working with Bronx Works - tomorrow the AM will be attending a zoom meeting on the Jerome Ave Men's Shelter to solve the problems with the shelter.
4. Allocated funding for the Jerome-Gunhill BID for the Holiday Lights.
5. New Legislation: 311 reform package that his office has produced. This will give us a bigger voice in City government; It will produce agency report cards, among other items.
6. Hundreds of thousands of dollars allocated Between North Central Bronx and Montefiore Hospital. Mammogram van sent out 2 weeks ago

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- X. Motion to close board business: Barbara Stronczer made a motion to close and Jean Hill seconded the motion.**
- XI. Next meeting date: Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 PM at Monroe College, 2501 Jerome Ave.**
- XII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.**

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