

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



COMMUNITY BOARD 7

HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	May 7, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center
	3225 Reservoir Oval E, Bronx, NY 10467
Members	🖌 Betty Arce 🖌 Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky 🖌 Jean Hill
In Attendance:	✓ Rosalie Leslie _ Gwen Thomas-Steed ✓ Lowell Green
	_ Kazi Noor
Minutes done by:	Betty Arce

Minutes:

- I. Meeting began at 6:45pm and Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read
- **II.** Introductions/Attendance Quorum was met

III. Review of Previous Minutes -

A. Review of 3.5.24 minutes. Motion to approve by Jean Hill, seconded by Helene H. Kutnowsky. Minutes were approved.

IV. New Business

- A. Dept. of Environmental Protection, (DEP) Presentation from Tara Deighan, Director of Strategic Planning on DEP's Lead Service Line Replacement Program Presentation: <u>https://bit.ly/44nMUCm</u>
 - 1. DEP is offering to replace private water service lines that are made of lead or galvanized steel at eligible properties at no cost to homeowners. Service lines will be replaced with a new, safe copper line. Value of service is \$8000.
 - 2. Eligibility Requirements:



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- **a)** Communities that have been historically disadvantaged and environmental justice neighborhoods.
- **b)** Median household incomes less than \$47,600
- c) Areas with high densities of lead service lines.
- **3.** Only homeowners who receive a letter from DEP or the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) are eligible for this program and DEP are targeting these specific community board areas:
 - **a)** BX CB 1,4,5,6,7, 8 and 9
 - **b)** These neighborhoods will receive services from three independent contractors that have been selected by DEP.
- 4. Replacement Program Steps
 - a) Homeowner receives a letter from DEP or DDC
 - **b)** Contractor contacts homeowner to schedule inspection of service line to confirm if their line is made of lead and if it needs replacement
 - c) A replacement date is then scheduled and the homeowner signs a waiver
 - **d)** Replacement work takes approximately 1-2 days and efforts will be made to minimize water service disruptions.
 - e) Final steps are restoration of streets and sidewalks, where there will be a delay of 2-4 weeks between completion of the service line replacement and restoration activities
- **5.** Timeframe:
 - a) May: homeowners receive letters
 - b) June: Replacements begin
 - c) Program Duration: Ongoing
- 6. Comments and Feedback from Committee members -



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- **a)** Will letters and information be available in languages other than English?
 - (1) Tara Deighan answered yes
- **b)** Can a flyer be designed summarizing the program that can be made available for distribution at meetings and community events?
 - (1) Tara Deighan answered yes
- 3. Neighborhoods within CB7 do not include Norwood and so Tara was asked if DEP can revisit the selection process to include Norwood, and she said she would look into it.
- 4. Suggestions were made to reach out to community based organizations, service providers, and religious institutions to help spread the word of the program.
 - a. Tara Deighan will work with CB7 staff to identify organizations for outreach and include local media, such as BronxNet, Norwood News, and Bronx Times.
- 5. There are concerns that homeowners (especially elderly) could be targets of scammers who may try to obtain personal information such as Social Security numbers or bank account information, none of which are required for this program. Therefore, it is important that the community is aware of the program components, requirements and details to help homeowners navigate the process.

B. The People's Money - Citywide Participatory Budgeting Initiative C. Other Business -

 A community resident brought a matter to our attention regarding violations she received for not sweeping trash within 18 inches into the street. She appealed the violation because



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HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENTYAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSONKARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGERthere is a car parked in front of her home on the alternate side
parking that makes it difficult for her to properly pick up the
trash under the car. She provided photographs but to no avail.
Staff member then took her contact info to see what can be done
to address her concern and possibly have the violations vacated.

- V. Next Meeting Date: September 3, 2024
- VI. Discussion on Next Agenda TBA
- VII. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm