



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016
Serviam Gardens

I) Meeting opened at 6:40 p.m.

II) Elected Officials:

A) Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz

1. Reported on a problem on car towing in local Super Market parking lots, and his objections to this practice, and the use of payment in cash as opposed to credit card. His office will take all complaints which will be pursued by him until changes are made to correct this practice.

B) Councilman Fernando Cabrera

1. Reported that the campaign finance reform bill (Bill 988) was passed allowing transparency on donations to public officials.
2. Reported that buildings with violations will NOT be used as shelters for the homeless.

C) Adolpho Abreu representing Councilman Richie Torres

1. Announced services for Immigrants.
2. Free tax services after Jan. 18 on Wed., Thurs., and Fri. by appointment.

D) Rachel Ferrari – representing State Senator Gustavo Rivera

1. Announced assistance in child custody issues.
2. On Jan. 27th and every Tues. from 11 to 3 by appointment there will be a free legal clinic by appointment for housing issues.
3. Health insurance information available by appointment.
4. Office closed for holidays to reopen on Jan. 3rd.

E) P.O. Chrystal Reveron from 52nd pct.

1. Introduced 2 new police officers who will do community policing.
2. She reported on the children's Christmas celebration which was a huge success.
3. Mail box fishing continues to be a problem despite the new slots in the old mail boxes.
4. Recommendation to buy a Uni-ball 207 pen that cannot be erased or washed.



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5. Contact the bank for new checks that will become blank when washed.
6. Keep small amounts in checking accounts.
7. Other issues are dogs not kept on leashes ... a danger to the community

F) Andrew Toledo from B.P.'s office

1. reported that C.B. appointments are in the mail. He
2. Commented on the steady growth of the Bronx in all areas and thanked C.B. 7 for the good work throughout the year.

G) Allison Oliveras – Representing Councilman Andrew Cohen

1. Wished all a happy and healthy Holiday.

H) Jean Harripersaud from the Bronx Library

1. Announcing the holiday activities with an invitation to attend and bring the children.

I) Jane Addison Amoya from Mosholu Library

1. Announcing the Reading Skills Program which begins Jan. 31 to the summer.
2. Register now.

J) Aldo Perez from the N.Y. Neighborhood Unity Alliance

1. updated the attendees on the actions taken against drugs in the neighborhood.
2. He gave stats about criminal activity.
3. Announced January events on Human Rights and the NCBH forum on immigration.

K) Kivasai Akyemi - Resident

1. Expressed concern about the traffic on E. 198 St. Recommends traffic enforcement on the congestion and the noisy horns, especially during rush hour.
2. Was referred to the Traffic Committee to assist in the issues.

L) Jason Caraballo - Community Relations for Montefiore Hospital

1. Reported on Monte's tree lighting.
2. Spoke on the human rights issue in the community and the steps Monte is taking to accommodate the Muslim population at prayer service.
3. The chapel will be called a Meeting Room with the crosses and Jewish symbols to be removed.
4. Montefiore will be working with Aldo Perez on this project.



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5. The removal of religious symbols from the Chapel raised comments from the audience and some C.B. members.

III) Attendance Taken

- A) Quorum Was Present
- B) Agenda and Minutes Approved With Corrections

IV) Chairperson's Report:

- A) Adaline Walker-Santiago reported on her activities in December:
 - 1. The train show at B.G.
 - 2. NCBH CAB meeting.
 - 3. Tree lighting.
 - 4. 52nd Pct. float throughout the neighborhood.
 - 5. Visit to Gracie Mansion.
 - 6. Mayor's visit to the Bronx.

V) Executive Committee Report:

- A) Barbara announced the 3 motions on tonight's agenda:
 - 1. The 1st motion read by Gregory Clarke, Sr. was opposition to granting 600 additional food vendor licenses. After some discussion, the motion was approved with one abstention from Tiffany Wheatland who wished to be noted.
 - 2. The 2nd motion read by John Snider was regarding the restoration of parking spots on East 194th St.
 - 3. The 3rd motion was for approval of a Marketing contract for \$ 6500.

(All Motions were approved unanimously)

VI) District Managers Report:

- A) No report.

VII) Committee Reports

A) Budget

- 1. Attendance letters were sent
- 2. MAS contract was reviewed
- 3. Announcement of job opening at CB7

B) Community Relations

- 1. Continued addressing concerns in conjunction with the Economic Development



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Committee about the increase of food vendors.

2. Meeting on Jan. 19 at 6:30.

C) Education

1. Yankee Awards being reviewed.
2. Discussion on the upcoming college fair.

D) Environment

1. Next meeting on Jan. 10th.
2. Concerns about DEP's proposed \$3.5 billion for a fence around the Reservoir to protect birds and the road.
3. On-going discussion about the proposed 13 story building planned for the property over the former gas station on Van Cortlandt and the Grand Concourse.

E) Health

1. Public Health issues planning date, Jan.22.
2. Report on the event at Hostos regarding the proposed closing of NYC Hospitals.
3. Jan. 10 Health Forum

F) Land Use

1. On Jan. 18th meeting an update on the Vision Screening held at the Bedford Park Senior Center will be discussed.
2. It was reported that a 14 story opposite P.S. 8 was approved.

G) Parks

1. Barbara thanked all who attended the tree lighting. She introduced Michael, the CB 7 office intern who spoke in a positive manner of his activities and experience at the Board office.

H) Public Safety

1. Warnings about mail box fishing continue, especially on the Grand Concourse.
2. Recommending using the P.O. when mailing letters.
3. Noise complaints continue to be an issue. Call the C.B. with your complaints.

I) Senior Services

1. Plans for a Veterans Breakfast in conjunction with the Veterans Committee is in the planning stage.



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J) Traffic

1. Next meeting Jan 12 where on-going projects will be responded to.
2. Issues from the community are welcome.

K) Veterans Committee

1. On-going discussion with the senior's Committee regarding the Veterans Breakfast at Lehman in February.

L) Ad Hoc Committees:

1. WAM Committee reported on the upcoming Women's Empowerment Event.
2. By – Laws Will be meeting in January to continue revising by-laws.

VIII) New Business:

1. Visit to Gracie Mansion on Sat.
2. Recommend training for Committee Chairs to have first aid training
3. Lack of egress in CB office a concern
4. Mental Health training available .Call CB office for information.

IX) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.