



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Ahmat Jallo, Antoinette Vereen, Beverly Roberts, Brandon Ganaishlalll, Daniel Porro, Doralina Colon, Elizabeth Angeles, Henry Pelayo, Isabello Adames, Juan Torres, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Louise Marchena, Lisa Diaz, Mitchell Halpern, Monique Farrington, Mohammad Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sarwar Jahan, Shante Chamblee, Sharan Fernandez, Sharyn Brown, Steven Ochoa, Twywana Bush, Victor Cordero

Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm

Note: The Chairperson asked the audience to stand for the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Note: The Chairperson entered into the Public Session.

Public Session

1. Christopher Velez, DSNY- Mr. Velez stated that the New York State plastic bag band is going in effect on March 1st, 2020. Plastic bag will no longer be sold in New York State. There will be paper bags for a 5 cents charge. This charge doesn't apply to anyone with government assistance. This band is to protect the environment, plastic bags are not beneficial to the environment. DSNY will be giving out orange bags and they can also be requested for free online from DSNY Zero Waste Pledge and a free bag will be sent out.
2. Monique Farrington, BM- Ms. Farrington spoke on behalf of Shantel Brown from Sotomayor. She stated that a work crew has arrived for construction at Sotomayor and the initial timeline is about 6 to 8 weeks. Workers are not in the programs space and they are using the gym back door. Ms. Farrington thanked Bronx Community Board 9 for advocating and will organize an opening celebration once construction is done at Sotomayor.
3. Jennifer Brainley, Parkchester Library- Ms. Brainley announced the NYPL is celebrating the 125th anniversary. To celebrate they will be giving a limited edition library card. Ms. Brainley also stated that Parkchester library offers a 2 part free citizenship class, the

afternoon session provides support to Spanish and Bengali speakers. There is also a program that offers youth ages 13-18 with college preparations.

4. Darlene Jackson- Announced an upcoming event on February 2, 2020 at 2pm, “Activate the Bronx”. This is a civic engagement forum. This event is about empowering the Bronx.
5. Moses McBride- Mr. McBride spoke about “Opportunity Youth” and stated that they are now recruiting for until February 21, 2020. The ages are 18-24 and must be out of school and work. Mr. McBride stated that they are trying to accelerate this program in the Soundview area. To give individuals a track to education and internships. They will transition into employment or trading opportunities. Will be recruiting out of Sotomayor from 10am-2pm.
6. Gerald Hollingsworth- Mr. Hollingsworth stated that a friend of his passed away while helping save lives during 9/11. Mr. Hollingsworth is trying to rename the 174th street Park after his friend. His friend is from the Bronx river houses. He has petitions, letters from NYS officer’s cooperation. DM Rivera states Mr. Hollingsworth came to parks committee and the committee agrees to this.
7. Rogier Van Vlissingen- Mr. Van Vlissingen stated that there is a program starting January 28th. Which is a unique opportunity, a 10 day jumpstart program. This program will be under medical supervision to teach someone a whole food plant based diet. The improvements that you can score in 10 days is more that you can score with any medication. Before and after medical results will be given.
8. Messiah Gurrera, Bronx Talks community health center- Mr. Gurrera stated that what makes this clinic different is that you will see all doctors that you have to see in the same clinic instead of having to go to different clinics/hospitals. The location is 2044 Westchester Avenue. Motion to go to business section by Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal, seconded by Cesar Pagan.

Business Session

Note: The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to go into the Business Session. The motion was seconded by Sharan Fernandez. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

1. Alexis Ruiz, Borough President’s Office- Ms. Ruiz announced that the Borough President spoke with the president of the NYC transit and was told that the MTA express buses in the Bronx will remain the same. There will be a hearing next month for the local buses and an update will be provided. There will be an event on January 20th to honor Martin Luther King.
2. Devon Harris, Salamanca- Mr. Harris stated that in November before thanksgiving Councilman Salamanca distributed around 2,000 turkeys. In December winter they gave out over 1500 coats. Mr. Harris also stated that legislation intro 1211 was passed. This bill requires residential developments to set aside 15% for homeless individuals and their families.
3. Destiny Cruz, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez- Ms. Cruz stated that the congresswoman took immediate action for the earthquakes that happened in Puerto Rico by writing letters to release funds to Puerto Rico.
4. Emmanuel Martinez, Senator Biaggi- Mr. Martinez stated that Senator Biaggi will be having the second annual Bronx delegation budget reform. This event will be partnered with Elected Officials Senator Gustavo Rivera, Congressman Jose Serrano and Senator

Luis Sepulveda. The event will be January 30th, 2020 6:30PM-8:30PM at Lehman college. Senator Biaggi introduced bill regarding domestic violence.

5. Daniel Gurrero, Senator Sepulveda- Mr. Guerrero stated that they are accepting donations for Puerto Rico at their office and it can also be picked up. He also stated that is housing help is needed you can go to their office.
6. Justin Westbrook Lowery, Assemblywoman Karinas Reyes- Mr. Westbrook Lowery stated that over the past two months he Assemblywoman took place in many turkey giveaways and different food items. As well as several toy giveaways. He also stated that their Office sent out news letter detailing many things Assemblywoman Reyes has done and different priorities. Mr. Lowery announced that the front desk of their office has pamphlets for seniors with different benefits that they qualify for. If help is needed seniors can go to the office to get help with the form. The Assemblywoman will try to fight 6 billion deficit when it comes to Medicaid funding. Trying to make sure cuts don't come from healthcare or education. On Monday the Assemblywoman sent a letter of support to castle business improvement district. Mr. Lowery also stated that their office is partnering with Natalia Fernandez and collecting products for Puerto Rico, collection ends on January 24th.
7. Christina Calderon, DA office- Ms. Calderon spoke briefly about bail reform and stated ADA Theresa will speak about this more. Ms. Calderon spoke about Ytap which is a program for youth. The mock trial program is only offered if you are enrolled in the Ytap program. ADA Theresa spoke about bail reform. Which there will no longer be cash bail on certain crimes. The reason this decision was made because it's not fair that people with low income have to stay in jail until trail. Board members expressed their opinions on the new bail reform and discussed the consequences of the new law.
As per BM Juan, are the grand jury proceedings still secretive? And did the Grand Jury involve NYPD and other professionals before this bail reform was enacted? As per ADA, under the old law grand jury proceedings were secretive but the law now requires jury minutes to be turned to the defense attorney. Protective orders are now in effect to request for non-dissemination which are up to the discretion of the court. It is hard to measure success because the law is only 15 days in. As far as who was at the table, the DA's Office had little input. As per the ADA, public safety has always been the first concern of the office.
As per BM Isabelo Adames, how does the ADA feel about bail reform? As per the ADA, the best thing to do is to listen to the DA's perspective on this matter.
As per BM Elizabeth Angeles, has there been any education for officers around this topic being that moral may be lowered? As per the ADA, in regards to training and boosting moral, she believes that everyone's job is the same and moral is being worked on internally.
As per Board Member, is there a limit to this new bail reform regulation for repeated offenders? As per the ADA the purpose of bail is to ensure the accused comes to court, if you don't come to court than more severe actions will be taken.
As per BM Victor Cordero, we need to invite legislators in support of bail reform to come talk to the community regarding this topic.
8. Comptroller Scott Stringer- Comptroller Scott Stringer stated that Bronx Community Board 9 is a great board and thanked the Board for a great job. The Comptroller then talked about realigning housing policies. He stated shelters are being built but the root of

the problem is never tackled. The Comptroller stated that homelessness cannot be solved unless we build an affordable housing plan. We have to build a movement to change housing policies. The Comptroller also spoke about Pre-K's and stated that this has been one of the city's best initiatives. Some parents aren't working because they can't afford childcare. The Comptroller stated that we have to create equal education, the same way we have to create equal housing. BM Juan Torres inquired regarding the Comptroller's stand on Charter Schools and Public School budget. As per the Comptroller, he has always supported parents having options for their children but believes that the charter school public school debate has always taken up too much attention when in reality public schools should be at standard with all other schools and not education by zip codes. In addition, the Comptroller has identified waste and bureaucracy in Dept of Education. The Comptroller wants to see the city build affordable housing a sound education system.

As per BM Beverly Roberts, there is no such thing as affordable housing. As per the Comptroller, affordable housing is not affordable for the people of those neighborhoods where new developments are being built. The Comptroller believes the Dept of Buildings should be split because of all the responsibilities they undertake.

As per Board Member, there should be more home purchasing options in the Bronx. As per the Comptroller, there needs to be strong programs that speak to ownership and credit in NYC. As per the Comptroller, he is working on a rent for credit initiative that will allow individuals to build credit for paying rent.

Chairperson's Report

- As per Chairman Happy New Year to all
- All Board Members to sign-in
- All BMs should complete Sexual Harassment Prevention Training as soon as possible
- Attendance review will take place in February for a mid-year review

District Manager's Report

- Most BM's attendance are well, attendance will be in the back of every sign-in sheet for committee meetings. Board Members should be present at at least half of their meetings. Quorum has never been missed in the last 5 years.
- Evergreen provider will be coming to the social service committee next month and updates will be present at following General Board Meeting.
- DM Rivera meets with elected officials quarterly. Democrats are in control of the Senate and they are passing more progressive laws. The Bail Reform, for example, was passed through the Governor's Office.
- Staff meetings occur monthly. Renovated office is not ready yet, however, DM Rivera has been meeting with DCAS to finalize details for the new office and moving into the new space will take place in the summer.
- CB9 Community Appreciation dinner will take place tentatively on Thursday, June 25th at Kips Bay.
- Parks Commissioner is looking to approve Blackrock to EMT Yadira Arroyo soon in anticipation of her anniversary
- Puerto Relief efforts have been taken place throughout the Bronx

- DM Rivera encouraged all to follow CB9 on social media
- Yankee Leadership Awards 5 recipients have been selected in the Youth & Education Committee and the game should be taking place in April or May
- Night Life Meeting which takes place twice a year took place last night and went well
- Seniors Connected will take place tomorrow at 10am and will focus on healthy eating
- DM Rivera participated in DOT Site Visit on Castle Hill due to poor repaving, there was a request to conduct another inspection for repaving work here.
- Metro North Train Station project has begun building platforms on East Tremont and Unionport. There will be a new presentation on this at an upcoming committee meeting.
- Open Doors Homeownership Program will have a 70 unit condo on Bruckner Blvd in the district.
- As per DM Rivera, the ne bail reform regulation is a political punch line whose consequences wasn't thought through.
- DM Rivera will be participating in the Puerto Rico relief efforts later this month.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Vice Chair Monique Farrington
2. Land & Zoning minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Mohammed Mujumder
3. Parks minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Kwabena Gabay.
4. Public Safety Minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Brandon Ganaishlal.
5. Social Services minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Daniel Porro.
6. NYCHA minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Nicholas Himidian. Update by Committee Chair that Sotomayor Gym reparations are underway and grateful for the efforts to get this resolved.

*BM Elizabeth Angeles encouraged those willing to donate to the Puerto Roico relief to donate money over goods as it is the most effective way to support.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 PM

OFFICE INFO

District Manager William Rivera - wrivera@cb.nyc.gov
 Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email bx09@cb.nyc.gov - Website nyc.gov/bxcb9
 Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM