



## General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2021

**Present:** Mitchell Halpern, Lena Johnson, Linda Soto, Juan Torres, Abunoman Rahman, Lenora Easter, Doralina Colon, Antoinette Vereen, Ram Halder, Jennifer Sayers, Miriam Sanchez, Alauddin Md, Anne Johnson, Monique Dennis, James Tynan, David Marin, Elizabeth Angeles, Shantee Chamblee, Sharyn Brown, Twywana Bush, Sadie Davis, Lisa Diaz, Alizia McMyers, Chiene Joy Jones

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:05pm

**Note:** The Public Session and Elected Officials Report segment commenced. There were no registered public speakers.

### Public Session

### Elected Officials Report

1. Senator Sepulveda spoke about the October 2021 Workforce Diversification Project which was created to help combat the unemployment rate in the Bronx. This resource is divided into two parts: Part 1 lists current job openings and Part 2 lists trainings, classes, internships, grants for not-for-profits, webinars, and after school programs. Each month, Senator Sepulveda's office will be sharing an updated document with constituents to ensure they receive current job openings and training opportunities:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2021/luis-r-sepulveda/october-2021-workforce-diversification-project>

[https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/article/attachment/october\\_2021\\_-\\_workforce\\_diversification\\_project\\_2.pdf](https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/article/attachment/october_2021_-_workforce_diversification_project_2.pdf)

The district office is open and assisting constituents with ERAP, unemployment claims, SNAP and Cash Assistance, Medicaid, landlord-tenant issues, among other things by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please call 718-991-3161 to conduct an intake process with the team.

2. Daisy Nunez, Congress Member Ocasio-Cortez - Deadline for FEMA assistance is December 6<sup>th</sup>, if you or anyone you know were denied assistance, Congress Member AOC's office is currently assisting with appeals. For more post Ida recovery resources, sign up for the office's newsletter in English at <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe> or in Spanish at <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>

Disaster Legal Services can be found at: [nysba.org/ida](http://nysba.org/ida)

This past week, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act, which is a bill to fund roads, bridges, public transit and electric vehicle charging stations throughout the country, however, it is lacking in investments for housing, reducing our carbon emissions, paid family leave and Universal Pre K provisions that are included in the Build Back Better Act which the House expects to pass this week. The Office of Congress Member AOC just concluded their monthly town hall, to review the recording please visit the Congress Women's YouTube page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH7Tp7HxeUQ>

Congress Member AOC's Office is also currently hiring Spring interns at \$15/hour, Spanish language skills are required. Lastly, Medicare open enrollment runs through December 7<sup>th</sup> and ACA enrollment is through January 7<sup>th</sup>, you can visit: [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) to sign up.

Constituents can submit a casework request at: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency>

Congress Member Ocasio-Cortez wishes everyone happy holidays!

3. Victor Martinez, Congress Member Ritchie Torres - As many of you may know the Infrastructure Bill that has been long waiting has finally passed the house and the Senate and it was signed by the President. What this means for NY is that 9.8 billion dollars are going to become available for use by the MTA along with other resources. In addition, something that Congress Member Torres' Office has been working closely with DM William Rivera and other groups on is to look into a feasibility study to redesign the Cross Bronx Expressway and to look into alternatives like capping it. As a result, the City of New York was awarded 2 Million Dollars to start the study and the Office of Congress Member Torres would like to thank William Rivera and other groups in the community that fought to make this possible. The Office is aware of how this issue has affected many families so this is a big deal.

If residents need any services, you can visit the office or contact Victor Martinez, Deputy District Director at email: [victor.martinez@mail.house.gov](mailto:victor.martinez@mail.house.gov), Cell: 718-541-2823, Office: 718-503-9610

4. Kaitlin McNamara, Senator Biaggi's Office – Everyone is invited to the Food and Health Empowerment Fair at the Huntington Free Library located at 9 Westchester Square, Bronx, NY 10461 on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 12-5pm, Food RSVP Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIWcxrYzJ8Ec6fQX71op9IG3IgbVhK97crhkzCP5LBsAhRcg/viewform>

The purpose of the fair is to discuss food insecurity in the Bronx and how to combat it with community based and government solutions, the objective is to bring the community

together and to host an educational conversation and promote local food resources. In addition, starting at 2pm tables are going to have resources on meal programs, educational programs, SNAP sign-up, and other resources including distributions such as different produce, rice, beans, potatoes, plus a turkey giveaway with RSVP and pre-registration.

Legislative updates this week include the Senator joined Congressmen Torres to rally to only permit use of the Harlem River Yard's Trade Center that's only serves the environmental interest of the Bronx. The Senator along with colleagues also joined in a letter to Governor Hochul asking to include a historic 1.5 Million Dollars in the upcoming state budget to fund research, education, and prevention initiatives to combat this line and other tick-borne diseases.

5. Borough President Ruben Diaz joined the meeting to speak in the eve of his end of term. He thanked all Board Members for their volunteerism and acknowledged the work of the District in securing funding for Park Restorations, YMCA, Festivals, Housing, and Advancements in Schools. The Borough President shared his sentiments for CB9 as this is his native community board and encourages everyone to continue to work together for the good of the District. He also wished everyone Happy Holidays!

**Note:** The Business session commenced. As per DM Rivera, First Vice Chair Mohammed Mujumder is away recovering from surgery and Second Vice Chair Lisa Diaz is leading the meeting. In addition, DM Rivera acknowledged that there has been some difficulties with WebEx and participants have been experiencing issues logging in.

## **Business Session**

### **District Manager's Report**

- As per DM Rivera Congressman Ritchie Torres did a great job at Press Release regarding Cross Bronx Initiative and coming up with short and long term solutions for the pollution concern with this expressway
- New Office is still closed but DM Rivera just submitted the last needed piece of paperwork to DCAS for this
- Office is still open on a blended schedule and by appointments
- Meetings are still taking place remotely until further notice
- CB9 hosted a great Halloween event at the UE parking lot
- Seniors Connected turkey giveaway will be conducted via an RSVP basis
- CB9 Holiday Toy Giveaway and BM gathering will be next month with details to come
- New Committee appointments will be confirmed by next month, attendance will be tracked for BMs based on these assignments
- YMPJ helped secure grants for place making for under the Bruckner Blvd area and survey will be distributed for vision suggestions on this, this is separate from District Needs and is specific to this area
- Housing Police Station is among top 5 CB9 priorities again this year
- Nothing has been confirmed regarding newly available retail location on Bruckner Plaza as of yet, options may be in discussion currently

- CB9 to host potential Resource Fair when the weather gets warmer, to be discussed further at Social Services committee. As per BMs, outreach to be circulated at locations where lotteries are sold and within local circulars and at community and senior centers.
- As per ADM Alonzo, NYPL in Castle Hill is hosting covid testing this week
- As per ADM Alonzo, leaf bags are being distributed at local branches

### **Committee Reports**

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington
2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is by Vice-Chair Mitchell Halpern
3. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is Chair Chiene Joy Jones
4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by 2nd Vice Chair Lisa Diaz
5. Social Services minutes were tabled by Chair Daniel Porro
6. NYCHA & Housing minutes were submitted as is by Vice Chair Antoinette Vereen

### **New Business**

1. Shana McCormick, Program Director, Rap4Bronx thanked CB9 volunteers for Thanksgiving Event and expressed concern for outreach to seniors population and suggestions for outreach are welcomed. Outreach via circulars could be an option. Contact Website: Rap4Bronx.org. Rap4Bronx was created during the pandemic to be a resource to the community mainly via produce/food distribution and have been able to distribute around 2 million meals already. CB9 was able to help activate a permanent space for this program during the pandemic to work out of Charitable Foundation which are funded by York Film Studios among other local partners has helped make this program a reality and DM Rivera acknowledged them and mentioned working meeting with them to come.

Note: Lisa Diaz put motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Miriam Sanchez.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:19 PM**

#### **OFFICE INFO**

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 Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM