



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Alizia McMyers, Brandon Ganaishlal, Chiene Jones, Daniel Porro, Doralina Colon, Elizabeth Angeles, Isabello Adames, James Tynan, Jennifer Sayers, Juan Torres, Lisa Diaz, Mitchell Halpern, Monique Farrington, Sadie Davis, Shante Chamblee, Sinade Wadsworth, Twywana Bush

Meeting Start Time: 7:08pm

Note: The District Manager began the Public Session and Elected Officials Report in the absence of Executive Committee Members and welcomed everyone after summer recess.

Public Session

1. David Kupferberg, My Critique of Bronx Community Board 9 for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign

Ladies and Gentlemen, the MTA has decided to restart the Bronx Bus Network Redesign, with a planned implementation for Fall 2022. It is time for the people of the Bronx, in general, to reacclimate themselves, because knowledge is power. And, I have long believed that the MTA's proposals leave much to be desired.

I, however, have to respectfully disagree with CB9's position. For years, CB9 has wanted the Bx5 (see diagram 'Current Service') split into separate east-west services via Bruckner Blvd and Lafayette Avenue, instead of one service that meanders via the neighborhoods of Castle Hill and Soundview (see diagram 'The Ideal'). The problem is that Lafayette Ave between Metcalf Ave and Morrison Ave, in Soundview, is parkland. This section of parkland would have to be decommissioned, and a through street created. It could be a time-consuming process that, for this case, would be very slow to implement. I think that it would be more logical if CB9, instead, insist that the Bx5 serve Schuylerville (see diagram 'Bx5'), and operate all times between West Farms Road/Southern Blvd and the Pelham Bay Park Station.

But there are alternatives. My Bx43 would operate between the Pelham Bay Park Station and Castle Hill via Westchester Avenue and Zerega Ave. (See Diagrams for details.) My

*Bx43 does not duplicate the Bx24, because both services would serve different markets. And, should Lafayette Ave in Soundview be opened up in the future, my Bx43 would be perfectly positioned to be diverted with minimal negative impact.
We must all work together to have better bus service for The Bronx.
Thank you. e-mail: dkupf@yahoo.com*

Elected Officials Report

1. Senator Luis Sepulveda thanked everyone for their heartfelt condolences. The Senator reminded everyone of the extension of the moratorium on evictions now until January 15, 2022 and provides critical protection to households who are still behind on rent and the ERAP Program which stalls evictions while the application process for rental assistance is going through. In addition, the Senator's Office has begun the Work Force Diversity Project to help connect people with opportunities and includes job openings, internships, scholarships, classes and training opportunities, more information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3kSZ7ZN> or on the senate website at nysenate.gov/senator/luis-r-sepulveda. Leslie Ramirez from Senator Sepulveda's Office also announced that the Excluded Workers Fund application portal is now open. For a list of community organizations that assist with the application, please visit: https://dol.ny.gov/cbolist?f%5B0%5D=filter_term%3A1136. Ms. Ramirez also announced that the Senator's District Office is open and assisting constituents with Excluded Workers Fund applications, ERAP applications, 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 their team.
2. BM Tywana Bush requested more information regarding The New York City Council seriously considering passing a law that would prohibit building owners from performing even minimal, basic, criminal background checks on apartment applicants. As per DM Rivera and Senator Sepulveda, this is a City Council concern. ADM SanAndres-Alonzo to follow-up with City Council Member Salamanca.
3. Nipa Royees, Congress Member Ocasio-Cortez expressed the office's condolences for individuals who have lost family members in the wake of Hurricane Ida. Congress Member Ocasio-Cortez hosted a Virtual Town Hall earlier this week on Tuesday to discuss Hurricane Ida Recovery Efforts and Resources. The Town Hall can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6XBnYptBnproA_ydn-b0A
Last week the Member joined Mayor De Blasio and the Governor as well as FEMA Administrator in NYC to survey damage left in the wake of Hurricane Ida and her office along with President Biden worked to expedite individual assistance with disaster grants up to 34K and spoke to residents impacted by IDA along with other Members of the NY Delegation. To report damages done by IDA and apply for hurricane relief support visit: [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210318/faq-citizenship-status-and-eligibility-disaster-assistance) or call 1-800-621-3362 or TTY 1-800-462-7585. Hours: 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET, 7 days a week. FEMA relief for non citizens: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210318/faq-citizenship-status-and-eligibility-disaster-assistance>
Relief for small businesses, landlords and non profit organizations: <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>
To sign up for Congress Member Ocasio-Cortez's mailing list in English or Spanish follow the links below:

English Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>

Spanish Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>

For general inquiries contact Nipa via email at Nipa.Royees@mail.house.gov

4. Cristina Calderon, Bronx District Attorney Community Engagement Coordinator
Community Affairs Unit, Contact: Calderonc@bronxda.nyc.gov, 347-501-1789
Crime Victim Assistance Unit is up and running to offer services to victims and survivors of crime such as therapy, relocation, etc. Contact Number: 718-590-2272
Office will be hosting a 5k for Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Oct 16th at 9:30am in Grand Concourse, flyer to come
In addition, Saturday Night Lights has about 20 program throughout the Bronx for youths interested in participating
5. Justin Westbrook Lowery, AM Reyes Office spoke about all the work the office has been doing this past summer with scheduling vaccine appointments , distributing sanitizers, and giving out information regarding the ERAP and Small Business Emergency Grant opportunities
On the legislative end, the Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act was in support of expanding affordable housing and supportive housing for low income and formerly homeless individuals.
Governor began implementation of AM Reyes' NY Hero Act
Office is open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm at 1973 Westchester Ave or call at 718-931-2620
AM Reyes' Office will be hosting a Back to School Event on Saturday at 2pm at St Helena's, flyer to come

Note: The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to go into the Business Session. The motion was seconded by Chiene Jones. The motion was passed.

Note: Roll Call attendance was conducted by Assistance District Manager SanAndres-Alonzo in anticipation of voting item.

Business Session

District Manager's Report

- DM Rivera has returned from leave of absence and is catching up on a lot of work after a very busy summer.
- The DM will be contacting all BMs, including the 10 new BMS which will begin in Oct. An orientation will take place soon as per usual for new BMs, date has not been set.
- CB9 will be moving into the new office space hopefully by the end of the year. Interactions in preparation for new office space with DCAS and other City Agencies has been moving along slowly.
- Committee and GB Meetings will be remote until January 15, 2022 as per State Legislators and Governor.
- Seniors Connected is postponed until further notice. Finding a location that can cater a large number of people has proven to be difficult.
- Executive Committee decided to eliminate Public Members.
- By-laws need to be redone, the Executive Committee and DM will be looking for volunteers to renew by-laws after new BMs are welcomed.

- Elections for Executive Committee Members will be June 2022 for a few positions, not all. Nominations will be in May and elections will be in June as per By-laws.
- CB9 dinner will be on hold until potentially the beginning of November or early next year based on location availability and capacity factors due to Covid-19.
- CB9 hosted/participated in a few events that went well, including the CB9 Y&E Committee/Mujumder Foundation Back to School Giveaway. Several Elected Officials attended including Congress Member AOC. CB9 also partnered with the Bengali Community for the 20th Anniversary of 911 on Starling Ave. There will be upcoming holiday events including for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- CB9 is still not allowing the public in office until new office space is completed in order to allow for social distancing and meeting appropriate guidelines with appointments, etc. CB9 is interacting with the public via appointments only and mainly via phone and email.
- As per BM James Tynan, Medicare is being changed to Vantage Plus and more information is needed on this. As per DM Rivera, CB9 Office to contact Congress Members for a follow-up on any changes in Medicare/Medicaid.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington
2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is on behalf of Chair Mohammed Mujumder. Quorum was not reached to conduct vote for Permanent Open Restaurant Text Amendment. Vote will have to be moved to emergency Executive Committee Meeting. As per DM Rivera this vote is to make outdoor dining for restaurants permanent with more guidelines and more efficiently in 2023. The vote is to make this authority permanent under DOT. CB9 Land & Zoning Committee had no objection on this text amendment. There are 27 restaurants in CB9 interested in outdoor dining. BMs to consider potential concerns and questions for future presentation. The deadline for this vote is Sept 27th and DM Rivera will take this vote to the Executive Committee.
3. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is by Chair Chiene Jones.
4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Brandon Ganaishlal.
5. Social Services minutes were submitted as is by Chair Daniel Porro.
6. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is on behalf of Chair Nicholas Himidian. As per DM Rivera, some NYCHA TA elections were postponed due to the pandemic, however, the community board is not directly involved in this process but can email NYCHA Resident Engagement on behalf of all NYCHA Developments in the district.

Meeting adjourned: 9:03 PM

OFFICE INFO

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