



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Board Members Present: Abunoman Rahman, Mujumder Mohammed, Mitchell Halpern, Lena Johnson, Ram Halder, Sarwar Jahan, Juan Torres, Anne Johnson, Miriam Sanchez, Daniel Porro, Angel Martinez, Md Alauddin, Lenora Easter, Doralina Colon, Sinade Wadsworth, Twywana Bush, Nicholas Himidian, Sharyn Brown, Monique Farrington, Elizabeth Angeles, Alizia McMyers, Isabelo Adames, Loretta Masterson, Brandon Ganaishlal, Jorge Hurtado, Sadie Davis, Antoinette Vereen

Meeting Start Time: 7:05pm

Note: The District Manager began the Public Session

Public Session

Elected Officials Report

1. Alfred McDowell, New Path Horse Academy- Mr. McDowell stated that this is a non-profit organization and would like to work with our community. New Path Horse academy, would like to provide permanent homes of unwanted, abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless horses. To secure a safe and loving environment, and to establish fun and workable programs to families and youths in surrounding communities. The vision is to create emotional and psychological healing through equine relationships and bonding. Build long lasting programs that will be successful to our children's future. The organization plans to give therapy sessions to individual suffering from autism and mental disorders.
2. Bronx outreach coordinator from the mayor's office to end domestic and gender based violence introduced the office which develops policies and programs and provides training and prevention education as well as conducts research and evaluation and operates the New York City Family Justice Centers. There's one in each borough and these centers are co-located multi disciplinary service centers, providing vital social services, civil, legal and criminal justice assistance for survivors of domestic and gender based violence and their

children all under one roof. NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx 198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor, phone number: 718-508-1220
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/family-justice-centers.page>

Note: ADM Alonzo conducted a roll call of Board Member present. Chairperson Brandon Ganishlal motioned to enter the business session. The motion was seconded by BM Juan Torres.

Elected Officials Report

1. Congress Woman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez shared that the Community Project Funding in the district was passed which means that 10 really major projects were approved for communities and organizations serving the Bronx and Queens. These include about over 400,000 dollars for the violence interruption program in Jacobi Hospital. It's a program that's starting to treat the ER as a first response to reduce incidents of violence in the neighborhood, and in the district. This is one of the most effective ways to precipitously drop incidents of violent crime in the community. As a result, the Congress Member's Office was able to secure almost a half a million more for this year in order to expand the program. In addition, a new job training program near Throggs Neck was fully fund (\$800,000) and will train the community on how to build off shore wind turbines as one of the first Green New Deal projects. This program is connected with an apprenticeship program so that it provides a pipeline to union jobs with health care and good pay. In addition, funding was allocated to the local community organization Emerald who is going to be helping a lot of immigrant neighbors access services that are necessary. Furthermore, water infrastructure projects are in the works and the Congress Member's Office is trying to get up to 30Million for the community. That also means that the process is now opening up for new proposals for this coming year. Additionally, redistricting is taking place and district lines changed a little, however, the majority of the constituents remained the same with the exception of City Island residents and some Allerton residents but West Farms and the Botanical Gardens were picked up. These changes will be enacted in two phases. As per BM Mujumder, improvement in reduction of minority violence is needed. As per the Congress Member, the immediate response and responsibility for public safety lies in the city and the mayor and the decisions and investments that the mayor makes with respect to policing, etc. however, she hopes that the violence reduction federal funding will improve circumstances in the community. As per BM Porro, there was a request for an Emergency Summit to discuss emergency Section 8 and vouchers and cost of living. As per the Congress Member an Emergency Summit is a good foreseeable idea. Regarding Section 8, that is currently in the works but stuck in BBB, however, it is 2/3 of the way through. As per BM Angeles, request to expand on Child Tax Credit to benefit food insecurity. The Congress Member agrees and supports expanding on green markets and supporting local farmers. As per BM Torres, the country's deficit is around 31 trillion and rising. As per the Congress Member, there has been a steady reduction of the deficit over the last year and a lot of the investments discussed would actually help save money but spending that does not benefit communities as our own cannot continue to occur.

Walk-in satellite Bronx office located is at 1973 Westchester Ave, Bronx, NY 10462 (currently only on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9-5pm), casework can be submitted

online at ocasio-cortez.house.gov or you can reach this office directly by calling 718-662-5970 for casework and/or legislative feedback. RSVP for our upcoming Town Hall:

<https://ocasiocortezforms.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=21>

Subscribe to their newsletter: For English: (<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>)

En Español: (<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/suscribase-nuestro-boletin-electronico>)

Apply for Assistance with Utility Bills: https://www.coned.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-plans-assistance?utm_campaign=payment-assistance&utm_source=questline&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image-body&utm_term=02-10-2022NYC

Free Tax Prep Services: www.nyc.gov/taxprep

Reminder: In-person Townhall for the month of March on the 24th at 6pm, doors open at 5pm located at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Parkchester (RSVP only, due to limited capacity). Register by calling the office or by completing the form at:

<https://ocasiocortezforms.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=21>.

2. Senator Sepulveda discussed that the biggest purveyor of the current deficit was the 2017 tax breaks that Donald Trump gave to the wealthiest Americans and corporations in this country. As Chair of the City 1 Committee a lot of the legislation that impacts the City of New York falls on the Senator's shoulders. He is currently working on the earned income tax credit with the Mayor. The Mayor has set aside about 250 Million Dollars of his budget for this purpose and the Senator is pushing with the State Senate to match that amount so that 500 Million Dollars is available to give the individuals that most need the earned income tax credit. As a reminder, tax season is upon us and the city offers free tax preparation for anyone earning less than 72,000 dollars to ensure that everyone takes advantage of all these credits that are very helpful. In addition, the Senate is pushing for 200 Million Dollars to be allocated to Community Schools which have been extremely successful in black and brown and poor communities. These schools are a full service station for students and offer health care, dental care, and mental health services. Senator Sepulveda is receiving 3 more Community Schools in his district. In addition, the Senator is also working with the city of New York on another piece of legislation is going to reform the property tax system in the city of New York including condos, coops and homeowners. The Senator wants to streamline the system to make it fair so that anyone who earns less than 58,000 dollars will get an automatic tax break on their real estate property taxes. In addition, given the ending of the eviction moratorium, the Senator foresees a crisis of eviction and has prepared a system in his office to connect residents with not for profit legal service agencies in the city to make sure that people have attorneys to represent them when they go to housing court. The Senator is also fighting to get more funding for the health care system in the Bronx to secure adequate qualified excellent health care for people that live in this community. Subway Crime can be predicated on the need for mental health services therefore, the Senate has allocated more money to combat the mental health issues in our community. Regarding unemployment benefits, the Senator's Office has been extremely successful in getting a couple of thousand people the benefits that were provided to them by the state

and by the federal government. In addition, His office has distributed over a quarter of a million pounds of food throughout the pandemic and is going to continue to do that. For additional assistance please call Senator Sepulveda's Office at 718-991-3161 and follow them on all social media handles via @NYSenSepulveda to keep up to date with relevant information and programs.

3. Kaitlyn McNamara, Senator Biaggi, The Governor extended the State of Emergency yesterday through April 15th. In legislative updates. One of the Senator's bills passed the senate, it entails expanding the accommodations for nursing employees in the workplace (S4844B). In addition, a couple of her bills have gone into committee, which both relate to a women's health (S401A and S3472). Also, bill S1063 went into committee which would prohibit agencies from charging for the process of a freedom of information request. For any questions or concerns please contact the office at (718) 822-2049 or at constituentservices@senatorbiaggi.com.
4. Justin Westbrook Lowery, AM Reyes has been working on the Assemblies 1 House budget which is the assemblies opening negotiating point when it comes to negotiating the state budget between the Governor of the State Senate. The Assembly's central focuses for funding had been putting families first and helping to reduce costs as New Yorkers are seeing rising inflation. One important thing that AM Reyes got in the budget was a total increase of 500 million dollars over the course of the past few months to close things like the tap gap, add funding for capital improvements, add funding for more full time faculty, and for more mental health and academic counselors to support community students. Many of these priorities are key tenants of the New Deal for CUNY which AM Reyes is the key sponsor of. In addition, AM Reyes got 150 million dollars added into the assembly 1 House budget for the housing our neighbors with dignity act which will create more low income housing through the conversion of hotels and distress commercial properties in our communities. Through assembly member raises advocacy are 2.5Billion dollars to enact fair pay for home care to increase funding for home health AIDS who support many of the seniors who stay in homes that aren't able to. Other priorities funded through the budget are 2.5 billion dollars to enact the fair pay for home care to increase funding for home health aides who support many of the seniors who are able to age in place. Additionally, 3 billion dollars for child care in New York state to help providers provide quality, affordable childcare and grants for families to help them afford childcare. There were also billions of dollars of more funding allocated for the ERAP Program for those renters and tenants who are struggling and need support as well as for Small Landlords and the Homeowners Assistance Program,
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5. Alexis Ruiz, Bronx Borough President Office - The Borough President's newsletter has been emailed to everyone. Virtual meetings have been extended by the governor until April 15th. All board members who are up for reappointment are asked to continue to serve until you receive a letter from the bureau President's office stating otherwise. As per the Borough President reminder that tax season is here and New York City has a number of free resources available to residents and families.
6. Cristina Calderon, Bronx DA- The office is partnering with Bronx Fashion Week in order to collect prom dresses for young women who may be a need during this time. If you like

to donate, collections will take place until April 15th, to donate please contact Cristina by email at rcalderonc@bronxda.nyc.gov or by phone at 347-501-1789. In addition, on Saturday, April 30th from 11AM to 3PM the DA's Office will be hosting their 5th Annual Child Safety Fair for young people ages 2-13 in the confines of the 40th precinct off of 149 St and Jackson Avenue. All are welcome. The purpose of affair is to teach young people about different things that they may need to know about in order to stay safe.

7. Greer Mayhew, the new Bronx Borough Director at NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's office announced that the Comptroller and the Mayor released recommendations from their nonprofit task force to help address many of the issues regarding nonprofit hindrances from being paid faster. In addition, the Comptroller also released the federal spending tracker which outlines where agencies got money. To access the federal spending tracker or non profit task force recommendations, please visit their website at comptroller.nyc.gov. Contact email: gmayhew@comptroller.nyc.gov or phone number: 929-512-1647.

Business Session

District Manager's Report

- As per DM Rivera the report was tabled for the sake of time as DM Updates are provided for BMs at every committee meeting.

Note: Chairperson Brandon Ganishlal motioned to remove a board member for unsatisfactory attendance. The motion was seconded by BM Monique Farrington. No objections. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Note: BM Nicholas Himidian, Jr. will not be applying for reappointment to the board. Nicholas shared his sentiments of regards to the board and staff.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington.
2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is by new Chair Mitchell Halpern.
Public Hearing for 1810 Randall Ave will be taking place in April.
3. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is by Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal.
4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by new Chair Shante Chamblee.
5. Social Services minutes were submitted as is by Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal.
DM Rivera will be further connecting with the United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State in their absence to this GB Meeting.
6. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is by Chair Antoinette Vereen.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 PM

OFFICE INFO

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