



## **General Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 20, 2022**

**Present:** Robin Kelly, Linda Soto, Juan Torres, Sinade Wadsworth, Sadie Davis, Miriam Sanchez, Md Allaudin, Antoinette Vereen, Abunoman Rahman, Ram Halder, Daniel Porro, Loretta Masterson, Brandon Ganaishlal, Twywana Bush, Shantee Chamblee, Nellie Santiago Rivera, Monique Farrington, Lenora Easter, Lena Johnson, Brent Woodie, Alizia McMyers, Sharyn Brown, Jennifer Sayers, Elizabeth Angeles, Lashei Deoleo, Julio Quinonez Jr., Kristine Garcia , Sarwar Jahan, Lorenzo VanNess, Chiene Joy Jones, Anne Johnson, Chandra Moore, Angel Martinez

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

**Note:** The Public Session was commenced.

### **Public Session**

1. Joseph Rivera, Racial Justice Commission introduced the 3 ballot proposals to be voted on in November and reminded the public to flip their ballot  
<https://racialjustice.cityofnewyork.us/ballot/>  
Proposal 1: Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government  
The Commission's first proposal is to add a preamble to the NYC Charter. The New York City Charter does not currently have a preamble. Adding a preamble would allow New Yorkers to adopt a vision and statement of foundational values intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties.  
Proposal 2: Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission  
The Commission's second proposal is to create an Office of Racial Equity, require Racial Equity Plans, and form a Commission on Racial Equity.  
Proposal 3: Measure the True Cost of Living  
This proposal would amend the City Charter to require the City to create a True Cost of Living measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs.
2. Robert McCool, Director of Homeownership Programs - Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc. introduced the Free Foreclosure Prevention Program and Barrio Solar Program.  
[www.nhnhome.org](http://www.nhnhome.org)

Homeowners can contact this organization for free, experienced foreclosure prevention counseling help at 718-237-2017 ext. 482 or [homeownership@fifthave.org](mailto:homeownership@fifthave.org).

Homeowners interested in solar energy assistance can fill out an inquiry form at [www.barriosolar.com](http://www.barriosolar.com) or call our Barrio Solar program coordinator at 646-820-1301.

3. Firefighter Kievon Harper, FDNY, Recruitment opportunities for the Fire Department currently available include: EMS Open Filing, Fire Protection Inspector, FDNY Dispatcher, Explorer Program and Fire Safety training opportunities are available. Official website for more detailed information is [www.joinfdny.com](http://www.joinfdny.com)  
Flyers were included in the CB9 email bulletin and social media pages
4. Fall Leaf Collection Announcement: The Department of Sanitation is once again collecting fall leaf and yard waste! Don't trash your fall leaves: let us collect them and turn them into compost! Bronx 9 residents will have special leaf collection on Sunday, November 27 and Sunday, December 11. Residents should set leaves curbside in paper lawn/leaf bags or unlined bins after 4:00pm the evening before these collection days. Other options for managing leaves include: Compost them at home, Take them to a leaf drop-off site, Check with your local food scrap drop-off site to see if leaves are accepted, Mulch mow your yard waste and leave it on the lawn

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

### **Elected Officials Report**

1. Council Member Amanda Farias provided several updates including, a hearing she hosted with CM Dinowitz regarding higher education and workforce programs to discuss where the city, specifically CUNY, needs to make direct impact on the education/workforce, the CM also introduced a Legionnaires bill with CM Sanchez to answer for water systems and testing, additionally, she introduced the Childcare Package to put a taskforce together for the city to be better equipped to meet childcare needs throughout the city.  
Budget Announcements included a distribution of 150K to different food pantries throughout the community, 135K to RAIN, with another 50K pending, to maintain the current site in the district and to reopen Mechlar Hall.  
Upcoming events include Fall Festival in Soundview Park from 12-4pm on Saturday, and joining the Stevenson Family Health Center on the 27<sup>th</sup> for Free Mammogram Services, as well as hosting a Diwali Celebration in the City Hall Chambers and the local Diwali celebration on the 26<sup>th</sup> in the district.  
Mon-Fri, 9-5pm constituents services are available in her office in English, Spanish and Bangla on Castle Hill and Lafayette Ave.  
As per BM Porro why is the city housing application process so time consuming and lengthy and why are SCRIE and DRIE applications not more effective?  
CM is aware of a meeting request from BM Porro and although she does not sit in the NYCHA committee, she is aware of the concerns and given the New Administration and New President and New Commissioner, she believes there are a multitude of things that need to happen to streamline agencies to work for people and accepts that this is a difficult thing to navigate and resolve. She also offered her office for assistance with filing these applications. She has brought NYCHA to do site visits for larger ticket items in the district.

As per BM Schez, the Hispanic community should also be recognized with a day. As per CM Farias, there was a Hispanic Heritage Event held in city hall during Hispanic Heritage month, however, Diwali is a religious event, if there is a suggestion on a Hispanic related day, she is happy to take this back to the administration.

2. Daisy Nuñez, constituent liaison, Office of Rep. Ocasio-Cortez spoke regarding recent in person town hall the Congress Member held at Bronxdale High School, located in the Allerton part of the district. The congresswoman discussed recent legislative victories, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, and shared a number of upcoming opportunities for NY-14 constituents.

The deadline for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness waiver is October 31! Non profit/government workers please visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to take advantage of this pandemic era waiver and potentially have all your loans forgiven.

Applications are still open for the Congressional App Challenge and are due November 1st. If your high schooler is interested in coding, encourage them to participate in the App Challenge! All students who live in or attend a school in NY14 are welcome to apply. Students may register as individuals or as teams of up to four.

Applications for the annual service academy nominations are open. They are also due by November 1st. Attending a service academy comes with the commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation (the options include the U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY; the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, MD; the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado Springs, CO; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, NY). The congresswoman may nominate candidates for appointment to all the service academies except for the Coast Guard Academy, which does not require a congressional appointment.

Finally, reminder that internship applications are always open. The office will be starting their hiring process for the winter session in November. Please encourage any students or those considering shifting careers to public service to apply.

“Today, President Biden announced that millions of working and middle class borrowers can apply for student debt relief right NOW at [studentaid.gov/debtrelief/apply](https://studentaid.gov/debtrelief/apply)

It takes less than 5 minutes. You don't need an ID or to upload any documents. It's available on mobile and desktop, English and Spanish. The Education Department tested the application website all weekend – and more than 8 million people have already applied. That's 8 million people on their way to getting extra breathing room.

The Administration's is providing up to \$10,000 in federal student debt relief and up to \$20,000 in relief if you received a Pell Grant. It will have a big impact on middle class people. 40 million people are eligible. 23 million people could have their federal student debt wiped out completely.

Nearly 90% of relief dollars will go to borrowers earning less than \$75,000 per year. And no one making over \$125,000 per year is eligible. A post-high school education should be a ticket to the middle-class. But the cost of college has skyrocketed. Giving debt relief to borrowers as they start to repay their loans will give people the breathing room they need to be able to invest in buying homes and starting businesses. Go to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and apply today.”

Important Links:

October town hall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYPdJomEUMo>

Register for our newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>

Application for Public Service Loan Forgiveness waiver: <https://studentaid.gov/pslf/>

Apply for SSI: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/start.html>

To submit a legislative comment, any questions or a casework request: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact> or call 718-662-5970

Congressional App Challenge: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/congressional-app-challenge>

Service Academy Nominations: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>

To keep up to date with our office please follow us on Twitter, Instagram, or Youtube: @RepAOC

3. State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, October 2022 Upcoming Events: The Senator's Office is working to plan their Annual Food and Health Empowerment Fair for the November Harvest season, where they will be distributing turkeys, fresh produce, and community resources. They are expecting for this event to happen on November 19, 2022. As soon as the details are finalized, the office will share the details of the event and invitation flier. Resources and Information: The Senator's office continues to distribute resources throughout the district, including PPE and hand sanitizer. If anyone is in need of these resources, let them know at [biaggi@nysenate.gov](mailto:biaggi@nysenate.gov).

The Office continues to provide their usual constituent services to constituents. If you need any assistance, please contact Constituent Services team at 718-822-2049 extension 1 or by email at [constituentservices@senatorbiaggi.com](mailto:constituentservices@senatorbiaggi.com).

General Announcements: The Senator's Awards programming is still in full swing. They would like to extend the opportunity for you to share your recommendations as they prepare to award exceptional individuals and businesses in the community. They would appreciate support in identifying individuals and businesses to nominate for The Liberty Award, The Empire Award, and the Commendation Award.

- Liberty Award, This is the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed by a Member of the New York State Senate upon a resident of New York State. It is the perfect way to honor those individuals who embody a lifetime of service in our community.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehEay05jW2Lj2zmdGFFo8BT2eE-02JMKndzAUj5VwAUhUPmg/viewform>

- Empire Award This award recognizes businesses that have achieved a high level of excellence in a Senator's District. This year we will honor small businesses that have gone above and beyond to actively serve and engage with their communities.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVopQ3QxZN4PKmYkfb1\\_jS62aPANjoU3M8mr2gXzL1MQ2RXw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVopQ3QxZN4PKmYkfb1_jS62aPANjoU3M8mr2gXzL1MQ2RXw/viewform)

- Commendation Award This award honors individuals from within the district that have made a positive impact on their communities. The main focus is on volunteer work as well as active community engagement and service

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmEjGLir3RLeuJR3bIC5\\_aUhVX7aApEI P5BaRLpwhpbCjXtQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmEjGLir3RLeuJR3bIC5_aUhVX7aApEI P5BaRLpwhpbCjXtQ/viewform)

As per Senator Biaggi only ¼ of people that apply for Section 8 are able to get it due to limited federal funding towards this resource, this is a topic the Senator is very passionate about.

4. Jeffrey Laufer, Bronx Borough President Office shared that the Tour the Bronx will be taking place this Sunday and will affect a lot of the traffic within CB9, it is a 25mile race which is smaller than previously and ridership was also capped. In addition the Bronx BP's newsletter was distributed with information regarding the following titles: Borough President Gibson announces relaunch of DV advisory council and \$1 million grant to combat high DV rates in the Bronx, Statement from Borough President Gibson on humanitarian emergency response and relief center relocation to Randall's Island, Borough President Gibson's statement on response to Hurricane Fiona, and Borough President Gibson releases strategic policy plan outlining blueprint for the Bronx. The Bronx BP is looking to restore the Disability and Veteran's Advisory Council amongst others. Mr. Laufer will follow-up with BM Porro regarding his personal concerns inquired to the BP at the televised Bronx 12 segment.

5. Greer Mayhew, Comptroller Brad Lander's Reports

Ten Years After Sandy Report, Executive Summary: Superstorm Sandy laid bare the vulnerabilities of New York City's coastal communities and infrastructure. The storm resulted in the deaths of 43 city residents and caused damages estimated at \$19 billion. With the support of the Federal government, the City initiated billions of dollars of investments in recovery and new resiliency infrastructure. These initiatives have gone a long way to repair damaged homes, elevate mechanical and electrical systems, install backup generators, and support the recovery of impacted residents and businesses. However, a decade later, many of these projects remain far from completion. This report analyzes progress on resiliency capital spending to date. The report goes on to provide a snapshot of the property values, land uses, and essential infrastructure in the coastal floodplain, illustrating the range of critical assets at risk. Concrete recommendations to improve planning, design, and delivery of resiliency projects offer a path forward for the City's future resiliency efforts as we reflect on the ten-year anniversary of Sandy and better prepare for future storms.

Audit Report on the New York City Housing Authority's Controls over the Installation of Roof Top Fans at NYCHA Buildings: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/audit-report-on-the-new-york-city-housing-authoritys-controls-over-the-installation-of-roof-top-fans-at-nycha-buildings/>

The objective of this audit was to determine whether NYCHA had adequate controls over the installation of roof top fans at its buildings.

Comptroller Brad Lander's Statements:

NYC Schools Face Funding Shortfalls As They Step Up to Meet Needs of Migrant Students: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/nyc-schools-face-funding-shortfalls-as-they-step-up-to-meet-needs-of-migrant-students/>

Comptroller estimates DOE should allocate at least \$34M in FSF to enroll migrant students at individual NYC schools, many of which saw budget cuts this year.

NYC Comptroller Introduces New Transparency Dashboard to View Pension Fund Assets and Performance: New York City Comptroller Brad Lander unveiled a new interactive website that allows pension beneficiaries and the public to view asset allocation and performance for the City's five public pension funds which guarantee retirement security for city workers. Together, the New York City Employees' Retirement System, Teachers' Retirement System, Police Pension Fund, Fire Department

Pension Fund, and Board of Education Retirement System have approximately \$242 billion in assets under management across all asset classes as of August 31, 2022. Comptroller Lander Calls for Federal Receiver at Rikers Island, Citing Rising Violence and Deaths

New York, NY – New York City Comptroller Brad Lander called on the federal judge overseeing the consent decree over operations at the Rikers Island jail facilities to institute a federal receiver empowered to make the operational and management reforms necessary to address rising violence, absenteeism, missed medical appointments and rising deaths at Rikers Island. Lander is the first citywide elected official to support receivership.

If you have any questions about any of the reports and statements featured in this email, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. For a full list of statements, press releases, and reports from the Comptroller's office, please visit our website:

<https://comptroller.nyc.gov/>

6. Cristina Calderon, Bronx District Attorney Office, Community Affairs Unit announced that she will no longer attend CB9 meetings in a formal capacity as she was promoted to different position and introduced the new representative for CB9, Ms. Robin Roberson (robersonro@bronxda.nyc.gov). Ms. Roberson shared that this past Saturday the 5k to End Domestic Violence was a success. In addition, this Friday DA Clark will meet with the NYPD Patrol Borough to combat the catalytic converter theft on Orchard Beach from 12-4pm in the Parking Lot. In addition the office still also offers bullying workshops and the Concept Program.

## **Business Session**

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

- DM Rivera is unsure if remote meetings will continue into next month
- New BM Orientation will be on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the office and committee selection will take place on this day
- CB9 office is almost completed and awaiting equipment and electronics
- Seniors Connected Meeting will take place tomorrow at 10am
- The office has been working on Service Request, safety and theft meetings, and Liquor Licenses, business as usual
- New meeting regulation for Electeds to submit their reports in advance will allow for more conversations among Board Members at our General Board Meetings
- Service Request overview by DM Rivera
- All CB9 committee meetings and General Board are open to the public
- Upcoming Turkey Distribution in November with Seniors Connected and Toy Collection for North Central Distribution in December
- Hurricane Relief Collection is still ongoing
- CB9 website will be updated as per committee members and selection.
- DM Rivera and the Executive Team will streamline how to Board Members can attend community events on their own on behalf of the board

## **Committee Reports**

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington. Chairperson Farrington attended a community event on behalf of CB9 and it was successful.
2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is on behalf of Chair Mitchell Halpern.
3. Social Services minutes were tabled by Chair Daniel Porro.
4. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is by Chair Antoinette Vereen. As per the Chair Catholic Charities presented at the last meeting regarding tenant rights as well as the budget the Mayor has allocated for Sotomayor and other locations.
5. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Shantee Chamblee.
6. Parks & Recreation minutes were not discussed.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:00 PM**

### **OFFICE INFO**

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