



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Present: Henry Pelayo, Daniel Porro, James Tynan, Mitch Halpern, Angel Martinez, Lena Johnson, Sadie Davis, Ram Halder, Sharyn Brown, Shantee Chamblee, Tywana Bush, Sinade Wadsworth, Md Allaudin, Lisa Diaz, Miriam Sanchez, Juan Torres, Monique Farrington, Jennifer Sayers, Abunoman Rahman, Norma Saunders, Margia Shriti, Doralina Colon, Linda Soto, Alizia McMyers, Lenora Easter, Nellie Santiago, Ahmat Jallo, Loretta Masterson, Victor Cordero, Elizabeth Angles, Mohammed Mujumder, DM Rivera, ADM Shirley SanAndres-Alonzo

Meeting Start Time: 7:07pm

Note: The District Manager began the Public Session

Public Session

1. Jessica Holt, GrowNYC, Stop 'N' Swap Zero Waste Program was relaunched to equitably bring free events to NYC. Next month's event will take place on Saturday, February 5th from 12-3pm at the Bronx River Community Center (1619 East 174th St., Bronx, NY). Swaps are free community events where the public is invited to bring clean reusable portable items, such as clothing, houseware, games, books, and toys that are no longer in need/use and they can take home something new in return. Participants are asked to please do not bring large furniture, expired or open food, unsealed personal care products, medicine, dirty or ripped clothing, incomplete toys and games, non-working electronics, magazines, or sharp objects.
2. Speaker Alfred McDowell, New Path Horse Academy was not present

Note: First Vice Chair Lisa Diaz motioned to enter the business session. The motion was seconded by BM Linda Soto

Elected Officials Report

1. Senator Sepulveda thanked all BMs for their participation. He announced that he was appointed to the Chair of Senate Cities 1 Committee and a member of the Rules and Codes Committee so he can be a resource to the community on these matters. Senator Sepulveda is also proposing legislation in the Senate that will compel landlords to train people on fire prevention. Regarding the tragedies in the borough, Senator Sepulveda and colleagues have provided clothing, food, and all kinds of services working the Red Cross and other organizations to make sure that victims are cared for. In addition, the Senator has worked with colleagues to distribute over 1000 at-home Covid tests throughout the district. Free at-home COVID testing kits can be mailed and requested by visiting <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. Senator Sepulveda's Office continue to assist constituents with a variety of issues including applications to the Homeowners Assistance Fund, unemployment benefits, landlord-tenant issues, among other things. The Homeowners Assistance Fund is still operating and they're still taking applications to help pay for either common charges, maintenance, tax arrears, or mortgage arrears. For more information on the Homeowner Assistance Fund visit: nyhomeownerfund.org or call 1-844-77-NYHAF (1-844-776-9423). 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. Four of Senator Sepulveda's Office staff recently tested positive for Covid and the office is still not fully operational and the office had to close for a couple of weeks as a result. Senator Sepulveda invited BM Porro to visit his office regarding his personal matter.
2. Justin Westbrook Lowery, AM Reyes Office reported that the New York state legislative session has started and that the hate crimes analysis and review act was passed and signed into law by Governor Kathy hall, this legislation would mandate the collection of demographic data from the victims and the perpetrators of hate crimes to fight the inequities seen in the hate crime system that prosecutes, charges, and convicts people of color at higher rates than Caucasian counterparts. In addition, Justin announced that Assembly Bill 2440 was passed by the New York State Assembly, which would guarantee that rescue inhaler are widely available in public places and public accommodation. The Office of Assembly Member Reyes hosted the 4th annual 3 Kings Day Event at Holy Family church on Saturday, January 8th and hundreds of toys were distributed to kids in the in the community. In addition, the Office has worked with NYCHH Test & Trace to get a testing site opened at 878 Cross Bronx Expressway from 8am to 8pm Monday-Friday and on the weekends as well. Furthermore, the Assembly Member has worked with BP Vanessa Gibson and a coalition of other elected officials to distribute at home covert testing kits throughout the district. For assistance applying to the Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) or any other program contact the office at 718-931-2620 or email at reyesk@nyassembly.gov. Justin's email: westbrookloweryj@nyassembly.gov
3. Daisy Nunez, Congress Member Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, The office is currently working remotely and can be contacted at ocasio-cortez.house.gov or 718-662-5970. To register for the Town Hall on January 26th with Dr. Dave Chokshi, please register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qhFDMhHnQsqCuV_upMjQZg. To be notified about our next town hall, please sign up for our newsletter to get updates: English Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>.

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

To order a Covid test online visit COVIDTests.gov.

Eligible New Yorkers can use NYC Free Tax Prep services including, In-person Tax Prep, Drop-off Service, Virtual Tax Prep, and Assisted Self-Prep to file taxes for FREE. Learn more at: www.nyc.gov/taxprep.

Submit a casework request: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency>

To submitting a claim to USPS if you live in a multifamily house hold: call 1-800-275-8777 or file it here: <https://emailus.usps.com/s/th>

4. Kaitlyn McNamara, Senator Biaggi, For assistance applying to the Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) or if you have any questions or concerns please contact the office at (718) 822-2049 or at constituentservices@senatorbiaggi.com. Senator Biaggi's bill passed the Senate which would extend the provisions given during Covid in regards to absentee ballots through December 31st. In addition, 2 of her bills have passed out of committee, one would allow incarcerated individuals, telephone calls when they're going to be transferred, which would help everyone know where they are and the second would help protect survivors facing financial sanctions for sharing their experiences of harassment.
5. Davon Harris, CM Salamanca enacted in the city council 2 of his bills as of January 1st, one is the creation of a DEP Borough-Wide Commissioner in response to damage caused by Ida and the need for more localized presence and the decision making process thereof. The second bill makes it easier for mom and pop restaurants to draw their own sidewalk cafe plans. The office is still open for constituent services and quality of life services. The office is located at 1077 Boulevard. The services provided to the victims of the deadly fires that took place were addressed by Senator Sepulveda. Council Member Salamanca was re-elected as the Landuse Chair. To contact Davon at the Office of CM Salamanca, please email him at DaHarris@council.nyc.gov
6. Cristina Calderon, Bronx DA- Reminder that the office has a Crime Victim Assistance Unit. You do not need to be a victim of crime in order to utilize those services. If you'd like to get in contact with them you can reach them at 718-590-2115. Cristina can be reached by email at rcalderonc@bronxda.nyc.gov.
7. Alexis Ruiz, Bronx Borough President Office- BM Reappointment applications will be sent out next week and they're due back March 4th. Applications for new board members is on the website and those applications are also due back March 4th. Mass distribution in Parkchester with Assembly Member Burgos, Reyes, and Senator Sepulveda which was very successful. In addition, the BP hosted a MLK event at Union Growth Church and it was well, attended by the clergy and elected officials. Lastly, as per the BP, our hearts go out to all of the families that were affected by the fire and the explosion in Longwood.
8. Janet Peguero, Deputy Bronx BP, Thanked CB9 and residents for praying for the families that fell victim to fire and for working with the BP's Office and galvanizing and coming together to support each and every family. The BP's Office is working around the clock to support each and every family and survivors of the fire. As an update on the 333 and Fox Ave families, all have been relocated to local hotels.

As per Deputy BP in response to BM Porro inquiry, thank you for sharing his concern on the need for disability equity. As per Deputy BP response to BM Sanchez, increased crime rate in the borough is at the top of her priority. She is going to work on organizing and ensuring that as a community our voices are heard when it comes to public safety.

As per Deputy BP in response to BM Soto's request for an information fair, she noted Jacobi Hospital as a location where more outreach can be conducted and will not Ms. Soto as a volunteer for future initiatives.

As per Deputy BP in response to BM Farrington's request for more youth services in the community the Deputy BP agrees and she would like to connect BM Monique to the education team to have further discussions on this matter offline.

9. Tom Lucania, Bronx BP Office, announced that the BP will have to reschedule her visit to CB9 GB as she is working on funeral arrangements of one of her former staff members and is also participating in the New12 Special on the local fires.
10. Antirson Ortiz, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander – As per the NYC Comptroller, he looks forward to working with board 9 and wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

Business Session

District Manager's Report

- As per DM Rivera CB9 currently has 47 board members and he has nearly connected with everyone of them in the past few weeks to check in. There is one board member not in good standing with attendance and this individual will be contacted officially by mail and will be up for removal for unsatisfactory attendance. The Executive Committee will be reviewing that next month.
- The office is going to share board member attendance every month with committee summary for each committee for transparency purposes and so that we can make ensure everyone has good attendance. Board Members are required to make 6 general board meetings and 6 committee meetings to meet satisfactory attendance.
- The office will also be conducting roll call at the beginning of every committee meeting and gathering next month's committee meeting agenda items in advance to be posted on the website for compliance.
- CB9 will be moving into the new office space in the next week or two with old furniture as our landlord is requiring access to the temporary space.
- CB9 is looking to host a notary class for Board Members again this year
- CB9 is also looking to host another fire safety meeting, potentially remotely
- Everyone has been doing a great job at promoting services and resources for fire victims
- ADM Alonzo and DM Rivera graduated and are now CERT Members and DM Rivera encourages BMs to become CERT members
- Covid tests can be requested online, if more information is needed, please feel free to contact our office. CB9 is a resource hub.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington. As per Chairperson Farrington, clothes and money (including 2 checks distributed via HMOs) were collected and distributed to the victims of the fire incidents in the Bronx.

2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is by Vice-Chair Mitchell Halpern.

3. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera. As per DM Rivera the Captain Thompson Parks renaming was approved by the board in 2012 but was delayed previously and again recently due to covid. There is a huge amount of support surrounding this request and the board will be sending a new letter to the new Mayor along with the Parks Commissioner to push this item.
4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera. As per BM Bush, she is interested in revisiting 7am-7pm Story Ave Bus Lanes and requested express hours for these lanes with new Borough Commissioner.
5. Social Services minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera.
6. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera. As per ADM Alonzo the NYCHA committee drafted a letter to the new NYC Comptroller regarding the use of the newly allocated federal funding for housing and listing a few of the District needs.

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:06 PM

OFFICE INFO

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