



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 13, 2023

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Andrea McLeod, Angel Martinez, Antoinette Vereen, Badr Alsaidi, Brandon Ganaishlal, Brent Woodie, Daniel Porro, David Marin, Derrick Holman, Elizabeth Angeles, Henry Pelayo, James Tynan, Janelle Harper, Juan Torres, Kevin Kiernan, Lashei Deoleo, Lena Johnson, Mitchell Halpern, Mohammed Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Robbin Kelly, Shereese Trumpet, Twywana Bush, Wajied Hakim

Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm

Note: This month's meeting was a holiday themed dinner held at Jimmy's Grand Café. Holiday Greetings were shared by Chairman Mujumder and District Manager Rivera.

Public Session

1. Ken Engel & David Rodriguez from Cricket Wireless presented on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which is a federal program that helps lower the cost of service for qualifying households. ACP provides a benefit of up to \$30/month or up to \$75/month on eligible Tribal lands, on Cricket service. In addition, some people qualify for free phone service depending on their household income or if they qualify or receive benefits such as Medicaid, SSI, or SNAP. Cricket Wireless will be presenting in length at future Seniors Connected Meeting.
2. Aurea A. Mangual and Donald Afflick, Advocates from DC37 presented to support keeping their existing health care plans. The city is attempting to switch insurance plans for municipal retirees and retirees are advocating for City Council support to keep the original plan. Currently city workers and their dependents are eligible for free health insurance after they retire through Medicare and Senior Care, however, the current plan to cut spending on health care will make it so that retirees will no longer get traditional Medicare plus Senior Care. Instead, they'll get Medicare Advantage from Aetna, which will have lower premiums for the city to pay but comes with smaller networks to choose doctors from and higher out-of-pocket costs for the retirees

Note: The Chairman issued a motion to go into the business session.

Business Session

Elected Officials Report

1. CM Farias shared updates from City Hall:

CM introduced: Int 1257: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring a training program for first responders and an awareness campaign regarding domestic violence-related traumatic brain injuries.

Int 1270: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to ensuring business licensing and regulatory compliance of all mobile food and general vendors.

Int 1193-2023| Committee on Public Safety Amanda Farías introduced a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the Department of Investigation’s oversight of the police department's use of surveillance technology.

Int 1140-2023| Committee on Housing and Buildings Amanda Farías introduced a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to increased penalties for Department of Buildings violations issued to parking structures.

PASSED: Res 0813-2023| Resolution recognizing April 13 annually as Borinqueneers Day in the City of New York in honor of the courage and wartime contributions of the U.S. Army’s 65th Infantry Regiment and their lasting legacy.

Int 1057-2023| Laid Over in Committee Amanda Farías introduced a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Correction to report on the distribution of menstrual products in city correctional facilities.

Int 1058-2023| This bill would require the Department of Education (DOE) to develop, in collaboration with the Commission on Gender Equity, informational materials about menstrual products, to be shared with every student in grades 4 through 12. This bill would also require DOE to submit to the Mayor and the Speaker, and publish on its website, an annual report regarding the distribution of such informational materials.

Int 1059-2023| This bill would define the term “menstrual products” as menstrual cups, tampons, and pads, for purposes of the administrative code. This bill would also require the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to include menstrual cups in the provision of menstrual products to agencies, for further distribution to individuals in temporary shelters, and youth in secure detention or congregate care facilities.

Additionally, this bill would require the Department of Correction to provide all incarcerated individuals who menstruate with either reusable or single use menstrual cups as soon as practicable upon request.

On Next Stated Agenda: Int 1139-A | This bill would permit for-hire vehicles to display digital advertising on an electronic tablet attached to the interior of the vehicle.

Past Events: November: Friday November 3rd: We held a Health Buck give away at the Parkchester Greenmarket from 9 AM to 11 AM distributing over \$25,000 to residents in our district; Wednesday, November 15th Our office with Borough president's office Distributed turkeys in Soundview park; Friday, November 17th in collaboration with Assembly Member Kenny Burgos, Council Member Salamanca, Congresswoman Ocasio Cortez we distributed over 300 turkeys at Lafayette Estates; Friday, November 17th Our office held our annual Office Turkey Giveaway! Distributing over 500 turkeys; Saturday, November 18th Our office in collaboration with the Caribbean Equality Project, multiple elected officials and community partners able to distribute food to over 1,000 plus

community members; Sunday, November 19th our office distributed turkeys with Casa de La Fe in the Soundview area

Upcoming events: December: Tuesday, December 19th at 4pm Parkchester library, sponsored alongside YMPJ and Lyft; Thursday, December 21st at 3 P.M. Our office in collaboration with Assembly Member Burgos will be doing a toy give away at I.S. 131 Albert Einstein To RSVP for the above events, you can go to bit.ly/CD18FALL (link in all caps, case sensitive).

Office Offerings: Monday Urban Justice Center Family Law Clinic - December 18th Virtual (1 appointments left); Tuesday Urban Justice Center Public Assistance - December 19th in Person (3 appointments left); Every Wednesday Immigration Legal Services are offered by CUNY Citizenship Now. To RSVP for these office appointments, you can call our office at 718-792-1140

Budget Updates: Participatory Budgeting is now Open! Submit your Ideas at:

<https://ideas.pbny.org/pbny-ideas-2024>

Sign up to be a volunteer and learn how the Budgeting process works:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1w4pYLz_VxeyjKLnvpCUPYkao3yMOw4qVsIEd_JKHxw/edit

Eligible Projects Must Satisfy the Following Requirements: Cost at least \$50,000, No more than \$1 million, Have a lifespan of at least 5 years**, Involve construction, reconstruction, or installation

More can be found here: <https://ideas.pbny.org/pbny-ideas-2024/guidelines>

Marco Luna, MLuna@council.nyc.gov, Assistant Director of Constituent Services, 718-792-1140

2. Council Member Salamanca shared the following updates on Legislation:

Council Member Salamanca's legislation, Intro 743, which would require City employees who can issue summons/violations to provide pre-printed, handwritten, or e-business card with identifying information upon request, was enacted into law on November 1st. Like NYPD's 'Right-to-Know Act,' this bill creates a level of transparency between city agency inspectors and everyday New Yorkers who have felt inspectors have been overzealous in their approach to questioning individuals. Intro 743 will now be known as Local Law 141 of 2023.

On Tuesday, December 5th, the Committee on Education voted in favor of Council Member Salamanca's legislation Intro 198, that would require the department of education to stock opioid antagonists (aka, naloxone/narcan, etc.) in all school buildings with an assigned nurse. Today the legislation went up for a full vote at the Council stated meeting where it was adopted. This will allow New York City to be the largest school district in the nation to stock opioid antagonists as a result of this legislation. This legislation is in response to the startling numbers that show school-aged are now using drugs at higher rates than ever seen in New York City and nationally.

Intro 1131, Council Member Salamanca's legislation that would expand enforcement capabilities to the Department of Sanitation's in relation to unlicensed mobile car wash vendors, is expected to be approved by the full City Council by the end of the year. Despite a licensing process for mobile car wash vendors, only 16 mobile car wash vendors have applied for and received a mobile car wash license to operate in the five boroughs.

Office Operations: The office remains open and in full operation to offer a variety of constituent services. Those looking for assistance can give us a call, submit an email or visit us in person at the district office. The office also has immigration attorneys available to provide constituents with free consultation and application assistance. However, this

service is offered by-appointment only. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact our office directly.

Upcoming Events: On Saturday, December 9th in partnership with Urban Health Plan, Southern Blvd. Bid, Ponce Bank, and the 41st Precinct, CM Salamanca will host his annual Children's Coat Drive at the district office 1070 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10459 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. There will be lots of entertainment and hot chocolate provided to those in attendance. *Flyer Attached*; On Thursday, December 14th, CM Salamanca will host his annual Holiday Party at Maestro's Caterer's 1703 Bronxdale Ave. Bronx, NY 10462 from 7pm – 12am. This event is first come, first serve for 500 guest, No RSVP is required. *Flyer Attached*

How to connect with Team Salamanca: We strongly encourage interested parties to follow us on one of our social media platforms. This is to help individuals stay informed and up to date about legislation, upcoming events and other pivotal information.

- Facebook: Facebook.com/CMSalamanca

- X (Twitter): @CMSalamancaJr

- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr_d17

3. The Borough President thanks the amazing effort and response of FDNY, NYPD, NYC EM, DOB, American Red Cross, Community Board 5, the Hoodspitality Group, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, school leadership and staff at PS 396/MS 390, Bronx Community Colleges, colleagues in government, and everyone else who has reached out and expressed a desire to help our neighbors. Thankfully, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths as a result of this incident, and the office is working closely to ensure the impacted families continue to receive support.

Last week the BP hosted Winter Wonderland, Tree Lighting & Menorah Lighting.

Community Board Applications will be live soon and the office hopes boards will assist in outreach in getting applications out there. The office will share the link with all of you when they have it. The application will be electronic and in Spanish similar to last year. We are the only Borough to have a bilingual application.

Last week the office hosted a meeting with CBs, Council Members & Office of Cannabis Management. There has been an influx of applications in our Borough and we hear your concerns.

Today the office hosted a training with Office of Management & Budget on CB budgets, accruals, paying rent, new office space, etc for District Managers & Staff.

The Office is hosting a holiday gospel concert Monday December 18th from 12-3 in Coop city. Please reach out for more information.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year.

4. The Office of Representative Alexandria Ocasio Cortez reported that the House passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded through early 2024, so we expect to avoid a shutdown this year. For updates, please be sure to sign up for our newsletter and follow us on social media at Rep AOC.

Tax filing season is rapidly approaching and will end on April 15th. The IRS is encouraging people to file early and electronically and opt for direct deposit. 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, which you can find on the IRS's website by searching Find a Location for Free Tax Help in the search bar.

The representative also wanted to share that we are currently hiring for a Deputy District Director for our District Office and an Operations Assistant based in Washington, DC.

People from BIPOC, LGBT+, working class, and/or other underrepresented communities

are strongly encouraged to apply, as well as people with ties to NY-14.

As a reminder, if you plan on traveling during this holiday season please check your passport expiration date and start the renewal process in advance since expedited services will be limited and not always guaranteed by date of travel. The Department of State recommends you apply to renew 9 months before your passport expires to be safe, as many countries require foreign passports to have several months of validity. If your application is delayed or you have a life-or-death emergency requiring travel, don't hesitate to contact our office for assistance.

Finally, I wanted to remind everyone that our internship application is always open. Please encourage any students or those considering shifting careers to public service to apply. There is also a link with more information below.

The congresswoman and our office wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

5. The Bronx District Attorney's Office is hosting another re-entry fair to build on the success of our last venture in September 2023, at Eastchester Gardens NYCHA, in the Bronx. The goal of this event is to provide the community and attendees with valuable resources such as reviewing resumes and cover letters, insight on interview skills, securing employment, obtaining identification, knowing their rights, enrolling, or completing their education or trade programs, and securing stable housing. The focus for this event is job readiness, we are looking for employment opportunities. Court Tours have begun. There will be two sessions, the tour last roughly 2 hours. To schedule your tour reach out to BlondetT@bronxda.NYC.gov.
6. The Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander's December Updates include the Fair Share Report: While New York City has a Charter mandate to locate City services and facilities equitably, a new audit and report from New York City Comptroller Brad Lander found that the City unevenly distributes City facilities, while keeping critical data on the concentration of services in neighborhoods unavailable and failing to produce mandated analyses of neighborhood impact. The Comptroller's Office review consisted of both an audit of Fair Share statements over the past 5 years, and a geospatial analysis of a wide range of City facilities. To view our recommendations to remedy this issue, please go to our website at comptroller.nyc.gov.
Racial Wealth Equity Gap Report: Earlier this year, both the New York State Senate and the State Assembly passed bills to establish a state-level commission on reparations. The commission would be charged to examine the legacy of slavery and subsequent racial and economic discrimination against African Americans in New York and to make recommendations for potential remedies and reparations. At the request of State Senator James Sanders, lead sponsor of the reparations bill in the New York State Senate, this brief examines the form and scale of the racial wealth gap in New York. The findings show stark racial wealth disparities in both New York State and City. We then consider the framework for a "solidarity dividend," the benefits that New York would see from narrowing gaps of systemic racism. You can view more information on the findings at our website: comptroller.nyc.gov.
NYC Comptroller's Office Summer Internship: The Office of the New York City Comptroller is currently accepting applications for the 2024 summer internships program. Interns participate in hands-on departmental projects as well as an enrichment program that includes networking opportunities, professional development programming, and community service activities. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree program for the Fall 2024 semester. The deadline to submit an application is February 23, 2024. The application is on our website at comptroller.nyc.gov/jobs/summer-internship-program/.

If you have any questions about compensation, program terms, and other information, please feel free to contact our Bronx Borough Director, Greer Mayhew, at gmayhew@comptroller.nyc.gov. or 929-512-1647.

Chairman Report

- Thank you to all of the members for electing Mujumder as Chairperson
- The mission of the board is to work together is to give back to the community
- Special thank you to the Board Members who became Chairs of the various committees in the board

District Manager's Report

- DM Rivera recognized the 43rd Pct Commanding Officer Moya and presented him to say a few words
- DM Rivera gave a brief recap of office operations and district updates in observation of the holiday and holiday meeting held.

Committee Reports

1. All Committee summaries were shared to committee in advance and reports were tabled at the meeting in observation of the holiday and holiday meeting held.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 PM

OFFICE INFO

District Manager William Rivera - wrivera@cb.nyc.gov
Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email bx09@cb.nyc.gov - Website nyc.gov/bxcb9
Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM