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**Bronx Community Board 12**  
**April 28, 2022**

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, the Bronx, for April 28, 2022 was called to order via a Webex virtual meeting, at 7:02 pm by Chairman Dr. Michael Burke.

**I Public Gallery Session**

**Dr. Mary O 'Riordan/Community Resident**

Dr. O'Riordan raised issues regarding the smoke shop on Katonah Avenue, which reportedly is unlicensed and located within 500 feet of PS 19. They have received multiple violations. The issues have been reported to both Assemblyman Dinowitz and Council Member Dinowitz. The proprietors reportedly routinely fail to appear for hearings; another hearing is upcoming. The awning reportedly has a representation of a child; Department of Buildings is reportedly investigating. Dr. O'Riordan asked if the NYC Department of Cannabis Management is investigating the issues.

**Mr. Al DeCastro/Community Resident**

Mr. DeCastro raised the issue of the number of tractor trailers parking around the community. He asked that the Community Board and local Elected Officials address the issue.

District Manager George Torres responded that both District 11 and District 12 council members are looking at solutions to the issue.

**Mr. Don Siblings/Community Resident**

Mr. Siblings raised concerns about how the White Plains Road bike lanes are obstructing traffic. There is also the same issue on Webster Avenue, and there are concrete barriers near the Woodlawn Metro North train station that obstruct traffic. Traffic is also obstructed by the left-turn only signal on 233<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Transportation Chairman John Isaac responded that there is an ongoing shift towards biking to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



### **Ms. Xiomara James/Community Resident**

Ms. James stated that she has already filed a complaint regarding the condition of local bike lanes regarding potholes.

## **II Elected Officials/Representatives Report**

Ms. Sabriena Campbell, representing **Council Member Dinowitz**, reported that there is ongoing evaluation of potential alternate locations for commercial trucks in the community. She also reported that Council Member Dinowitz's office is investigating the illegal car washes in the community.

Ms. Cynthia Prisco, representing **Council Member Riley's** office, provided an update on upcoming events. Council Member Riley's office is also working with other local elected officials to resolve the trucking issue.

Ms. Harmony Guo, representing **Senator Bailey's** office, provided an update on upcoming events.

Ms. Alina Dowe, representing **Mayor Adam's** office, provided an update on upcoming events.

Ms. Camila Thomas introduced herself as Dept of City Planning's new representative to Community Board 12.

## **III Bronx Borough President's Report**

Mr. Tom Lucania reported that there may be several options for meetings which will be communicated in a memo by Monday, May 2, 2022. If boards choose the hybrid remote/in person option the board's quorum will still need to be physically present for committee and general board meetings.

## **IV Community Board Chairperson's Report**

The Chairman's Report is attached.

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

The District Manager's Report is attached.

## **VI Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were not available for approval.

## **VII Financial Report**

Treasurer Ms. Tollyne Dickinson provided an update regarding the current balance of the Sunshine Fund: \$2,339. She encouraged all members who have not yet done so to send their contributions by mail or hand delivery to the office.

## **VIII Committee Reports**

### **Votes on Committee Recommendations**

#### **Land Use**

Chairman Karl Stricker reported that the community had no opposition to the 1959 Strang Avenue proposed zoning change. The Land Use Committee recommended approval. **Motion passed 26 Ayes and 1 Abstentions.**

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Chairwoman Denise Bond reported that the committee recommended approval of a letter of support for the proposed capital improvements to local parks. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Transportation and Capital Improvements Committee**

Chairman John Isaac reported on NYC DOT's safety improvement project for the bike lane from E. 226 to E. 241<sup>st</sup> Streets on White Plains Road. The Committee voted in favor of the proposal and requested a letter of support for the project. **Motion passed 23 Ayes and 4 Abstentions.**

#### **Business and Economic Development Committee**

Chairwoman Judith Benitez requested approval of a new liquor license for an establishment at 4277 Katonah Avenue. **Motion passed 22 Ayes, 2 Nays, and 4 Abstentions.**

## **IX Old Business**

Board member Keisha Martin reported that the first Community Board 12 "year in review" newsletter will be distributed electronically in September 2022, with some hard copies made available at senior centers. The publication schedule will be quarterly.

## **X New Business**

Education and Youth Services Chairwoman Tollyne Dickerson provided an update on summer programs available to youth.

**Nominations for Nominating Committee:**

The following board members were nominated for the Nominating Committee, and accepted:

Denise Bond  
Clinton Myke  
Victor Brown  
Theodore James  
Shanequa Moore

**XI Adjournment**

There being no further issues to discuss motion made John Isaac and by seconded by Robert Hall adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was duly adjourned at 9:12 pm.



Carla Borsotti  
April 28, 2022



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### Land Use Committee Minutes

- Name of Committee:** Land Use Committee
- Date of Meeting:** April 26, 2022; 7:00 PM
- Location:** Virtual-WebEx
- Members in Attendance:** Karl Stricter – Chair  
 Hari Singh – Vice Chair  
 Judith Benetiz  
 Denise Bond  
 Carla Borsotti  
 John Isaac  
 Michael Burke – Board Chairman
- Absences:** Keisha Martin  
 Anthony Reid

**Meeting Called to order:** 7:00 PM

**Motions Passed:**

**Discussion:**

The Land Use Committee convened to hold a public hearing on New York City Planning ULURP Application C220171ZMX—1959 Strang Avenue a Zoning Map Amendment from R to R4/C2-3 to facilitate one new commercial building of 2,750 sq. ft.

The developers provided an overview of their application, which ultimately sought to construct a one-storey commercial building with space for two businesses. On the date of the public hearing, the developers confirmed that Bank of America will be one of the two commercial tenants.

At the public’s request, the developers committed to not leasing to available space to a smoke shop.

With no further questions from the public, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:12pm.





## **Transportation and Capital Project Committee Report for April 2022.**

The Transportation and Capital Project Committee met on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. via WebEx. The Committee Member in Attendance were Norbert Bryan, Ted James, Luke Szabados, Chairman Dr. Michael Burke and John Isaac.

### **The Agenda:**

- Item I.** One Way Conversion of Duryea Avenue between East 233<sup>rd</sup> Street and Strang Avenue
- Item II.** Presentation on White Plains Road between East 226<sup>th</sup> and East 241<sup>st</sup> Streets Safety Improvements
- Item III.** Presentation on East Gun Hill Road Better Bus Plan

The meeting started at 7:15pm, and no one was present to talk on behalf of the Duryea Avenue Conversion and the discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

The New City Department of Transportation presented the street safety improvement project from East 226<sup>th</sup> street to 241<sup>st</sup> street. This project is the continuation of the improvement project which was implemented last fall. NYCDOT have been canvassing White Plains Road working with the vendors to provide the necessary loading zones for the businesses along the corridor. The project will improve the safety conflicts between pedestrians and motor vehicles along White Plains Road. DOT will install bus boarding islands and additional two miles of protective bike lanes. Currently, our residence are force to load and unload into oncoming vehicle travel ways. Since the addition of improvement there has been a 15% drop of crashes and 21% in pedestrian injuries. Other safety improvements will include vertical delineation, shorter crossing, and new marking to guide the cyclist. A motion was made to accept the improvement and passed. Board members, Luke Szabados, Chairman Dr. Michael Burke and John Isaac voted in favor of the improvement and Norbert Bryan and Ted James voted against.

NYCDOT also made a presentation on East Gun Hill Road Better Bus Plan. Currently, 40,000 people a day use buses on Gun Hill Road. Gun Hill Road is a top tier priority investment area and the MTA would like to increase sustainable travel and increase job opportunities in the corridor. The BX 28 and 38 run every 8 mins, but issues of slow travel and double parking causes congestion. Buses currently travel five miles and hour in the AM West bound and in the PM East bound. On an average five people are injured every week on this corridor.

The Goals: Make the bus faster, Make the streets safer to walk, organize the traffic movement.

Challenges: Traffic congestion, The Broken Street Grid and The Bronx River Parkway congestion.

Today is Earth Day, and I would like to take a moment to encourage the members of Board 12 and community at large to educate themselves on the trends that are going on around the world. A good example would be Norway and Spain. We should visit other cities and explore new ideas beside what we see in our own neighborhood. As care takers of the planet and the environment we have done a terrible job. We must explore sustainable ideas and show the next generation how to live in a world where my life is as important as the all the other creatures on earth. We must ask ourselves, why must every inch of Board 12 have to be developed? What make our community great is the open space, we have preserved and the developers we prevented from destroying the neighborhood.

Do you know most of the flooding issue are caused by the lack of impervious surfaces? I have visited neighborhoods which suffer from severe flooding and they all lack impervious surfaces and the homeowners have turned every inch of their properties into concrete jungles especially to accommodate vehicles. My family, we must start caring about Mother Earth before it is to late. It starts with each and every one of us!!!!!!

Respectfully submitted

John Isaac

# **COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 12, Bronx**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**April 21, 2022**

In Attendance: Judith Benitez, Alfredo Figueroa, Luke Szabados, Michael Burke (ex-officio)

Ted James, Norbert Bryan

Absent: Astere Yemmer-Brown, Michael Felter, Merchants Association

Meeting began at 6:36pm via WebEx with Judith Benitez, Chair welcoming members and community-at-large.

The establishment of the Horse and Jockey Bar located at 4277 Katonah Avenue is here for an approval of a new Alcoholic Beverage License application. Representing the Horse and Jockey Bar are Laurence McGrath and his attorney Michael Kelly. Mr. Kelly gave presentation. Horse and Jockey will be taking over for Aqueduct North that was here for 40 years. Horse and Jockey will operation as a tavern with limited food. Hours of operation will be 10am to 2am, seven day a week. The place will have 4 tables with 16 seats and 21 bar stools. The tavern will have juke box music. No outdoor seating. Mr. McGrath will be managing some days but will be hiring experienced personnel. Mr. McGrath will also be learning as he goes along. There are no complaints from the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

**The Economic Development Committee is recommending to the Community Board that they approve the New License of the Horse and Jockey Bar.**

Meeting ended at 6:45pm.



## **District Manager's Report**

**April 28, 2022**

Good evening Board Members and Happy Thursday. I do not have much to discuss this evening. It is the end of April, and we have two more meetings before the Community Board gets a well-deserved reprieve for the summer months. The Community Board does not meet during the months of July and August. I am copying last month's report and would like to have an earnest discussion about its merits.

### **Reduction of Committees**

I am proposing a reduction of committees to a total of four committees for the Community Board. I am also suggesting that those committees meet the second week of the month. Community Board 12 has twelve standing committees and three ad-hoc committees. As we inch closer to meeting in person the burden to attend meetings in-person will weigh heavily on everyone. We are meeting remotely and I have noticed that our numbers can be lacking. At our most recent Land Use meetings we barely made quorum. We have often not made quorum in our other meetings like the Transportation Committee. The following is my recommendation on the committees and what they will be responsible for.

1. Municipal Services Committee – would have oversight over most City Agencies that provide services like uniformed services, social services and over concerns not specified in the other committee's description.
2. The Planning Committee – would have oversight on all Land Use matters, housing concerns, BSA, DOB, HPD and DOT related matters. They would also oversee matters related to Economic Development like liquor licenses and business development ideas.
3. Governance and Rules – would have oversight over how the Board runs itself. This committee would handle matters before our current By-Laws, Discipline and Executive Committees.
4. Public Hearings/Committee on the Whole (COW)- would handle all hearings for the Community Board's requirement to host Public Hearings once a month.

I recommend that the Board take the time to consider these proposals and implement them. I know the Board is concerned about our current direction and is not happy with the length of our meetings or the number of meetings. I think these ideas are mindful of your time and move the Community Board to a place where we can be responsive to the community we represent.

I am actively pursuing training opportunities for Board Members on general governance. I am working with the Civic Engagement Commission and other District Managers throughout the City to identify or create these individual training sessions tailored to Community Boards on how to have more effective and productive meetings. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

### **Conclusion**

Today marks my 2,460<sup>th</sup> day as your District Manager or 6-years, 8 months, and 25<sup>th</sup> day of my tenure here. I am grateful for each and every day at the Board.

**Thank you for your patience and Good Night.**

# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 12, THE BRONX ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: April 27, 2022

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
BENITEZ, JUDITH	X		
BENNETT, EGERIA	X		
<del>BLAIR, SYDNEY</del>	Resigned		
BOND, DENISE	X		
BORRAS, IVAN ANTHONY	X		
BORSOTTI, CARLA	X		
BROMFIELD-ARMSTRONG, MICHELLE	X		
BROWN-ALLEN, MARLENE	X		
BROWN, VICTOR	X		
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD	X		
BRYAN, NORBERT		X	
BURKE, DR. MICHAEL	X		
CAMPBELL, SADIE			X
CLODD, JOAN	X		
CORONEL, BEATRIZ	X		
DICKERSON, TOLLYNE	X		
<del>DUBOSE, KASHON-</del>	Resigned		
EICHELBERGER, KEVIN		X	
FIGUEROA, ALFREDO	X		
GADPAILLE, HANNAH		X	
GIBSON-LAGRANT, BARBARA	X		
GÖFF, JOHNNIE	X		
HALL, ROBERT	X		
HAYES, LISA	X		

**VOTING SHEET**  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 12, THE BRONX**

DATE: April 27, 2022

MOTION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6
BENITEZ, JUDITH	A	A	Abs	A		
BENNETT, EGERIA	A	A	A	Abs		
<del>BLAIR, SYDNEY</del>						
BOND, DENISE	A	A	A	A		
BORRAS, IVAN ANTHONY	<del>NP</del>	<del>NP</del>	A	A		
BORSOTTI, CARLA	A	A	A	A		
BROMFIELD-ARMSTRONG, MICHELLE	A	A	NP	NP		
BROWN-ALLEN, MARLENE	A	A	Abs	Abs		
BROWN, VICTOR	A	A	A	N		
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD	A	A	Abs	A		
BRYAN, NORBERT	NP	NP	NP	NP		
BURKE, DR. MICHAEL	A	A	A	N		
CAMPBELL, SADIE	Excused					
CLODD, JOAN	A	A	A	A		
CORONEL, BEATRIZ	A	A	A	A		
DICKERSON, TOLLYNE	A	A	A	A		
<del>DUBOSE, KASHON</del>						
EICHELBERGER, KEVIN	NP	NP	NP	NP		
FIGUEROA, ALFREDO	A	A	A	A		
GADPAILLE, HANNAH	NP	NP	NP	NP		
GIBSON-LAGRANT, BARBARA	A	A	A	A		
GOFF, JOHNNIE	A	A	A	Abs		
HALL, ROBERT	A	A	A	A		
HAYES, LISA	A	A	A	A		

**DATE:** April 27, 2020

**MOTIONS:**

1.	to approve rezoning of 1959 Strong Avenue
2.	Haffen Park Revitalization Project
3.	Letter of Support for White Plains Rd. Safety Improvement Plan 226-241 bike lanes
4.	to approve Horse Jockey New Liquor License
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	

MOTION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6
ISAAC, JOHN	A	A	A	A		
JAMES, THEODORE	NP	NP	NP	NP		
LAGO-MARTIN, KEISHA	A	A	A	A		
LASST, AFUA (Ayy_Fwa)	NP	NP	NP	NP		
<del>LANZANO, CARL</del>						
MANZANET, JARAN JR.	NP	NP	NP	NP		
MARTIN, LUCILLE	A	A	A	A		
MOORE, SHANEQUA	A	A	A	Abs		
MYKE, CLINTON	A	A	A	A		
ORTIZ, CARMEN	A	A	A	A		
REID, ANTHONY	NP	NP	NP	A		
<del>ROBINS, DR. DENA</del>						
SAMBOY, JESSICA						
<del>SANGHEZ, LUISA</del>						
SINGH, HARI	Excused					
STRICKER, KARL	A	A	A	A		
SZABADOS, LUKE	Abs	A	A	A		
TIRADO, DEBRA	A	A	A	A		
YEMMER, ASTERE	A	A	Abs	A		

A = AYE/YEA  
 N = NAY/NO  
 NP = NOT PRESENT  
 ABS = ABSTAINED  
 R = RECUSE  
 EXCUSED

26	27	28	29		
0	0	0	0		
8	8	8	7		
1	0	4	4		
0	0	0	0		
2	2	2	2		
<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>		

TOTAL



