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## Bronx Community Board 12 October 24, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, the Bronx, for October 24, 2019, was called to order at 7:30 pm at Town Hall, 4101 White Plains Road, The Bronx, by the Chairman, Dr. William Hall. Those wishing to participate were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Dr. Hall introduced the NCO Officers from the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Officer's Alexander and McLoughlin announced the upcoming meeting for Sector A, to be held at Mt. Saint Michael on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. He also stated that the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct has Twitter and Instagram pages. The Sector B meeting will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Chairman Dr. Hall recognized Ms. Alexis Ruiz from the Borough President's office. She announced upcoming events sponsored by the Borough President.

Dr. Hall thanked the Board and the community for reelecting him as chairman. He congratulated the new First Vice Chair, Dr. Michael Burke, and the new Secretary, Ms. Lisa Hayes.

Chairman Dr. Hall introduced State Assemblyman, Jeffrey Dinowitz. Assemblyman Dinowitz reported that a new agreement has been reached regarding city trees which damage sidewalks. All liens and summons will be cancelled. However, those homeowners who already repaired their sidewalks will not be reimbursed.

He stated that if constituents have specific ideas regarding legislation to support the community, they should contact his office.

At this point Mr. Eric Dinowitz was introduced and he provided an updated regarding early voting. He also provided an update regarding the NYC Charter Revision Ballot Proposals. He urged the community to vote in favor of Question 5, which increases the ULURP pre-certification notice period, which allows Community Boards more time.

### **V. District Manager's Report**

See Attached.



Mr. Carl Lanzano requested clarification regarding Board member term limits. District Manager George Torres responded that this is the first year that the Term Limits Laws will go into effect. Newly appointed Board Members and reappointed Board Members can serve for 8 years or 4 consecutive two-year terms starting this year. Next year term limits will apply to all reappointed and newly appointed Board Members.

### **III Report of the Bronx Borough President**

- Orientation for New Community Board Members
- Borough President Diaz Talked Bronx Bus Plan on the BX 19
- Bronx Borough President and Westchester CE Latimer Lead Discussion of Newly Created Penn Station Access Bronx and Westchester Community Council
- NYC Parks Unveiled Upgraded St. Mary's Playground West
- Borough President Diaz Honored Bronx Subway Heroes
- Bronx President Diaz Participated in Annual 'Brides March'
- Tour De Bronx Registration is Open

The Bronx Borough President's Report is available in its entirety in the Community Board office.

### **IV. Chairman's Report**

Dr. Hall reported that during a meeting Mr. Tom Lucania asked that all Community Boards form a disciplinary committee to apply new rules relating to disciplinary actions taken against Board members.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a mandatory Conflict of Interest meeting for Board Members at the Bronx Borough President's office at 6pm.

### **I Public Gallery Session**

#### **Ms. Opal McCullough/Mind Builders**

Ms. McCullough stated that her organization runs a cultural arts organization in the community. They are located at 3415 Olinville Avenue and are open Tuesday through Saturday. She encouraged everyone present to take a brochure.

**Mr. Keith Black/BRAG**

Mr. Black reported that he is the Senior Director for BRAG. He also stated that the organization works with high-risk youth. He reported that they have relocated to 825 East 233<sup>rd</sup> Street due to additional funding from the city. They will be hosting a Halloween event on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ms. Adrienne Findlay/Community Resident**

Ms. Findlay reported that she lives on Edenwald Avenue near Wilder and there are issues with untagged cars being parked for months on her block.

Officer Alexander replied that every few months there is an operation to tow cars that don't belong in a neighborhood. Multiple departments are involved i.e., 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct Officers, Department of Sanitation, and the towing units etc.

**Ms. Elvena Jarvis/Community Resident**

Ms. Jarvis stated that there is a vacant house at 4102 Wilder Avenue which has become a parking lot for local businesses. She has reported the situation to 311 and Department of Sanitation. There are 7 plus large vehicles parked on the property.

Officer Alexander reported that the police cannot do anything regarding this issue because it is private property, but Department of Buildings can issue summonses to the owner of the property. He encouraged Ms. Jarvis to attend the Build A Block meeting.

**Ms. EJ Mallette/Community Resident**

Ms. Mallette lives at the corner of Edenwald and Wilder Avenues and there is speeding occurring a lot that is resulting in accidents on a regular basis. She reported that a car overran her home's fence and damaged her yard.

Officer Alexander responded that this is a Department of Transportation (DOT) issue, and it normally requires 18 months for the DOT to perform a survey.

**Mr. Toba LaCrown / Community Resident**

Mr. LaCrown encouraged everyone to participate in the 2020 census to ensure that the community receives all the resources the community is entitled to. He reported that the community was undercounted in the 2010 census.

**Mr. Michael X. Hinton / Community Resident**

Mr. Hinton stated that he has worked in youth services for many years. He raised concerns that the community's children do not receive the attention they need. He stated that there is a need to provide more business and entrepreneurial skills to the community's youth. He stated that

providing activities like basketball are not enough. He encouraged the community to reach out to him on his Instagram account Bruthamikex.

**Mr. Michael Felter/White Plains Business Association**

Mr. Felter stated that the association will be providing a Halloween Event on October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 3:30 pm to 7pm her at Town Hall—4101 White Plains Road.

**Ms. Veronica Thomson/Community Resident**

Ms. Thomson stated that there is a derelict house on her block. She stated that she has reported this to the Board but hasn't seen any action yet.

Ms. Ursula Greene responded that she is waiting for DHS to respond, and she has also written a letter to the landlord of the property.

**Ms. Christalynn Alphonse/Community Resident**

Ms. Alphonse reported that there are issues with dog owners failing to clean up dog waste. She stated that she contacted Councilman Andy Cohen's office, which created a flyer homeowner can post on their homes reminding dog owners to clean up. The signs can be picked up at Council Member Cohen's office.

**Ms. Banes/Community Resident**

Ms. Banes raised the issue regarding community displacement. She stated that there are a large number of illegal lockouts by landlords. She reminded everyone present that 911 should be called in the event of an illegal lockout.

She also stated that there are continuing education grants available that much of the community doesn't know about.

Second Vice Chairman Mr. John Isaac recognized Ms. Nancy Garay, the event coordinator from Senator Bailey's office. She provided an update on upcoming events sponsored by Senator Bailey.

Mr. Isaac recognized Mr. Kiren Ireland from Speaker Heastie's office who announced upcoming events sponsored by Speaker Heastie.

Mr. Isaac recognized Ms. Marilex Santana Tavaréz from the Bronx District Attorney's office. She announced an upcoming event to assist community residents in addressing old warrants and convictions. They will also provide a resource fair re. medical insurance, resources for returning to school

Mr. Isaac recognized Mr. Victor Martinez from Comptroller Scott Stringer's office who reported that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mr. Martinez informed everyone that a recent study concluded that for Fiscal Year 2018 domestic violence was the single largest cause of homelessness in New York City. 40% of the family population who entered the shelter

was due to domestic violence. The Comptroller's office is trying to bring awareness regarding domestic violence especially in the Bronx (38%) and Brooklyn where it is the highest. The Comptroller is recommending increased funding to support the victims, access to housing and residential and non-residential services. Please contact Mr. Martinez for a copy of the report.

Mr. Isaac recognized Mr. Poy from State Senator Biaggi's office who announced that Senator Biaggi's office is hosting 2 Halloween events: costume party at 1pm at 725 Grady Avenue, followed by Halloween party which begins at 2pm. 505 W 236<sup>th</sup> Street there will be another party 3:30 – 6:30 on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Isaac recognized Ms. Thalia Liriano who is the Coordinator for the Crime Victims Assistance Unit, located at 4101 White Plains Road.

Mr. Isaac recognized Ms. Sonia Guiro from the Taxi and Limousine Association who announced that every taxi service is now required to provide a wheelchair accessible vehicle for the same cost as a regular car. If a service responds that they don't have a wheelchair accessible vehicle customer are encouraged to call 311.

Mr. Isaac recognized Mr. Jahi Rose from the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), Deputy Director of Community and Intergovernmental Affairs who provided an overview of the scope of responsibility of the CCRB. He provided an update on upcoming events. The CCRB will also provide community presentations on request.

## **VI. Vote on Committee Recommendations**

### **Land Use Committee**

Committee Chairman Mr. Karl Stricker reported on the public hearing held regarding the proposed Verizon Cell Phone Tower for 3425 Rombouts Avenue. There was no opposition to the proposal and the committee recommended approval of the request.

**Mr. Stricker moved** that the Board accept the committee's report. **The motion passed 19 ayes, 19 absent, 7 abstentions.**

**Motion made by Mr. John Isaac and seconded** to write a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) recommending approval of BSA Application 201-269-BZ—3425 Rombouts Avenue. **Motion passed 19 Ayes, 1 Nay and 5 Abstentions.**

### **Transportation and Capital Improvements**

Chairman Mr. John Isaac reported that a Board vote is needed to support the repair of the Pratt Avenue retaining wall.

**Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker and seconded by Mr. Robert Hall** to write a letter to the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) in support of the repair of the Pratt Avenue retaining wall. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Parks and Recreation**

Dr. Burke reported that Woodlawn Cemetery is currently a level 2 arboretum. They requested a letter of support to raise their designation to a level 3 arboretum.

**Motion made by Ivan Borrás seconded by Karl Stricker** to write a letter of support for Woodlawn Cemetery. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Johnnie Goff reported that there are only 3 schools in District 11 that meet current standards. On Thanksgiving there will be a free holiday lunch at Eastwood Catering Hall.

## **Housing Committee**

Chairman Mr. Robert Hall reported that the B&B Urban requesting a letter of support for their proposed development at E 211<sup>th</sup> Street. However, they can build “as a matter of right” without the Board’s support and the Committee will not be asking for a support letter.

## **Library and Cultural Affairs**

Chairman Dr. Hall announced the committee’s mental health panel discussion taking place this Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Legislative Affairs Special Committee**

The committee’s report is attached. Board members are encouraged to read the report online because the report contains hyperlinks to additional information.

## **XI. Adjournment**

There being no further issues to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carla Borsotti

GIBSON, LAGRANT BARBARA	X		
GOFF, JOHNNIE			X
GREEN, CHANTAL		X	
HALL, ROBERT	X		
HALL, DR. WILLIAM	X		
HAYES, LISA			X
ISAAC, JOHN	X		
JAMES, THEODORE	X		
LANZANO, CARL	X		
MAIGA-LAAST, AFUS	X		
MARTIN, LUCILLE		X	
MCCLLOUD, MARY	X		
MCNEIL, WALTER			X
MYKE, CLINTON			X
ORTIZ, CARMEN	X		
PORTER, FRANK			X
POWELL, CLAUDIA			X
REID, ANTHONY	X		
ROBINS, DR. DENA		X	
ROLDAN, FELIX		X	
SALKEY, ICY MAE THOMAS	X		
STRICKER, KARL	X		
TRIPICCO, SHIRLEY	X		
WEIR, NICOLE			X

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

Date

10/24/19

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
ABDUL, HUSSEIN	X		
ALLAKPO, FRANKLIN		X	
BENITEZ, JUDITH			X
BENNETT, EGERIA	X		
BLOOMFIELD, HILARY			X
BOND, DENISE	X		
BORRAS, ANTHONY IVAN	X		
BORSOTTI, CARLA	X		
BROWN-ALLEN, MARLENE	X		
BROWN, VICTOR	X		
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD			X
BRYAN, NORBET	X		
BURKE, DR. MICHAEL	X		
CAMPBELL, SADIE			X
CHRISTIAN, EVELYN		X	
CLARKE, GAIL	X		
CLODD, JOAN	X		
CUMBERBATCH, ROBERT		X	
DICKERSON, TOLLYNE			X
EASTMOND, LAURA			X
EICHELBERGER, KEVIN		X	
EVANS, RAYMOND		X	
FIGUEROA, ALFREDO			X



	Land Use	3055 Rounds	Plot Wid	Novel Cemetery		
GOFF, JOHNNIE	A	A	A	A		
GREEN, CHANTAL	NP	NP	NP	NP		
HALL, ROBERT	ABS	ABS	A	A		
HALL, WILLIAM	A	A	A	A		
HAYES, LISA	E	E	E	E		
ISAAC, JOHN	A	A	A	A		
JAMES, THEODORE	A	A	A	A		
LANZANO, CARL	A	A	A	A		
MAIGA-LAAST, AFUS	A	A	A	A		
MARTIN, LUCILLE	NP	NP	NP	NP		
MCCLLOUD, MARY	A	A	A	A		
MCNEIL, WALTER	NP	NP	NP	NP		
MYKE, CLINTON	E	E	E	E		
ORTIZ, CARMEN	A	A	A	A		
PORTER, FRANK	E	E	E	E		
POWELL, CLAUDIA	NP	NP	NP	NP		
REID, ANTHONY	A	A	A	A		
ROBINS, DR. DENA	NP	NP	NP	NP		
ROLDAN, FELIX	NP	NP	NP	NP		
SALKEY, ICY MAE THOMAS	ABS	ABS	A	A		
STRICKER, KARL	A	A	A	A		
TRIPICCO, SHIRLEY	A	A	A	A		
WEIR, NICOLE	E	E	E	E		

A = AYE  
 N = NAY  
 NP = NOT PRESENT  
 ABS = ABSTAINED  
 R = RECUSE

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

DATE 10/24/19

MOTION NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ABDUL, HUSSEIN	A	A	A	A		
ALLAKPO, FRANKLIN	NP	NP	NP	NP		
BENITEZ, JUDITH	E	E	E	E		
BENNETT, EGERIA	A	A	A	A		
BLOOMFIELD, HILARY	E	E	E	E		
BOND, DENISE	A	A	A	A		
BORRAS, IVAN ANTHONY	A	N	A	A		
BORSOTTI, CARLA	A	A	A	A		
BROWN-ALLEN, MARLENE	ABS	ABS	A	A		
BROWN, VICTOR	A	A	A	A		
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD	E	E	E	E		
BRYAN, NORBERT	ABS	ABS	A	A		
BURKE, DR. MICHAEL	ABS	ABS	A	A		
CAMPBELL, SADIE	E	E	E	E		
CHRISTIAN, EVELYN	NP	NP	NP	NP		
CLARKE, GAIL	A	A	A	A		
CLODD, JOAN	A	A	A	A		
CUMBERBATCH, ROBERT	NP	NP	NP	NP		
DICKERSON, TOLLYNE	NP	NY	NP	NP		
EASTMOND, LAURA	NP	NP	NP	NY		
EICHELBERGER, KEVIN	NP	NP	NP	NY		
EVANS, RAYMOND	NP	NP	NP	NP		
FIGUEROA, ALFREDO	E	E	E	E		
GIBSON, LAGRANT BARBARA	ABS	ABS	A	A		

## **District Manager's Report**

**October 24, 2019**

Good evening Board Members, I do not have much to say. I attended Community Board Orientation for new Board Members this past Monday. I learned that this is the first year for term limits; meaning all newly appointed board members and reappointments for this year are limited to four consecutive terms or eight years in total. Next year's appointments and reappointments will start the second set of term limits for Board Members. Therefore, let us not make haste, we should start to reform our By-Laws so that everyone has a chance to participate by enacting term limits for every Executive position and Committee Chairperson on this Board. There are other policies that the Bronx Borough President's Office requested to be adopted into the By-Laws. We shared an email with this Board in June on the Discipline Policy and Procedures for Community Boards. Finally, there are a significant number of Board Members that need to take the City of New York's Sexual Harassment Training programs from DCAS. You can arrange your training with either Ursula or myself. The deadline according to the Bronx Borough President's Office is December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Conclusion**

Today marks my 1,544<sup>th</sup> day as your District Manager or 4-years, 2 months and 22<sup>nd</sup> day of my tenure here. I look forward to each and every day at the Board.

**Thank you and Good Night**



## Bronx Community Board 12 Committee Meeting Report

**Committee:** Legislative Affairs (*ad hoc* Special Committee)  
**Meeting Date:** October 16, 2019  
**Meeting Location:** Town Hall

**Members in Attendance:** Carla Borsotti, Chairwoman  
Judith Benitez

**Members Absent w/Excuse:** Kevin Eichelberger  
Shirley Trippico

**Members Absent Unexcused:** None

**Guests:** N/A

**Motions/Resolutions Passed:** None

### Meeting Notes:

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss progress to date in identifying recent enacted and proposed legislation impacting Community Board 12's constituency. It was agreed that Chairwoman Carla Borsotti would draft a report and submit to Community Board 12.

**Respectfully submitted:**

*Carla A. Borsotti*

November 8, 2019

## Legislative Affairs Special Committee Report for October 2019 Board Meeting

NYC Charter Revision Proposals for November 5, 2019 Ballot: The NYC Charter Revision Commission added five proposals to the November ballot, impacting elections, the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) structure, ethics and government, the city budget, and land use. See the

NYC registered voters can begin voting Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voters will continue to have the option to vote at their regular poll sites on Election day, Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Electronics curbside recycling in the Bronx: as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Bronx residents can request a curbside pickup of e-waste by calling 311. Click on the link to see what materials qualify as electronic – not everything with a plug is e-waste.

Congestion pricing tolls have gone into effect for Ubers and taxis, increasing the cost of rides within Manhattan by \$2.50-\$2.75. The congestion zone includes 60<sup>th</sup> Street and south in Manhattan, excluding the West Side Highway and the FDR Drive north of the Brooklyn Bridge. Rules for passenger cars have yet to be finalized. Local elected officials have raised concerns that the surcharge will result in lost neighborhood parking spaces as some commuters who formerly drove into Manhattan decide to park near MetroNorth and subway stations and take public transportation instead.

See the [cityspeak.org](http://cityspeak.org) article Five Things to Know About Congestion Pricing in NYC for additional information.

The Plastic Bag Waste Reduction Law, which bans the use of single-use plastic bags in grocery stores, convenience stores and other retail outlets statewide, takes effect in March 2020. There are some exemptions, for example bags used to wrap raw meat, fish and poultry; bags used for bulk grocery items; and garment bags. NYS also allows municipalities to enact a five-cent fee on paper carryout bags; NYC has opted into this fee, which also takes effect in March 2020.

NYS passed legislation to expand the use of speed cameras to include 750 New York City school zones. The cameras will be in use Monday through Friday, 6am to 10pm, and will operate year-round. The City will be required to post signs indicating that speed cameras are in use.

The City Council approved a proposal to close Rikers Island by 2026, replacing the 10,000 bed jail complex with smaller facilities across four boroughs. The proposed Bronx site is 320 Concord Avenue, currently a City-owned tow yard. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr has voiced objections to the location, citing the report of the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform which recommended that new jails be sited near existing justice facilities.

The MTA delivered its final proposal for Bronx bus route and schedule changes, and will continue to collect community feedback until the rollout in 2020. The Bx16 routes and schedule will not change. Part of the Bx34 will be rerouted along Webster Avenue to leverage the bus lanes and larger road width; service will be discontinued along Valentine Avenue and parts of Bainbridge Avenue.

Comments regarding proposed bus route and schedule changes can be submitted online here.