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BOARD COMMUNITY BOARD 12 MAY 28, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, The Bronx, for May 28, 2020 was called to order via Webex virtual meeting at 7:04 P.M. by the First Vice Chairperson. Those wishing to participate were asked to recite the pledge of allegiance.

I. Public Gallery Sessions/Community Speaks

Mr. Toba LaCrown/Resident

Mr. LaCrown would like to appeal to the Board to have a Veterans Affairs Committee as he is the Commander of the American Legions based in Co-Op City. It is his opinion that there is a need to have a veteran committee in Community Board 12.

Ms. Marilex Santana/Bronx District Attorney's Office

Ms. Santana informed the community that her office is working remotely but they are here to serve and answer any questions. She provided her contact information.

Ms. Idelsa Pena/Resident

As a nearby active community resident of Bronx Blvd, Ms. Pena asked about any updates and an explanation to be given about the now open shelter at 4747 Bronx Boulevard. Ms. Pena also stated that at previous board meetings it was stated there would not be a shelter put at this location.

Maria Motos/U.S. Census Bureau

Thus far responses for the North East Bronx is low, 43.98%. Ms. Motos recommended that everyone should respond. She informed everyone that all Census workers take an oath to keep information confidential and are subject to jail time and penalties. She also noted the census is only done every ten years and it is imperative for communities to complete the Census because this is how communities gain funding. Go to my2020census.gov.

Mr. Ivan Boris spoke to Ms. Matos about an extension due to the disenfranchisement of communities of color and the United States being affected and infected by COVID 19.



Pam Johnson/Resident

Ms. Johnson spoke about the need for additional testing for Covid19.

Ms. McFadden/Resident

Ms. McFadden informed the Board that behind Baychester Avenue cars coming from 26Motors are speeding. She would like to get a speed bump or a device of a sort to stop the speeding as it is dangerous.

Mr. Frank Sotomayor/Resident

Mr. Sotomayor informed the Board that he has witness tenants of the “Emergency Shelter” engaging in illicit activity including the following obligations (drinking alcohol, smoking pot, pan handling, indecent exposure while using the community as the restroom). He is concerned about the quality of life.

Assemblyman Dinowitz

The Assemblyman informed everyone that he is working extremely hard in the Senate Session via telecommute. Our community is bearing a heavy burden. He noted his disappointment and frustration on the behalf of his constituents and community members for the DHS choice to utilize 4747 Bronx Blvd.

Councilman Cohen

Councilman Cohen informed everyone that the staff and himself have been busy listening, responding and being present for his constituents and overall community. He also highlighted the DHS -4747 Bronx Boulevard location and that it is heartbreaking and devastating. People were just moved in without notice to the community. He spoke of the long hard negotiations and process of this location with DHS and was informed that there was to be no shelter there. Councilman Cohen spoke about the briefing of the security plan, for the shelter. He asked clarifying questions about security the 6 guards schedules and that it should be COVID free.

The Councilman was informed that this shelter which was approved as a temporary location for an emergency move because of COVID, there was no time, and they are following health. Much discussion ensued. Topics included safety for both community, board members and DHS client. He inquired what would happen to clients breaking guidelines; Ms. Jordan agreed to bring concerns back and get answers.

VIII. Guest Speaker – Professor Banks, Author, Bronx Community Board – a focus Microbiology

Professor Banks gave an Extensive Presentation about Corona Virus -COVID.

II Elected Officials/Representatives Report

Ms. Maryann Joyce, representing Senator Alessandea Biaggi's Office and provided information and offered services that are being given by her office. She informed everyone that they are working virtually.

Mr. Victor Martinez, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office. Mr. Martinez spoke about how they are aiding people during COVID. He informed everyone that a Caribbean roundtable will happen June 3rd, everyone is invited.

Ms. Alexa Ruiz, representing the Bronx Borough President's Office. She gave updates for reappointment on Community Board Members and new appointments.

XI Adjournment

There being no further issues to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:14 P.M.

Duly Submitted

Ms. Lisa Hayes

