



THE CITY OF NEW YORK Borough Of The Bronx

COMMUNITY BOARD #12

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Bronx Community Board 12 November 19, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, the Bronx, for November 19, 2020 was called to order via a Webex virtual meeting, at 7:02 pm by the Chairman Dr. Michael Burke.

I Public Gallery Session

Ms. Karen Rojas/ Community Resident

Ms. Rojas raised the issue of food waste and food insecurity. Goal is to divert food waste from landfills, through bill# 0253-2018. Restaurants must divert their waste to a composting facility or face penalties/fines. Ms. Rojas requested a letter of support for communicating the legislation to small businesses.

Ms. Taneisha Parchment, CUNY School of Public Health

Ms. Parchment reported that she is a CUNY School of Public Health graduate student. She advocated for a resolution which calls for the elderly, homeless and disabled to use their SNAP benefits to purchase hot, prepared meals. She is requesting the support of the Board to help pass the bill. Other states have done this previously. Chairman Dr. Burke suggested that Ms. Parchment work with Legislative Affairs Committee Chairwoman Carla Borsotti.

Mr. Toba LaCrown / Wakefield Taxpayers and Civic League

Mr. LaCrown reported that Wednesday, October 21, the association sponsored a rally protesting the homeless shelter at 4747 Bronx Boulevard. He noted that there was some confusion at the rally because a group was in discussion with the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), so the rally group was asked by the NYPD not to proceed to the location.

Ms. Maeve Flaherty/New York City Restrooms 4 All

Ms. Flaherty stated that the organization advocates for public/private coalitions to increase access to public bathrooms, and install portable toilets around the city. Access to public bathrooms on the subway system has been vastly reduced over the past few years.

Anna Reyes/Small Business Research Network.org– Bronx Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Reyes stated that the organization is a free citywide initiative to provide support to small businesses around NYC including financial guidance, marketing, business strategies, technology



and more. Those interested can find more information at <https://www.nycsmallbusinessresourcenetwork.org/> or contact Ms. Reyes directly at anna@bronxchamber.org or call 718-828-3900.

Mr. David Mamadou Coulibaly/BronxTest and Trace

Mr. Coulibaly provided an overview of services provided by Bronx Test and Trace, the purpose of which is to mitigate the ongoing spread of the virus. They offer ongoing community education programs and partner with community organizations. Any organization wishing to partner with the department should reach out to Mr. Coulibaly's department.

Chairman Dr. Burke reminded all present that free testing is available at 4101 White Plains Road.

Ms. Sharon Pope-Marshall/ Bike NY

Bike New York's Street Action Now! trains community residents to identify, document and recommend street enhancements that improve street safety in their NYC neighborhoods. There are no Bronx residents participating in the program thus far. Sign up for the next cohort at www.bike.nyc.

Motion made by Mr. John Isaac, seconded by Mr. Robert Hall, to close the public gallery session. Motion passed.

II Elected Officials/Representatives Report

Deputy Inspector Nunez, representing the 47th Precinct, reported that he has spent half his career in the Bronx. He is always available to provide support to the community. He noted that the NYPD monitors social media to identify unlicensed and/or illegal events, and will visit the location and arrest the organizer(s) and/or bartender(s). He reminded everyone to be patient with response to 311 calls, because 911 calls take priority. Chronic situations can be referred to the Neighborhood Community Officers (NCO).

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz thanked the community for their vote support. He reported that he attended a rally today outside Montefiore advocating for safer conditions for nurses and other health caregivers. He also attended a Veteran's Day event at Woodlawn Cemetery, organized by Senator Jamaal Bailey.

Mr. Ivan Nedds, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz's office, reported that the office is open Monday – Thursday, 10am-3pm, offering notary services and other constituent support.

Honorable Eric Adams, Borough President of Brooklyn, noted that COVID-19 does not stop at borough borders. He shared Brooklyn's solutions, including communicating in the languages that people speak, and making sure that their office listens to the community. They are also looking to build a social media solution to share information about best practices across the boroughs.

Mr. Victor Martinez, representing **Comptroller Scott Stringer's office**, reported that they are conducting a survey regarding how New Yorkers' family and work life have been impacted by the pandemic. The Comptroller's office is investigating the Covid response by the city.

Mr. Andy Laub, representing **Senator Alessandra Biaggi's office**, reported that Senator Biaggi continues to address public safety issues with the 47th precinct. He reported that Senator Biaggi's office is working to get more mobile testing centers to address long lines at existing testing centers.

They are also continuing to work with DOT on drag racing and speeding issues. They continue to address concerns that some students have not yet received needed equipment, a shipment of 20,000 devices will arrive in NYC in the coming weeks.

Mr. Miguel Rondon from **Mayor deBlasio's office** reported that local nonprofits and community groups are able to sign up as microsites, meaning that Dept of Health will train them on how to use home health kits. He stated that there are several yellow zones in the Bronx, but none in Community Board 12s district. The Mayor's office continues to focus on affordable housing in city-owned sites. Governor Cuomo signed an executive order requiring all police departments state-wide to develop police reform plans.

Mr. Rondon can be reached at Mrondon@cityhall.nyc.gov or 646-995-8286 (cell). While schools are closed grab and go meal programs continue.

Ms. Julia Danielowski, representing **Council Member Andrew Cohen's office**, reported that they are also addressing the speeding and drag racing issues in the community. They continue to provide constituent services, their office is open Monday thru Thursday, 10am to 3pm.

Erika Diaz from **Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's office** encouraged any resident with concerns to contact their office.

III Report of the Borough President's Office

Ms. Alexis Ruiz reminded all new board members to read the EEOC policy, and sign and return to her.

IV Chairperson's Report

Chairman Dr. Michael Burke reported that diversity and inclusion training will be required, biennially or triennially, in addition to the annual Sexual Harassment training requirement.

He reported that the Borough President's office asked that Board members be circumspect in what is posted to social media when speaking as a Board member, since Board members are public servants and agents of the City of New York.

Chairperson Dr. Burke reported that the highest rate of Covid infection is in the SW Bronx, at 3.6%. Overall testing is underutilized in the Bronx.

Virtual meetings will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

The Chairperson's full report is attached.

V District Manager's Report

District Manager Mr. George Torres reported that the City Comptroller's office is auditing all Community Board websites and approaches to community outreach. The Board has made significant progress in updating the website, and has submitted additional content to DOITT for posting. We remain the only Bronx board whose meetings are videorecorded and televised.

For the annual holiday party the Board is hosting a virtual Bingo party on Friday, December 18.

The district manager's full report is attached.

VI Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2020

The roll was called to determine the presence of a quorum.

Motion made by Ivan Borrás and seconded by Mr. John Isaac to accept the minutes as printed with any necessary corrections. **Motion passed.**

VII Financial Report

Newly elected Treasure Ms. Tollyne Dickerson provided an update on the Sunshine Fund.

VIII Election of Community Board 12 Officers

Nominating Committee Chairman Mr. Clinton Myke reported the voting results for the Community Board election for First Vice Chairperson:

31 members voted, but not all were in attendance at the November 19 meeting. 3 people who voted were not present so a total of 29 eligible votes were cast. The vote was 16 in favor of Ms. Egeria Bennett.

IX Vote on Committee Recommendations

By-Laws Committee

The By-laws Committee presented the proposed six amendments to the 2000 By-laws in the September 24, 2020 general Board meeting, in preparation for a vote originally to be held in the October 22, 2020 meeting. However in response to questions from the Board membership another By-laws Committee meeting was held in November to address those questions.

Motion made by Mr. Hussein Abdul and seconded by Ms. Nicole Weir to accept the committee's report regarding the proposed amendments #1 and #5.

The proposed amendments #1 and #5 were put to a vote. The vote passed.

The By-laws Committee will revisit Article V Officers Section Nine, and clarify the roles of Corresponding Secretary vs. Recording Secretary for the next general Board meeting.

The committee's full November report is attached.

X Old Business

There has not been an update re. shelter locations in CB12. Development of a strategy is ongoing.

Grace Wakefield UMC proposal: Mr. Robert Hall reported that this is an urgently needed project to provide housing for seniors. The developer is sourcing the labor from within the community.

The district needs statement was completed and submitted.

XI New Business

The NYC Comptroller's Office will be auditing the Board's website for currency of content.

Most Board members are now appointed to committees, a few members remain to be assigned.

Plans for meetings with various city agencies, including DCP, are ongoing.

XII Christmas Party & Closing Thoughts

District Manager Mr. George Torres reviewed the details of the holiday party. Chairman Dr. Michael Burke shared some closing thoughts.

XIII Adjournment

There being no further issues to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:25 pm. The next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, January 28, 2020, at 7:00 pm.



Carla Borsotti
January 24, 2021

