



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK Borough Of The Bronx

## COMMUNITY BOARD #12

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### **Bronx Community Board 12 October 22, 2020**

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, the Bronx, for October 22, 2020 was called to order via a Webex virtual meeting, at 7:06 pm by the acting chairman, Dr. Michael Burke.

Chairman of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee Mr. Clinton Myke reported that the ballots for officer elections were sent out on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, via email, and again today, October 22, 2020. He noted that voting can also be done via the WebEx chat feature. Voting will end at 8:00 pm tonight.

#### **I Public Gallery Session**

##### **Ms. Adriana Gonzalez/New York Public Library (NYPL)**

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update regarding availability of NYPL services. On July 13, 2020 eight branches reopened for “grab and go services,” allowing patrons to request materials via phone or on the NYPL website and pick up materials. “Grab and go” services are now available at 50 locations. The NYPL is now entering Phase II of reopening, planned for early November, which will allow patrons to browse library collections onsite and utilize desktop PCs onsite. Masks/face coverings and social distancing will continue to be required. Staff will continue to monitor conditions for the safety of both staff and patrons. Returned materials will be quarantined for 96 hours. Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be available onsite. No fines will be accrued until at least January 1, 2021. Patrons can visit the website at NYPL.org for further information.

##### **Mr. Toba LaCrown/Vice President, Wakefield Taxpayers and Civic Association**

Mr. LaCrown reported that Wednesday, October 21, 2020 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. Lisa Hayes/Board Member and Community Resident**

Ms. Hayes reported that the organization BRAG, which works against gun violence, will be giving out candy at 6pm on October 31, 2020.



**Motion made by Mr. Ivan Borrás and seconded by Mr. John Isaac to close the public gallery session. Motion passed.**

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

Mr. Ivan Nedds, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz's office, reported that their staff remains accessible between 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday, and continues to provide notary services. One of the biggest issues is drag racing and speeding throughout the city, Assemblyman Dinowitz's office is working with the NYPD to address the problem. It was noted that the NYPD does not engage in pursuit of these vehicles, in the interest of public safety.

Assemblyman Dinowitz noted that early polling sites are not necessarily one's normal polling site, residents should check the website [findmypollsite.vote.nyc](http://findmypollsite.vote.nyc) to find early voting sites.

He reported that regarding the homeless shelter at 4747 Bronx Blvd nothing has changed, the community has not been able to get a specific commitment from the city regarding when the residents will be relocated. He noted that Project Renewal was warned about the dangers posed by current and former residents, but no attention was paid until the center's director was murdered by a former resident several years ago.

He noted that drag racing has become a citywide problem, the state assembly submitted legislation to provide tools to provide penalties, but enforcement is the issue.

Andy Laub, representing Senator Alessandra Biaggi's office, reported that he is the new constituent services director, and he is working remotely. The Senator is also working on issues with Assemblyman Dinowitz, such as addressing reckless driving and housing issues, and helping with social services.

Senator Biaggi reminded everyone that early voting in NY started Saturday. Her office continues to receive requests about laptops, internet access, evictions, and food insecurity issues. She asked that all continue to share all requests with their office.

Ms. Danielowski, representing Council Member Andrew Cohen's office, reported that they are also addressing the speeding and drag racing issues in the community. Complaints should be forwarded to their office. Their office is open Monday thru Thursday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Elijah Nwaokocha, representing Councilmember King's office reported that constituents' services are ongoing.

Ms. Darcel Clark, Bronx County District Attorney, reported that her office is continuing to work with the NYPD and community-based organizations to address crime issues in the community. Her office has held town halls, resource fairs, and sponsored marches and gun buybacks. Guns are coming from outside the state. Pennsylvania is a gun feeder state. The mandatory minimum sentence for being caught with a gun is 3-1/2 years, Ms. Clark is encouraging community residents to give back the guns before being caught with them.



Council Member Andrew Cohen reminded everyone to reach out to his office for any concerns.

### **III Report of the Borough President's Office**

Ms. Alexis Ruiz reported that in early November there will be an orientation session for new Board members.

### **IV Chairperson's Report**

Borough consultations were conducted last month, and the results are now available to Community Board 12 members in a google drive file.

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

The Board was informed of new Community Board 12 appointments by the Borough President's office.

District Manager George Torres reported that he spoke with the city's Department of Information Technology and Technology (DOITT) regarding maintenance of Community Board 12's website. DOITT will begin uploading content. The goal is to have the site updated by November 19, 2020.

### **VI Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2020**

The roll was called to determine the presence of a quorum. A quorum was confirmed with 31 Board members present.

**Motion made and seconded** to accept the minutes as printed with any necessary corrections.  
**Motion passed.**

### **VII Introduction of New Board Members**

Acting Chairman Dr. Michael Burke welcomed new Board members and invited them to introduce themselves. He reached out to each of them individually, by phone and mail.

### **VIII Election of Community Board 12 Officers**

Nominating Committee Chairman Mr. Clinton Myke reported the voting results for the Community Board election, with 34 votes received:

Chairperson: Dr Michael Burke (97.1%)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson: Ms. Egeria Bennet (44.1%)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman: Mr. John Isaac (97.1 %)

Secretary: Ms. Judith Benitez (88.2%)

Treasurer: Ms. Tollyne Dickerson (100%)

Because there was not a clear majority vote for the office of first vice chairman there will be another vote held at the November 19, 2020 meeting.

## **IX Vote on Committee Recommendations**

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

The committee voted in favor of adding the name of the late Bishop Michel White-Haynes to the street signage at the intersection of White Plains Road and E. 233rd Street.

The committee also voted in favor of approving the license renewal for New Town Car Service.

**Motion made by seconded to accept the report of the committee. Motion passed.**

**Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker and seconded by Mr. Anthony Reid to approve the addition of Bishop Michel White-Haynes' name to the street signage at White Plains Road and E. 233<sup>rd</sup> Street. Motion passed.**

**Motion made by Mr. Alfredo Figueroa seconded by Mr. Karl Stricker to approve the committee's recommendation to renew New Town's license. Motion passed.**

### **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 will be held in November to address those questions, and the proposed changes will be put to a vote on November 19, 2020.

The committee's full September report is attached.

**X    Adjournment**

There being no further issues to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:35 P.M. The next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.

*Carla Borsotti*

Carla Borsotti  
November 17, 2020