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### **Bronx Community Board 12 September 24, 2020**

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, the Bronx, for September 24, 2020 was called to order via a Webex virtual meeting, at 7:05 pm by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, Dr. Michael Burke, serving as Acting Chairman for the meeting.

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

##### **Mr. Corey Williams/Community Resident**

Mr. Williams addressed the issue regarding current condition of the radio-controlled (RC) park near Gun Hill Road. He stated that the community is willing to put effort and resources into maintaining the park. It is used by many members of the community.

Chairman Dr. Burke responded that the issue will be investigated.

##### **Ms. McMorris/Community Resident**

Ms. McMorris stated that she wants the Board to address quality of life issues on Grace Avenue near Bissell Gardens. She asked if there are signs available to discourage loitering in her neighborhood. She suggested that some additional street lighting might help address the issue. She said that the community regularly calls 311 and 911 but the loitering resumes several days later. Dr. Burke referred the matter to District Manager George Torres.

##### **Mr. Sotomayor/Community Resident**

Mr. Sotomayor stated that members of the community met regarding the shelter at 4747 Bronx Boulevard. He reported that the response was disappointing.

He further stated that the lot on E 241<sup>st</sup> Street is full of dirt and garbage, and no progress has been made to date. He asked if the owners of the property can be contacted to ensure the property is regularly maintained. Public Safety Chairman Mr. Alfredo Figueroa responded that his understanding is that construction will begin soon.

##### **Ms. Monica Watson/Edenwald Community Resident**

Ms. Watson reported that the community has been asking for a speed bump for years, but all requests have been denied.



Transportation and Capital Projects Chairman Mr. John Isaac confirmed that there is a speeding problem in the neighborhood, as well as use of dirt bikes and a large grill that causes traffic congestion. He pointed out that speed bumps are only being placed in areas near schools. He noted that the DOT does not place speed bumps in other locations because they can cause a speeding car to become a dangerous projectile.

**Pamela Hamilton-Johnson/President, 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council**

Ms. Johnson stated there is also a speeding problem between 222<sup>nd</sup> and between White Plains Road and Bronx Boulevard. She inquired if an investigation can be done regarding installing a speed bump and/or speed bump. She stated that by the time a community resident calls in a complaint and the police arrive the person has left. If the speeding occurs at the same time each day residents can ask to have a police car stationed at the location. Ms. Johnson also recommended that complaints be emailed to her at [47pccpresident@gmail.com](mailto:47pccpresident@gmail.com). This creates a paper trail that can be shared with the 47<sup>th</sup> precinct, which will then reach out to the resident who filed the complaint.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Eastchester Heights Community Center received a 6-month grant to distribute 400 boxes food weekly. Provisions will be given away every Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

**Mr. Toba LaCrown/Community Resident**

Mr. LaCrown asked for more community involvement in the Board's response to the homeless shelter at 4747 Bronx Boulevard, the community wants to support the Board's efforts.

**II. Elected Officials/Representatives Report**

Chairman Dr. Burke recognized Mr. Ivan Nedds, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz's office. Mr. Nedds reported that Assemblyman Dinowitz is addressing issues of dangerous driving in the Bronx.

Assemblyman Dinowitz reported that his office is also very frustrated by the shelter at 4747 Bronx Boulevard, and has been working with other community elected officials to resolve the issue.

He also stated that a new law has been passed to enable easy access to absentee ballots. He reported that speeding problems have always existed in the community but have become worse since the pandemic. He noted that the school area speed cameras currently only operate between 6am and 10pm, but the State legislature is working to make them 24/7. He also commented that sanitation service has declined, his office is working to address the issue.

The chairman recognized Victor Martinez from Comptroller Scott Stringer's office. Today the Comptroller is promoting extension of open streets. He is advocating for guidelines governing heat lamps for restaurants with outside dining spaces. He is also recommending support for kids

in shelters. The Comptroller's office published a school reopening guide, accessible at [insert hyperlink here].

The chairman recognized Ms. Danielowski from Council member Andrew Cohen's office. She encouraged everyone to complete the census. Early voting to starts October 24, can do by mail-in ballot or in person. Next week there will be a hearing re. future of restaurants in the community.

#### **IV. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman's Report**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman reported on the Board's follow-up with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) regarding the shelter at 4747 Bronx Boulevard.

Dr. Burke reported that there is now a COVID-19 testing center located at Community Board 12, 9am to 7pm, 7 days a week.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman's full report is attached.

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

District Manager Mr. George Torres provided an overview of his vision for the Board in 2020-2021.

The district manager's full report is attached.

#### **VII. Committee Reports**

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

Ms. Judith Benitez provided her committee's recommendations regarding an establishment license renewal and a new application. The committee recommended both establishments for approval.

The committee's full report is attached.

**Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker, seconded by Mr. John Isaac, to accept the committee's report. Motion passed.**

**Motion made and seconded to approve the committee's recommendations for the two establishments. The motion passed.**

#### **Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2020**

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

### **VIII. Nominating Committee**

Chairman Mr. Clinton Myke reported that the Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of candidates for Board offices, including nominations from the floor:

Chairman: Dr. Michael Burke

First Vice Chairman: Ms. Egeria Bennet, Mr. Ivan Borrás and Mr. Karl Stricker (nomination from the floor)

Second Vice Chairman: Mr. John Isaac

Secretary: Ms. Judith Benitez (nomination from the floor) and Mr. Theodore James

Treasurer: Ms. Tollyne Dickerson (nomination from the floor)

The committee noted that nominations from the floor are now closed. The committee also proposed using Zoom for the October election due to its polling feature, supplemented by paper ballots for those members without access to a PC.

**Motion made by Mr. Ivan Borrás and seconded by Ms. Lisa Hayes to accept the committee's report. The motion passed.**

### **VII. By-laws Committee**

The By-laws Committee presented the proposed six amendments to the 2000 By-laws. The proposed amendments will be submitted for a vote at the October 22, 2020 Board meeting.

The committee's full report is attached.

### **IX. Old Business**

Dr. Burke proposed inviting some additional City agencies to address the Board.

### **X. Adjournment**

There being no further issues to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:55 pm. The next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carla Borsotti  
September 25, 2020