

**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1**  
3024 Third Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10455  
Mr. George Rodriguez – Chairman

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** George Rodriguez, Ngtanda Ambroise, Carmen Aquino, Maria Garcia Baltazar, Robert Barnes, Carol Boddie, Josephine Fernandez Byrne, Betty Bryant Brown, Maura Cosme, Gloria Cruz, Linda Duke, Linda Gaines, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Johnson, Nellie McKay, Evelyn Munoz, Walter Christopher Nash, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Marcelo Villagran, Betty Wessley, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Delores Waller Worrell.

**Public Session**

**Think Positive World Global Initiative**

Mr. David Giller, founder said that our vision is to accelerate positive change in communities around the world. We spent a lot of time in Florida testing out a lot of our programs. We just had a very successful pilot program for Think Positive Bronx and we worked with PS 55 over on St Paul's Place with amazing results with the children over there. We have a program called I'm a Person it's a self esteem program and much more than that it's an anti-bullying program. It's based on what we call the ten daily fundamentals to greater well being which is posture, breathing, exercise, pacing ourselves throughout the day, nutrition, positive environment, love, kindness and empathy for others and a few more. It's a very powerful program. The children at

PS 55 are literally stopped bullying. We had 700 student's 220 sponsors and the children became more respectful of one another, their teachers, parents and community. The results with regard to attendance they had the highest in years anywhere from 92 to 96 percent. The number of behavioral incidents was down over 200 percent in the course of 1 year. So for one week we did I'm a Person. I'm a Person Week was created as a result of a song called I'm a Person it can be referred to as everybody's anthem. It's a very important song which we are in the process of translating into every language and getting out there across the world. I'm a Person program was created around the song but it's much more than a song and the results are indicative of that.

So what we are looking to do right now is we want to go into 100 schools in the Bronx and around the city. But as many schools as possible in the Bronx. Our vision is to have 100 schools to do the program and then to go to Yankee Stadium and have a walk-a-thon and rally for

positive change with the 100 schools present. So this is what our vision is we've gathered a lot of support politically and with the clergy around the city especially in the Bronx. So we have a lot of support and I'm here to ask for your support of this program. We're looking to get 100 school Principals to give us a non binding letter of interest that they would like to do the program so that we could take them to corporate sponsors and get the money to do it. Next year we're planning a bus tour to go to 12 states and 15 cities around the country to plant the seed of positivity. This is a very comprehensive program that is really going to impact entire communities.

### **New York City Police Department – 40<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct**

Deputy Inspector McCormack said that right now the 40 we're struggling big time in crime with a spike in robberies, grand larcenies, burglaries. We just made a nice arrest with the burglaries we had one suspect under surveillance for a long time he was doing commercial burglaries over here on Third Avenue we got him the other day. We just indicted him which is fantastic. We finally got him coming out of a place with burglary tools. We're still struggling with the grand larcenies of cell phones it was always the iPhone products but now we're seeing this new Galaxy phone that's being targeted. They're out there watching what kind of phone you have and taking them. So we're struggling on 138<sup>th</sup> Street in and around Mott Haven again so we're putting a lot of resources in that area.

The one great fantastic news that we have is that right now down over 50 percent in shootings. The 41<sup>st</sup> just had two people shot so the hot summer is coming and we're hoping to keep the violence down. But I'm hoping again I came here with 72 shootings and my goal is to keep them under 35 if I can cut it down to 50 percent in two years. It's not secret we're targeting the crews and the guys doing it. We had the Mott Haven take down that had done 12 to 15 shootings, the Betances and MMG kids of Moore Houses they did about 12 shootings and we had the Maria Lopez buildings that were doing a lot of shootings. So we're targeting the right people and putting a couple of cases together right now for a little surprise for some people. Homicide is down 50 percent. Unfortunately we had a woman killed by her son, one drug addict killed another drug addict and the young 6 year old kid shot and killed at twelve o'clock in the afternoon on 142<sup>nd</sup> Street over a girl. Two out of three are solved and hopefully we're going to get this third one solved as quickly as possible.

### **End of Public Session**

#### **The Chairman called for the roll.**

There were twenty-seven member present constituting a quorum.

#### **The Chairman called for a motion on the agenda.**

Motion made to accept the agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the prior meeting minutes.**

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**Chairman & District Manager's Report**

The District Manager introduced Mr. Alex Zablocki, Director of Community Relations for the New York City Department of Homeless Services.

Mr. Alex Zablocki said that many of you know of our agency our mission is to provide shelter services to those that are facing a housing crisis that's open to anyone that comes to us they have a right to shelter and we must provide that to them. We also besides being the largest shelter system in the country run a very extensive network for homeless prevention. Something that we've focused on even more so over the last year under the leadership of Commissioner Seth Diamond whom you may have heard over the last few days is actually leaving the agency to go work for the state so we will be welcoming in a new Commissioner in about two weeks. Our Commissioner has met for the past almost three years now with Community Boards throughout his tenure at the Budget Borough Consults. He's spoken to Cedric directly I believe as well as other members including the Bronx Borough President and Elected Officials across your borough and of course across the city and has listened to your concerns and he's also given feedback as to what we do as an agency. I wanted to come tonight in order to present to you what we do and what we've been doing in terms of homeless prevention what services are available in this community, in the Bronx and our city and certainly get feedback on the work we're doing in this district.

As I mentioned Homeless Services operates a large homeless prevention network and their work is run through the offices of Homebase. The office located here in this community is run by BronxWorks. Homebase is opened to people facing a housing crisis possibly facing eviction. Maybe behind in their rent but not evicted yet, can't pay their utility bill possibly they are in some disagreement with the landlord and facing a housing crisis because of that or maybe living with Mom and Dad and there is some disagreement so they may be turning to the shelter system in order to provide housing in the future Homebase is there to help them.

So Homebase has helped tens of thousands of families since it was created in 2006. Since then everyone that has come to Homebase 90 percent of them have not entered the shelter system which is good news. Last year using Federal stimulus dollars we started this campaign this was one of target communities that we focused on across the city because we knew that there were more households coming to us from this area and other areas in the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan than any other area. We targeted this campaign to those families that may have been facing a housing crisis but might have not known that these services were available. We

spent about 1.2 million dollars on this campaign and in our Homebase office citywide we saw a 30 percent increase in the need for homeless prevention services. So it really shows not only the great need for prevention services but also the great need for shelter services if you didn't have something like this in place. In addition to Homebase we also have three anti-eviction legal services in the Bronx and in this community through Bronx Housing Court we actually have providers and they work with Judges. So if someone didn't get to Homebase, didn't know services were available or received an eviction notice and came to court we actually have providers funded by the city to work directly with households so that we can prevent the eviction in the courthouse keep people in their home and figure out if they may be eligible for some subsidy like the Federal Eviction Prevention supplement a five-year subsidy for anyone who has been evicted or maybe a one-shot deal from HRA or some other services that we can provide that household so that they do not enter the shelter system. The less people that enter our system the less shelters we need to build in our community and it's certainly more cost effective to the taxpayer. So prevention services are working in the city and it is something major cities across the nation are replicating what we're doing here with Homebase. We've also testified on this not only in the City Council but it's been a part of other discussions federally in Washington and across our state and elsewhere about using this model across the city. So think of it as a one-stop shop if you know of anyone that might be facing a housing crisis refer them to Homebase.

We also run the largest shelter system in the country again. Shelter in New York City is a right. That means any single adult male or female that comes to us we must have a bed for them no questions asked there is no eligibility. On the family side families with children and adult families you also have a right to shelter but we look at your housing history and there is an eligibility process to that. So anyone that has been evicted is homeless possibly coming off the streets they lost their apartment can't get help from Homebase and has to come to us they would enter one of the intake points for whatever type of family or single adult they are. All families with children enter one intake point in the city and that's called Path located in Community Board #1. We're serving families there twenty-four hours a day seven days a week 365 days a year. Any new applicants that come to us are placed in the shelter ten days we call conditionally where we review their two-year housing history and see if they are eligible for services. Anyone reapplying for services can also go back to Path. HRA is also located at Path the floating hospital for any medical needs ACS the NOVA unit which is No Violence Again looking for any domestic violence issues and we also have what's called resource room at Path which helps working with families that may have been ineligible or can be diverted from shelter where we can either reconnect them with family or we can find them other housing outside of the shelter system. Adult families are typically couples that are older say senior couple or mom with a child over the age of twenty-one. Their intake point is on East 30<sup>th</sup> & First Avenue in Manhattan and they also go through eligibility and have the same conditional placement. Now single adults male go to one intake point the same place as adult families we can't ask questions for singles so they get a bed if they come to us there is no eligibility. For single females they would go to two entry points one on the Bronx on Franklin Avenue and in Brooklyn on Williams Avenue again there is not eligibility for them we must give them a bed when they come to us. So that means that our agency must continually expand as more people come to us or contract if the census goes down.

About eighteen months ago the agency attempted to institute eligibility at the front door for single adults in order to see if we could divert more single males and females at the front door back into the community. We would have looked at one year housing history instead of two and there were some people that we would not have looked at their housing history. However the City Council sued us and we were prevented from instituting eligibility so for right now we must continue providing services to anyone that comes to us on the single side. We also provide twenty-four hour a day street services we have teams across the city in all five boroughs out there seven days a week you are provided here by BronxWorks and they are doing an amazing job.

It's a great success that we've reduced the number of people living on the streets of our city by two-thirds compared to Los Angeles there 13,000 living on the streets in New York City it is just over 3,000. 412 families last year entered the shelter system from this Community Board. In this Community Board there are six shelters five families with children shelters and one single adult shelter. We have 250 shelters citywide we operate directly eleven of them the rest are operated by contract providers BronxWorks, Help USA and Woman In Need. Out of the twelve Community Boards in the Bronx two do not have shelters and out of the other Boards this Board ranks number five. So there are five other Boards in the Bronx that have more shelters than this Board.

Finally we serve everyone whether you're a resident of the state, from a different country, citizen or not we do not turn anyone away.

**The Chairman called for a motion on his and the District Managers Report.**

Motion made to approve the report as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**Elected Officials Reports**

The Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. submitted a written report on the following items.

- The Bronx Borough President officially kicked off Bronx Week 2013. It will take place from Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Bronx Borough President joined "Hands Across the Concourse" held on April 14<sup>th</sup> an event uniting thousands of Bronxites in opposition to violence.

The State Senator Jose M. Serrano submitted his Report to the People on the following items.

- The State Senator sponsored a bill that will increase hits to "I Love NY" State Tourism website.
- The State Senator stands with Senator Liz Krueger and other elected officials in full support of Governor Andrew Cuomo's 10-point Women's Equality Plan.

- The State Senator participates in a rent control forum to discuss his fight to promote tenant-friendly legislation in Albany to address the growing concern by community residents regarding availability of affordable housing within New York City.
- The State Senator and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo asking him to include Member Item Reform in Package of Ethics Reform Legislation.

The Councilperson Melissa Mark Viverito submitted her report on the following items.

- The Councilperson is outraged about the use of the Puerto Rican flag on Beer and wrote a letter to the Puerto Rican Day Parade Chairperson.
- The Councilperson joined the panel to discuss the issues of why NYC Public School are failing gym.
- The Councilperson attended a Bronx Town Hall Meeting about Community Safety and NYPD accountability.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Elected Officials Reports.**

Motion made to accept the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

The Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee submitted a written report on the following presentations.

- New York City Department of Parks & Recreation site selection action in the relocation of their Five Borough Shop.
- Update on the Choice Neighborhoods

The Education & Youth Committee submitted a written report on the following presentations.

- Harlem RBI/DREAM Charter School – Real Kids South Bronx.
- New York City Charter School Center – CPAN Charter Parent Action Network

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Reports.**

Motion made to accept the Committee Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

NONE

**New Business**

NONE

**The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.**

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned.**