

FULL BOARD MEETING
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1
May 29, 2014

MINUTES

Board Member Attendance: George Rodriguez, Ngande Ambroise, Maria Garcia Baltazar, Carol Boddie, Michael C. Brady, Betty Bryant-Brown, Passyna Bula-Bula, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Maura Cosme, Linda Duke, Linda D. Gaines, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Lemon, Nellie McKay, Evelyn Munoz, Walter C. Nash, Linda Ortiz, Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Betty Wessley, Maria Davis-Wilson, Tracy A. Woodall, Hakiem A. Yahmadi.

Board Member Absent: Carmen Aquino, Robert H. Barnes, Jessica Clemente, Isabel Figueroa, Brenda Goodwin, John Johnson, Jorge Leon, Theresa Marrero, Eileen Marquez, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Marcelo Villagran, Delores Waller-Worrell.

The Chairman called for the roll.

The roll was called and there were nineteen members present.

Public Session

Human Rights Commission

Ms. Belinda Simmons, Deputy Director in the Bronx office I'm here to just let people know that we are active in the community. We enforce the Human Right Law which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and where you get your services.

What we've been doing in Community Board #1 is that we've been active in the back to work programs over at FEG's, SoBRO and Goodwill Industries where we go on a weekly basis. Also when there is a bias case in this area we keep track of them to see if there is a pattern and if we find that there is we then see what we can do to rectify the issue. We go into schools, civic centers and senior centers to talk about bias harassment.

What we've did most recently is that there is going to be a new LGBT Center over here on Brook Avenue opening in January. We've been meeting with the Mayor's Office and BoomHealth. BoonHealth has a LGBT Youth Preventive Center. So what we're trying to do is work with them so when the center opens up we want to be able to provide services to the youth that come in because they may not necessarily have access to services outside of this community.

I have brought with me a lot of information regarding the discrimination issues that we work with.

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Questions

South Bronx Famers Market

Mr. Brent a representative from the Farmers Market said that we starting a Famers Market which will take place on 138th Street, between Alexander and Willis Avenues. We have a couple of farmers that will be selling their goods. We're looking for more farmers and local people to sign up and participate. We will be accepting EBT and SNAP. We're also looking for volunteers I have form that I will leave here and can be passed around for anyone who wants to sign up and be a part of this.

The market will be on Saturday's starting on June 14th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM up through the week before Thanksgiving which will be the last one.

Questions

Arts & Labor

Ms. Emily Baierl said that I'm here as part of a group called Arts & Labor. To speak with you about something we're working on called the Frieze NY Art Fair. It's held on Randall's Island every May with all the big galleries in New York. Big galleries internationally come there once a year. There are millions of dollars in sales but yet the Fair pays back very little to the City of New York. We are working on a proposal whereby fees would give a percentage back to the communities of the South Bronx and East Harlem for the next year's fair.

Questions

The Chairman stated that there were now twenty-five members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairman called for a motion on the agenda.

Motion made to approve the agenda. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

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

Motion made to approve the prior meeting minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

Chairman & District Manager's Report

Deputy Inspector Lorenzo Johnson said that one thing that the Mayor, new Police Commissioner and Mr. Loftin have discussed is the Vision Zero. With the Vision Zero is we're doing selected enforcement for
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traffic violations that we believe cause fatalities and the first that the 40th precinct is experiencing is the Grand Concourse. The Grand Concourse as of May 15th has dropped down from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. Because of that I have had my officers out there and we've issued over 200 speeding

summonses to people who were speeding and not only going over the 25 but also the former speed of 30 miles per hour. Another thing that we have noticed that causes a lot of accidents is cell phones. They're talking and texting on their cell phone while driving erratically and we've issued over 300 summonses. Another infraction that we've kind of been enforcing a lot more is failure to yield to pedestrians. Especially around this area people are crossing the street and the driver becomes annoyed and try's to hit them. We've issued over 100 summonses last month for failure to yield to pedestrians. Again this is one of the things that the Mayor is kind of stressing because last year we had more fatalities due to motor vehicles than homicides caused by firearms. So again we in the New York Police Department take human life very serious. This is just one way we're going about it.

Also last Monday started summer and that's when people get a little rowdy. One thing that I'm going to do is be more proactive in policing to allow everybody to enjoy the beautiful weather like we're having today.

I have two impact zones the west and east and have over fifty officers that are assigned from 8:00 PM at night to 4:00 AM in the morning. I also have two conditioned teams in the AM and PM and I have plain clothes police officers that are patrolling the area twenty-four hours/seven days a week. Again we're going to be proactive so we get some of these criminals before they do something serious of robberies and shootings. So that everybody in this precinct can enjoy this beautiful area.

Another thing that you've been hearing a lot about is heroin. A couple of years ago people we're addicted to prescription pills. With that being harder to get heroin use is kind of on the upswing. In the 40th Precinct one thing the Police Commissioner and Attorney General Schneiderman have kind of done all of the police officers are going to be equipped with noxolin an anti-opium antagonist so that if somebody od's you give them that needle and it can counter effect the overdose and hopefully save as many lives as we possibly can.

Two months ago in the Moore Houses the Bronx Gang Unit has taken down twenty-five additional perpetrators for conspiracy and they all went federal looking at a minimum of ten

years. That's just the beginning one thing that I've done since I've gotten here over a month ago is that I sat down with the Bronx Narcotics, Bronx Gang, Housing, Transit discussing more ways to keep the people in Community Board #1 in the 40th Precinct safer.

Questions

The Chairman called for a motion on the Chairman and the District Manager's Report. Motion made to approve the Chairman and District Manager's Report. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

Emergency Rights

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Ms. Awilda Cordero founder said that this is a 501C non-profit organization but we also have Attorney's doing work for us whenever we need them. Coming back and opening up my organization I'm here to let

you know that someone like me is out there. What I'm doing is crime victim, and domestic violence and trying to stay away from the homeless right now because we don't have the space. We're concentrating also on rape victims we've had a lot of woman that have come to us that have been raped and don't know who to go to and scared to go to the Police because they don't know what's going to happen next. I actually take them by hand and help them through the necessary steps. Also I'm working with child abuse of children that have been beaten up and killed by loved ones so we're working with these families. Working on crime victim cases of people that get killed in the street and their families don't know where to go so they come to my office. We're also opening the door to immigrants who are here and may get hurt and don't know where to go. Sometimes they get hurt at work they stay quiet because they're scared to go to the Police and make a report or to Worker's Compensation because they think that they're going to be deported and taken out of here. I'm also helping out with Alzheimer's. So anyone that has any love ones that need help you can always come to my office we know what to do with them.

Questions

Silent Cry, Inc.

Ms. Shawanna E. Vaughn, President said I run a non-profit and work with kids from ages 6-16. I deal with gun violence. I'm going to be running a summer program that deals with math, literacy and different components. My space is going to be in the Kennedy Center but the kids I work with are from the South Bronx and Harlem. So if you have any kids between the ages of 6-16 and need someplace to go this summer all my information and number is on the flyer and I have an application that I would email to you.

End of Public Session

Elected Officials Reports

The Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. representative submitted his written report on the following items.

- The Borough President said that those members whom submitted their reappointment applications should continue to serve until they receive a letter regarding reappointment. The terms for those who have chosen not to reapply ended on March 31st.
- The Borough President made a statement regarding the preliminary contract agreement between the City and UFT. "This contract agreement contains fair and reform-minded terms, and I look forward to working with both Mayor de Blasio and President Mulgrew on making our schools work well for all our children."
- The Bronx Borough President and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz announced a wager on the Subway Series. That if the Yankees win the Queens Borough President would have to provide Queens delicacies for the Bronx Borough President and if the Mets were to win then the Bronx Borough President would have to send the Queens Borough President delicacies from the

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- Bronx. In the spirit of good sportsmanship if the Yankees and Mets split the four games then both wagers would be paid.

Questions

The Congressman Jose E. Serrano's representative submitted his report on the following items.

- The Congressman helped pass legislation, H.R. 1726 awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to honor the service and legacy of the “Borinqueneers” or 65th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army. The regiment, which was the last segregated unit composed of Hispanic soldiers, was noted for its bravery and service particularly in the Korean War. The bill co-authored by Puerto Rico's resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi passed the House unanimously, the Senate on Thursday and now awaits the President's signature.
- The Congressman at the Appropriations Committee spoke out against the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill as to its insufficient funding levels for the Public Housing Capital Fund which funds capital and management including development, financing and modernization of public housing projects. The bill underfunds critical programs such as Section 8, the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance, and Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly. He voted against passage of the bill but passed by a vote of 28-21.
- The Congressman joined many of his Democratic colleagues in voicing his concerns on the kidnappings of nearly 300 Nigerian girls and young women by Boko Haram. Became a sponsor of H. Res.573 which condemns Boko Haram's abduction of the young women. Signed onto a letter expressing support for the Administration's decision to provide support to the Nigerian government to help find the abducted young women.
- The Congressman proposed three amendments to the House Appropriations Committee Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill. The three amendments would help improve indigent juvenile defendant services, require the Census Bureau to consult with interested parties before making any changes to the Hispanic Origin question in the 2020 Census and encourage our immigration court system to provide better information about their rights to people going through removal proceedings. All amendments were approved by both
- Republicans and Democrats.

Questions

The State Senator Jose M. Serrano's representative submitted his report on the following items.

- The State Senator joins NYS Comptroller DiNapoli for important asthma Press Conference. He has been a strong advocate for protecting our environment and finding a comprehensive approach to fighting asthma in our communities.

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- The State Senator participated in a ribbon cutting at Lincoln Hospital to celebrate the completion of a fully renovated Emergency Room.

- The State Senator stands with fast food workers demanding quick results on living wages. Advocating giving localities the right to raise the minimum wage in order to keep pace with the cost of living.
- The State Senator marched with 32BJ to demand fair wages and safer working conditions.

Questions

The representative for Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo, Ms. Neyda Franco said that as far as up to date registrations it's going slowly and now we're reaching out to the schools trying to work with the Parent Coordinators to get materials out to the parents. It seems that a lot of the parents in the community are not getting the information. I don't know how but there has to be some way that we can reach more of these parents so that they're able to come in and be part of these community boards and the community watch because more buildings are going up and we're going to have to get more united communities. As far as the elections like I said the petitions are coming up soon but we are going to continue to register. So if you know someone that wants to register they can always go the Assemblywoman's office everybody that's there can register. Or me at the office and let me know if there is a senior citizen that can't come out of their home and I will go over and register them.

The representative from the New York City Comptroller's office Mr. Jason Laidly said that he deals with the city pensions. We also work with all the city contracts so we're not the ones that have the contracts we just register them. Also we do audits of all the city agencies. We also have a department called CAC which is like our 311 where we deal with any issues that come up. The Comptroller does an Arts Report and realized that both the Bronx and Brooklyn are underserved when it comes to having an Art Teacher and because he did that we're now working with DOE to see if we can get more Art Programs into our communities. Finally any claims that you have with the city comes through our office so if you get injured and trying to figure out how to get through that it comes to our office.

Questions

The Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's representative submitted her report on the following items.

- The Council Speaker will be hosting a Senior Health Festival 2014 at St. Mary's Park on Thursday, June 26, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- The Council Speakers Bronx Constituent Service Hours will be at the Millbrook Community Center Cafeteria 201 St. Ann's Avenue on Fridays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
- The Council Speaker on May 17th honored with a citation people that had been living in Public Housing for the past fifty years.

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- The Council Speaker launched Follow Me Fridays and the first one was at the Mix Pop Up Coffee Shop in the South Bronx. On at least one Friday each month she will visit a business,

community center, outdoor location or other destination in the district and invites constituents to join her.

Questions

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

Motion made to approve 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 and provided a brief overview on the following presentations.

- Lettire Construction

The Chairman called for vote on providing Lettire Construction with a letter of support for their project the 138th Street Apartments (the “Project”).

Motion made to table vote on the Lettire Project until the board has been provided the numbers on the Area Medium Income. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously with 13-yes, 1-no and 6-abstentions.

- South Bronx Overall Development Corporation (SoBRO)

The Chairman called for a vote on SoBRO’s 2014 NY Main Street Grant Application.

Motion made to support SoBRO’s 2014 NY Main Street Grant Application to enhance streetscape and facade of the commercial HUB corridor from 144th Street & Third Avenue to 152nd Street & Third Avenue. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously with 17-yes and 3-abstentions.

- New York City Parks Department Five Borough Shop relocation.

The Health-Human Services & Seniors Committee submitted a written report on provided a brief overview on the following presentations.

- Medicare Rights Center that provides assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers and professionals.
- BoonHealth proposing to open a wellness center that was Brook House Furniture focusing on youth, LBGT youth and young woman of color.

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The Municipal Services Committee submitted a written report and provided a brief overview on the following presentations.

- The New York City Parks Department Manager spoke on some of the rules such as obtaining a permit for barbecuing, how the parks are being kept and some of the events that take place during the summer in St. Mary's Park.

The New York City Parks Department St. Mary's Park Recreation Center Manager on some of the programs the center is providing for seniors.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Reports.

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

Old Business

Board Member Maura Cosme thanked the District Manager for having the New York City Department of Transportation put in speed humps and for the New York City Police Department stopping the double parked cars. She also thanked Mr. Loftin for having held the Melrose Common Condominium Home Owners meeting in the Board Offices.

New Business

Board Member Hakiem Yahmadi notified the board of the new maps being distributed by the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) with pertinent information related to evacuation procedures in case of an emergency.

Board Member Michel Brady announced SoBRO's event of South Bronx IGNITES on June 14, 2014 Lincoln Avenue, between Bruckner Boulevard & East 134th Street from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Board Member Linda Ortiz announced that she had started a Friends of St. Mary's Park which is in its initial stage with volunteers that are advocating for the park.

Board Member Tracy Woodall announced that the next C-Ball game would be held on Saturday, June 7, 2014.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned.