



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK THE BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



*Community Board #12 (The Bronx)*

*4101 White Plains Road*

*The Bronx, New York 10466*

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FATHER RICHARD F. GORMAN, ESQ.  
Chairman

GEORGE L. TORRES, II  
District Manager

**Minutes of the Stated Meeting**  
**of**  
**Community Board #12 (The Bronx)**  
**September 23, 2015, 7:30 P.M.**  
**Town Hall**  
**4101 White Plains Road, The Bronx, New York 10466**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly-scheduled Monthly Stated Meeting of Community Board #12 (The Bronx) for the month of September 2015 was called to order on Thursday evening, 24 September 2015 at 8:10 P.M. by the Chairman, Father Richard Gorman.

The Chairman invited those wishing to participate to stand for and to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. He then asked for the Community Board and those neighborhood residents present, who desired to do so, to join in a period of silent reflection and meditation for:

- the gratitude of all on Community Board #12 (The Bronx) for the opportunity of another year of service
- the safe, peaceful Summer that was enjoyed in Bronx Community District #12
- the safety of all attending guests and visitors for the United Nations General Assembly (U.N.G.A.)
- the safety of Pope Francis and the success of his pastoral visit to the City of New York
- the Members of the United States Armed Forces defending us overseas and far from home
- our Veterans, both deceased and living, especially those who survived grave injury



- our First Responders in the N.Y.P.D., F.D.N.Y., and E.M.S. protecting us on the homeland.

## **II. OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Father Gorman noted that the Stated Meeting had convened later than anticipated and was off schedule. He stressed the need to get underway expeditiously.

## **III. REMARKS OF COUNCIL MEMBER ANDY L. KING**

Father Gorman recognized Council Member Andy L. King and invited him to deliver some remarks. The Council Member thanked the Community Board for its service to the area. He put forth the issue of AGNES HEYWOOD PLAYGROUND. He noted its importance in his life. He informed those present that he had secured the requisite capital funding to repair and to upgrade this Playground and that the project would be completed by 2017. He stated that the playground would be available to adjacent schools for activities. He specifically thanked Father Gorman for his leadership.

Father Gorman asked all present to thank Council Member King for facilitating the addition of our late District Manager Carmen L. Rosa's name to East 229<sup>TH</sup> Street just outside her longtime office. He invited all present to join him in demonstrating our appreciation for the signs announcing "*CARMEN L. ROSA WAY.*"

## **IV. REMARKS OF INSPECTOR RUEL R. STEPHENSON**

Father Gorman invited the Commanding Officer of the Forty-seventh Precinct, Inspector Ruel R. Stephenson to speak. The Chairman congratulated the Inspector upon his recent promotion to full Inspector and for his dedicated service to Bronx Community District #12. Inspector Stephenson highlighted the large reduction in the number of murders and shooting incidents from last Summer to this year. He noted additional successes in reducing crime thanks to the efforts of our local Police Officers. He stated that the Precinct was partnering with other law enforcement agencies at other levels of Government, such as the District Attorney of Bronx County and the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (S.D.N.Y.), in order to keep our area safe. He stressed that he and his Police Officers want all neighborhood residents to be secure, but that this could only transpire with the assistance and the cooperation of all neighborhood residents. He called for ongoing and open communication between cops and the community.

Inspector Stephenson informed all present that the new reorganization of Police services, modeled on the "beat cop" system of old, was being implemented in the Forty-seventh Precinct. He stated that "N.C.O.'s" -- *i.e.*, "Neighborhood Coordinating Officers" -- would soon be introduced along with the elements of the new

reorganization at a meeting to be conducted in Community Board #12's Town Hall Carriage House on the evening of 30 September 2015.

The Commanding Officer spoke of the accomplishments of the Precinct's recent "BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY" whereby school supplies were distributed by the N.Y.P.D. to approximately two thousand (2,000) youngsters. He thanked the local elected officials, the area clergy, and his Community Affairs Officers -- Police Officers David Belle, Jason Soto, and Natalia Diaz -- for their support and endeavors in this regard. He stated that there would be other events to reach out to residents in the District -- *viz.*, a THANKSGIVING GIVE BACK on Monday, 23 November 2015, a CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE on 18 December 2015, and a SENIOR HOLIDAY DINNER on 19 December 2015.

The singular negative note in the Inspector's Remarks concerned a recent upturn in robberies and in incidents of grand larceny. He counselled caution and prudence on the part of area residents.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 25 JUNE 2015**

Father Gorman requested that those in attendance cooperate by not talking during the meeting. He likewise stated that, absent objection from the Community Board, he was altering the Agenda so as to move the Stated Meeting forward because it was seriously behind schedule.

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of 25 June 2015 as printed and to waive the reading thereof. This Motion was made by Board Member John Isaac and seconded by Second Vice-Chairman Karl Stricker. Father Gorman asked if any corrections to the Minutes were required. None were offered. The question was called. The Motion carried by a vote of twenty-three (23) "AYE," with no ("0") "NAY" votes or "RECUSALS" and five (5) "ABSTENTIONS." Four (4) Members were "NOT PRESENT" and fourteen (14) Members were "EXCUSED."

#### **VI. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 25 JUNE 2015**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the prior Stated Meeting of 25 June 2015.

#### **VII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Services**

Standing Committee Chairman Felix Roldan reported that representatives of the ensuing establishments appeared at the last meeting of his Standing Committee:

- *The Eastwood Manor:* 3371 Eastchester Road [On-Premise; Renewal]
- *Pyramid Exotic Bar and Restaurant:* 3825 White Plains Road [On-Premise; New]

- **Barries Restaurant: 707 East 235<sup>TH</sup> Street [Wine and Beer Only; Renewal]**
- **Gun Hill Brewing Company: 3227 Laconia Avenue [Beer Only; Renewal]**
- **Joal Restaurant Corporation (formerly "Crazy Horse"; a/k/a "Key Club"): 4139 Boston Post Road [on-Premise; Renewal]**
- **Kerry L.L.C. (a/k/a "Hideout"): 413-415 East 233<sup>RD</sup> Street [On-Premise; New]**

An establishment known as *Fish 'n' Ting* did not send a representative but was excused by Mr. Roldan.

Father Gorman called for a vote on a Motion to accept the Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Services. Mr. Roldan made said Motion, which did not require a second as it originated from a Standing Committee. This motion was approved by a vote of twenty-five (25) in the "AFFIRMATIVE" and two (2) "ABSTENTIONS" with no ("0") votes in the "NEGATIVE" or "RECUSING." Five (5) Members were "NOT PRESENT" and fourteen (14) Members were "EXCUSED."

The Chairman requested a Motion from the Standing Committee to approve the liquor license applications enumerated above. Mr. Roldan made said motion, which did not require a second as it originated from a Standing Committee. The Motion carried by a vote of twenty-two (22) "AYE," one (1) "NAY," four (4) "ABSTENTIONS," and no ("0") "RECUSALS." Five (5) Members were "NOT PRESENT" and fourteen (14) Members were "EXCUSED."

The Report of the Standing Committee is appended to these Minutes.

#### Standing Committee on Parks and Recreation

Standing Committee Chairman ShaKing Alston was excused from attendance at the Stated Meeting. In his absence, Father Gorman reported that the Standing Committee had met with representatives of The Bronx Borough Office of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (N.Y.C.D.P.R.), members of Council Member Andy L. King's Staff, and neighborhood residents in order to discuss the refurbishing and the capital improvement of Agnes Heywood Playground. Council Member King has secured the requisite capital monies in order to undertake this project. Father Gorman reported that the Standing Committee had voted to approve this proposal.

Father Gorman moved on behalf of the Standing Committee that its Report be accepted No second was required. The Motion was approved by a vote of twenty-seven (27) "AYE" with no ("0") votes in the "NEGATIVE," "ABSTAINING," or "RECUSING." Five (5) Members were "NOT PRESENT" and fourteen (14) Members were "EXCUSED." A subsequent Motion approving the capital reconstruction of Agnes Heywood Playground by N.Y.C.D.P.R. was put forth by Father Gorman on behalf of the Standing Committee, did not require a second, and passed by the same tally of votes as the previous Motion.

The Report of the Standing Committee is appended to these Minutes.

### **Standing Committee on Land Use**

Standing Committee Chairman and Board Second Vice-Chairman Karl Stricker delivered the first of two (2) Reports. The initial Report *re* B.S.A. Calendar Number 161 – 15 – BZ dealt with the proposed enlargement of The Church of the Pentecost located at 621 East 216<sup>TH</sup> Street at the intersection of Bronx Boulevard. The Standing Committee conducted a Public Hearing on said Matter prior to the Stated Meeting and voted not to recommend the granting of the requested Variance to enable this project to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeal (N.Y.C.B.S.A.). Mr. Stricker moved on behalf of the Standing Committee that its Report on B.S.A. Calendar Number 161 – 15 – BZ be accepted. The Motion did not need to be seconded and was approved by a vote of twenty-seven (27) “*AYE*” with no (“0”) votes in the “*NEGATIVE*,” “*ABSTAINING*,” or “*RECUSING*.” Five (5) Members were “*NOT PRESENT*” and fourteen (14) Members were “*EXCUSED*.” A subsequent Motion offered by Mr. Stricker calling for Community Board #12 (The Bronx) to recommend to the Board of Standards and Appeal of the City of New York (N.Y.C.B.S.A.) that it grant the sought-after Variance to The Church of the Pentecost was defeated by a vote of two (2) “*AYE*,” twenty-four (24) “*NAY*” with no (“0”) “*ABSTENTIONS*” and Board Member Franklin Allakpo “*RECUSING*” himself since he is sometimes a congregant at this Church and some of his business clients are likewise congregants. Five (5) Members were “*NOT PRESENT*” and fourteen (14) Members were “*EXCUSED*.”

Standing Committee Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman Karl Stricker delivered the second Report from his Standing Committee *re* B.S.A. Calendar Number 193 – 13 – BZ which seeks a Special Permit from N.Y.C.B.S.A. in order to reduce the number of required parking spaces. He moved that this Report *re* the former VERIZON Building be accepted by the Community Board. The Motion did not need to be second as it had arisen from a Standing Committee. The Motion carried by a vote of twenty-five (25) “*AYE*” with no (“0”) votes in the *NEGATIVE* and one (1) “*ABSTENTION*.” Board Member Claudia Powell “*RECUSED*” herself because of a legal issue. Five (5) Members were “*NOT PRESENT*” and fourteen (14) Members were “*EXCUSED*.” Mr. Stricker next introduced a Motion calling on the Community Board to recommend to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeal (N.Y.C.B.S.A.) that it grant the Special Variance sought in B.S.A. Calendar Number 193 – 13 – BZ. This second Motion was defeated by a vote of no (“0”) “*AFFIRMATIVE*” votes, twenty-five (25) votes in the “*NEGATIVE*,” one (1) “*ABSTENTION*” and Board Member Claudia Powell once more “*RECUSING*” herself due to a legal matter. Five (5) Members were “*NOT PRESENT*” and fourteen (14) Members were “*EXCUSED*.”

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

The Chairman, Father Gorman, recalled for the Board Members and those in attendance the story of Police Officer Michael C. Williams and his tragic, untimely death. The Officer passed away in a traffic accident while on duty on 21 September

2014. He recalled how Police Officer Williams, an outstanding basketball player, creatively employed his skills as such in order to get a group of youngsters to leave Agnes Heywood Park. Father Gorman recommended to the Community Board that it propose to the Council of the City of New York that the appellation "**POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL C. WILLIAMS WAY**" be added to Barnes Avenue between East 215<sup>TH</sup> Street and East 216<sup>TH</sup> Street immediately adjacent to Agnes Heywood Park. He entertained a Motion to this effect, which was made by Board Member Carl Lanzano and seconded by Board Member Raymond Evans. Without debate or comment, the Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY** with all twenty-seven (27) Community Board Members present voting in the **AFFIRMATIVE**. Five (5) Members were "**NOT PRESENT**" and fourteen (14) Members were "**EXCUSED**."

## **IX. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Father Gorman reminded his colleagues on Community Board #12 that their correct, up-to-date contact information, including a mobile telephone number and an e-mail address, had to be on record at the Community Board Offices. Notices and other Community Board documents will no longer be forwarded *via* the United States Postal Service (U.S.P.S.) as such is time-consuming and increasingly expensive. Members of a Community Board must always keep in mind that they have certain obligations, such as this case in point, because they are Members of an Agency of New York City Municipal Government. The Chairman pointed out that a Board Member's telephone/mobile number and e-mail address will not be made available to the public. Members of the public will be encouraged by the Community Board Staff to write to a Board Member at the Community Board's Town Hall Address.

The Chairman reminded all Board Members of the absolute imperative to be present at one's Standing Committee Meetings and all of the Monthly Stated Meetings. Attendance will be recorded and forwarded to the Office of the Borough President of The Bronx. He likewise forewarned all Members that the arrival and the departure time of a Board Member will henceforth be noted on the Attendance Sheet for all prospective meetings. He encouraged all Standing Committee Chairmen/women to be faithful to their particular obligations, such as attendance at meetings of the Executive Committee, submission of Standing Committee Reports, and the like.

Father Gorman informed his colleagues and those present of forthcoming changes in the structure and the areas of concern of the Community Board's Standing Committees. He addressed the matter of the use of the Community Board's website now that the New York City Department of Information, Technology, and Telecommunications (N.Y.C.D.O.I.T.T.) has commenced its operation.

Father Gorman mentioned the addition of District Manager Carmen L. Rosa's name to that portion of East 229<sup>TH</sup> Street immediately adjacent to Town Hall. He further stated that other individuals also were also in line to have their name added to a street within Community Board #12 (The Bronx).

The Chairman happily informed all present that the New York City Economic Development Corporation (N.Y.C.E.D.C.) was set shortly to issue a Request for Proposals (R.F.P.) for the construction of a Youth Center in Bronx Community District #12 on East 229<sup>TH</sup> Street across from Cardinal Spellman High School. He recalled how the late District Manager Carmen Rosa had been a leading proponent of this endeavor.

The Chairman made some announcements *re* upcoming events and items of interest. He further identified those public officials, members of their Staff, and special guests who were in attendance at the Stated Meeting. He highlighted the news that the N.B.C.-T.V. series *BLINDSPOT* was filming some of its footage in Town Hall during the month of October along with the news that the Church building and the Rectory of our local First Presbyterian Church was proposed to be landmarked. The Chairman encouraged all to attend the christening of the POLICE OFFICER ROBERT OSWAIN CAMPUS on the morning of Friday, 9 October 2015. Police Officer Oswain died as a consequence of his service at Ground Zero in the wake of the World Trade Center tragedy on 11 September 2001.

#### **X. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

The new District Manager, George L. Torres, II delivered his very first District Manager's Report, which is appended to these Minutes. He underlined how he has been working since August of this year to enhance the technological capacity and capabilities of the Community Board. He recounted that he had presided at his very first Meeting of Community Board #12 District Service Cabinet (D.S.C.). He gave notice of proposals emanating from the New York City Department of City Planning (N.Y.C.D.C.P.) for Mandatory Inclusive Housing and Affordable and Senior Housing. He encouraged all to attend the Public Hearing to be scheduled on the topic of these issues during the month of October.

#### **XI. REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT OF THE BRONX**

The Report of The Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., the Borough President of The Bronx, is appended to these Minutes.

#### **XII. GOOD AND WELFARE / THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

##### **Mr. Michael X. Hinton, Neighborhood Resident**

Mr. Hinton recounted his extensive involvement in the District and the need for all residents to come together in order to enhance its quality of life. He spoke about an upcoming local event at which local residents would be able to address their concerns to our elected officials and candidates for public office. It will be held on Thursday, 15 October 2015 at the Eastwood Manor. He urged an end to apathy when it comes to

the welfare of the neighborhood and for all to pay better attention to one's personal health issues.

**Ms. Sheila Nelson**

Ms. Nelson distributed flyers about some service opportunities available to neighborhood residents. She is the new Program Director of a local neighborhood center located at 720 Nereid Avenue that is funded by the New York City Department for the Aging (N.Y.C.D.F.T.A.). She highlighted some of the programming at her center.

**Ms. Gloria Ashby, Neighborhood Housing Services (N.H.S.)**

Ms. Ashby shared information about Neighborhood Housing Services (N.H.S.) and the programs it affords, especially to first-time home purchasers. She further addressed some issues of importance to homeowners.

**Ms. Pamela Johnson, Eastchester Heights Community Center Executive Director**

Ms. Johnson, a former Member of Community Board #12 (The Bronx), imparted some valuable information about our local public schools.

**Ms. Alison Ortiz, Regional Assistance for Interim Needs, Incorporated (R.A.I.N.)**

Ms. Ortiz is the Program Director for R.A.I.N. She shared information about her organization's services at its eleven (11) senior centers.

**Ms. Joan Aikens, New York Public Library (N.Y.L.)**

Ms. Aikens thanked the Community Board for its support of the New York Public Library (N.Y.P.L.) and asked that said support continue as many needs remain with respect to our Public Libraries.

**Ms. Denise Nurse**

Ms. Nurse and two (2) of her nurse colleagues asked for assistance in addressing a noise problem at East 226<sup>TH</sup> Street and Shoelace Park. She attributed a significant portion of this problem to folks hosting barbeques in the Park.

**Ms. Maddie Dickinson, Baychester Quality of Life Council**

Ms. Dickinson thanked Father Gorman, Mr. Carl Lanzano, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, and others who assisted in fighting against the opening of another community residence at 3646 Palmer Avenue. The Agency seeking to operate said residence has determined not to go ahead with its establishment.

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**XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to be considered.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**After announcing that the Stated Meeting for October 2015 would convene on Thursday evening, 22 October 2015 at 7:30 P.M. in Town Hall, Father Gorman thanked his colleagues on Community Board #12 for their diligence and patience in addressing the plethora of Agenda items before them this evening in an outstanding fashion. He adjourned the September Stated Meeting of Community Board #12 (The Bronx) at 10:10 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**CARLA BORSOTTI  
Assistant Secretary  
Community Board #12 (The Bronx)**

***Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.***  
***September 2015***  
***Community Board Report***

**Borough President Diaz Provides Over \$34 Million  
in Funding to Bronx Organizations**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has announced that his office is providing more than \$34 million in capital funds to organizations all over the borough through his FY2016 capital funding allocations.

This year, Borough President Diaz will allocate \$34,450,000 to 108 total projects. This includes funding for nearly 70 education projects across the borough, park upgrades, the redesign and redevelopment of a portion of the Grand Concourse as well as the creation of over 2,300 units of new housing, among other projects. Since taking office in 2009, Borough President Diaz has funded a total of 480 projects for \$166,480,000.

“Through these critical funding allocations my office is able to provide technology upgrades to public schools, safety improvements for NYCHA residents, park renovations and thousands of units of new housing,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. “I am proud to have been able to provide this funding to so many worthy institutions in this year's capital budget.”

This year, Borough President Diaz's largest allocations went to housing, \$11.2 million, representing 32.7 percent of his total capital budget. These funds will support the creation of 2,331 new units of housing of all types across sixteen projects, keeping in line with Borough President Diaz's commitment to keep the borough's housing stock diverse and affordable.

Borough President Diaz is also providing more than \$10.6 million, or 30.8 percent of his entire capital budget, to 67 school projects across the borough. This money, which represents the second highest percentage of this year's capital allocations, will go towards technology upgrades and other physical plant improvements in public schools across The Bronx.

Several notable projects Borough President Diaz is funding this year include \$1 million towards the next phase of the renovation of the Grand Concourse, over \$1 million towards renovations at both Lehman College and Bronx Community College, \$500,000 towards a new building for the Pregones Theater, and \$150,000 towards a dog run on Pelham Parkway.

“This critical funding helps keep our educational institutions vibrant, our schools strong, our parks clean and our neighborhoods safe. This funding is critical to the continued positive growth of our communities, and I am proud to have helped so many important projects in every corner of our borough,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

The full list of projects can be found at <http://on.nyc.gov/1DquYTr>.

## **Elected Officials Issue Report on Kingsbridge/Broadway Business Corridor**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announces the release of a new report outlining proposed improvements to the Kingsbridge/Broadway business corridor during a press conference on West 231st Street and Godwin Terrace on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Pictured are (l to r): Farrah Rubin, Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Van Cortlandt Development Corporation; Sergio Villaverde, chairperson of the economic development committee of Community Board #8; Capt. Terence O'Toole, commanding officer of the 50th Precinct; Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz; Robert Press, member, Community Board #8; Borough President Diaz; State Senator Gustavo Rivera; City Council Member Andrew Cohen; and Dan Padernacht, chairman of Community Board #8.

Today, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Council Member Andrew Cohen, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Bronx Community Board #8 and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation issued a joint report examining the Kingsbridge/Broadway retail corridor, running along Broadway between West 230th Street and West 238th Street, including connecting side streets, in the northwest Bronx.

This well-known commercial corridor has seen two new retail shopping centers open at each end in recent months, and is slated for more retail, commercial and residential development in the near future. Given this activity, this group sought to identify issues affecting the corridor and put forth recommendations, which they believe will help maintain the area's status as a vibrant, active and relevant shopping corridor for both local residents and those beyond.

Those recommendations include a renewed focus on graffiti removal, standardized street furniture and sanitation receptacles, increased lighting and the creation of new parks and public interaction spaces, among others.

The complete report on the Kingsbridge/Broadway business district can be read at <http://on.nyc.gov/1fRNJcA>.

“With two major new developments opening along Broadway in recent months, this shopping corridor is seeing increased traffic from not just Bronx shoppers, but travelers from northern Manhattan and Westchester, as well,” said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** “Our recommendations will go a long way towards keeping Kingsbridge an attractive place to visit, shop and eat for local residents, while also ensuring that potential customers from all over the region will feel welcome here, shop in our local stores, and become repeat customers.”

“Kingsbridge is one of the most significant shopping districts in The Bronx, and this report puts forward several common sense improvements that can make this area more attractive to shoppers. I look forward to working with my fellow board members, elected officials and businesses together to make this shopping district an even better place to visit, and to take advantage of the new traffic this neighborhood will see as a result of these two new shopping centers,” said **Dan Padernacht, Chairman, Community Board #8.**

Borough President Diaz added that his office will issue similar reports on other Bronx business districts in the future, in partnership with elected officials and community organizations.

## **BP Diaz & Over 100 Elected Officials from Across the Nation Urge Congress to Allow Bankruptcy for Puerto Rico**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has issued a letter, in conjunction with over 100 elected officials from across the nation, demanding immediate action from Congress to enact legislation that will allow the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to enter bankruptcy.

The letter can be read here: <http://on.nyc.gov/1Wh8Vdz>.

“The interests of the Puerto Rican community, whether they are in Puerto Rico, New York, New Jersey, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida or anywhere else are American interests. Congress has an obligation to act and pass legislation that seeks to amend the Federal bankruptcy code and provide Puerto Rico, and its related power authorities and municipalities, access to Chapter Nine Bankruptcy protections,” states the letter.

The magnitude of debt owed by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its associated debt issuing authorities is at a critical juncture. Congress’ failure to address this crisis presents a substantial threat not only to the economy of Puerto Rico, but the United States economy as a whole.

“I am appreciative that so many elected officials from across the United States understand the need for federal action to address Puerto Rico’s ongoing debt crisis and were willing to join forces with my office to push Congress on this issue,” said Borough President Diaz. “I will continue to work with my colleagues to advocate for a remedy to the crushing fiscal crisis facing the commonwealth.”

### **Governor Cuomo Leads Delegation to Puerto Rico**

#### *New Yorkers to Meet with Puerto Rican Government Representatives amid Crisis*

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that he will lead a delegation to Puerto Rico to meet with local officials and discuss the Puerto Rican governments' ongoing healthcare crisis and economic challenges as well as the need for Washington to act. The Governor is leading the delegation at the invitation of Puerto Rico’s Governor, Alejandro García Padilla. The group will depart in the afternoon on September 7 and return early in the evening on September 8.

“New York and Puerto Rico have a special relationship bound in heritage, history, culture and family – and when times are tough we stand side by side and offer whatever help we can,” **said Governor Cuomo.** “The current situation in Puerto Rico has become unsustainable and is threatening the livelihoods of millions of people – many with strong connections to New York. This trip is about stepping up for Puerto Rico and its people, and I look forward to working together with our partners to help address this crisis.”

The Governor’s delegation (in formation) will include New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr., New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer and

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, and members of the Governor's administration with expertise on Medicaid redesign and fraud including New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker and New York State Medicaid Director, Jason Helgerson.

**Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. said:** "For several months, I have been pushing for common sense solutions to Puerto Rico's crisis. I want to thank Governor Andrew Cuomo for his leadership on this issue, and commend him for taking action and putting together a strong delegation of elected officials to discuss with Puerto Rican officials ways to help develop achievable proposals and plans that support the future development of Puerto Rico and prevent a catastrophe for our fellow Americans who call Puerto Rico their home."

After Puerto Rico, New York is home to the largest population of Puerto Rican people in the world. Approximately 5 million Puerto Ricans live in the mainland United States.

### **Borough President Diaz Blasts NYCHA Housing Proposal**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is raising serious concerns over a proposal by the New York City Housing Authority to develop open green spaces between existing buildings at city housing projects.

"The tenants of NYCHA should not be treated like second-class citizens," said Borough President Diaz. "Despite the assertions of NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye, these green spaces play a critical role in the everyday life of building tenants, especially children, and should be preserved. NYCHA's housing stock is already poorly maintained. Taking away light, air and green space from these tenants—taking away safe spaces where children play—would be an outrage."

Borough President Diaz also criticized Ms. Olatoye for her comments in an interview with *Politico New York*, where she described the green spaces at NYCHA developments as "strewn with trash" and "gated off," and therefore any discussion of their use by tenants amounts to "nostalgia."

"Ms. Olatoye should not be so cavalier about her agency's responsibility to manage these spaces," said Borough President Diaz. "If the space is strewn with trash, pick up the garbage. If they are gated off, then open the gates. Her admission that NYCHA cannot maintain space for its tenants should not be an excuse to develop inappropriate housing projects, but should instead spark a discussion about ways to provide additional resources to the hardworking men and women employed by the housing authority."

Borough President Diaz added that he is not opposed to all development on NYCHA property, and has in fact supported some projects in the past. But to develop on cherished green space does a tremendous disservice to the over 400,000 city residents who call these developments home.

"I understand the need to build more affordable housing," said Borough President Diaz. "But this development should not be at the expense of the quality of life of NYCHA tenants."

**Statement from Borough President Diaz**  
**RE: Passage of Legislation on Legionnaires' Disease Inspections**

“This legislation will make not only The Bronx but the entire city a safer place, and I am happy that the City Council has answered my call in response to the public health crisis my borough has faced since late July.

“With regular inspections of cooling towers and other infrastructure we can be proactive to prevent future outbreaks of Legionnaires' Disease, and I look forward to Mayor de Blasio signing this bill and making it law.

“My thoughts and prayers remain with the families of those affected by this outbreak, especially the families of the 12 who passed away as a result of this disease,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

**NYC Parks Cuts the Ribbon on New Soundview Amphitheater**

On Thursday, August 27, 2015, NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, joined Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., State Senators Jeffrey Klein and Ruben Diaz, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Bronx City Council Chief of Staff Mariela Salazar, DEP Deputy Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, Community Liaison Ramon Cabral, leaders of Community Board 9, and local residents to celebrate the opening of the new amphitheater at Soundview Park.

“Residents of the Bronx now have a newly designed performance and entertainment space right here at Soundview Park,” said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. “Parks are not only green spaces, they are public spaces, and with the completion of this new theater, community members will enjoy more opportunities to gather in the park with neighbors, friends, and family.”

“This is a project I have been working on since I was in the State Assembly and I look forward to the opening of the new Soundview Park Amphitheater,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. “This new amenity is another example of how things are changing for the better in our great borough. We are providing an area where families can get together and watch movies, much like how people do in Bryant Park in Manhattan and in Coney Island in Brooklyn, while we are also maximizing our green space. I want to thank the New York City Parks Department for their efforts on this project and I look forward to many years of amazing performances at this wonderful new space.”

The natural amphitheater features a performance lawn built in line with Roseland Avenue, alongside a new park entrance and pathway. The \$2.8 million construction budget included mayoral funding as well as Croton Filtration Plant Mitigation Funds.

Previously completed at Soundview Park was the construction of a rubberized 400-meter regulation running track and field with areas for pole vault, high jump, long jump, and triple jump. The \$6 million project also included a synthetic turf soccer field, bleacher seating, adult fitness units, a misting station, landscaping, and lighting for evening play.

Additional phases of the Soundview Park redevelopment, which include reconstruction of the existing playground while building a new comfort station at Metcalf Avenue, are soon to be finalized.

Known as the "Gateway to the Bronx River," Soundview Park celebrates the beauty of the Bronx waterfront with extensive views. The 205-acre park was built on a landfill and sits where the Bronx River opens into the East River. The Bronx River is the only freshwater river in New York City.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### ***“A Day of Remembrance”***

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and the Bronx Supreme Court invite you to join them as they pay homage to those lost on September 11, 2001 on Thursday September 10, 2015 from 12 noon to 2pm at Lou Gehrig Plaza (161<sup>st</sup> Street between Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue)

#### ***Borough President Diaz invites you to the Muslim School Holiday Celebration***

Saturday September 26, 2015

12noon to 3:00pm

New Settlement Apartments Community Center – 1501 Jerome Avenue

RSVP- 718-590-3522 or [lrldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:lrldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov)



**The CITY OF NEW YORK Borough Of The Bronx**

COMMUNITY BOARD #12

4101 WHITE PLAINS ROAD  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10467  
TELEPHONE: (718)881-4455/6  
FAX: (718)231-0635

FATHER RICHARD F. GORMAN, CHAIRMAN

**COMMUNITY BOARD #12 (THE BRONX)**

**Committee Meeting Report Form**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Capital Improvements & Transportation

DATE OF MEETING: 9/10/2015

LOCATION: Town House

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: JOHN ISAAC  
Norbert Bryan

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Hillary Bloomfield  
Claudia Powell

MEMBERS ABSENT UNEXCUSE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



GUEST: MTA - Jacqueline Carter

AGENDA: EASTCHESTER DYRK AVENUE STATION

MOTION/ RESOLUTIONS PASSED: NONE

DYRK AVENUE STATION WAS CONSTRUCTED IN THE  
EARLY 1900. THE STRUCTURE IS FAILING.

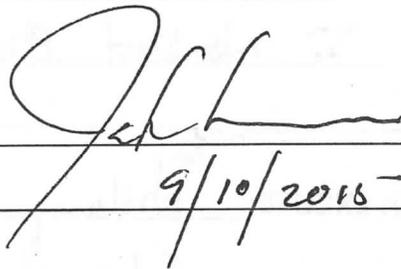
SCOPE OF WORK: • Demolish the platform  
• CUT EXISTING PIER TO GRADE • Replace the ceiling  
• REMOVE EXISTING CONCRETE ROOF & PROVIDE NEW  
OTHER: ROOFING • Repair GIROER BEARINGS

• PAINT STRUCTURE. Work Hours 10:00<sup>AM</sup> - 3:00pm

Nightly 10:00am - 5pm Weekend

Respectfully Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/10/2016



**The CITY OF NEW YORK** Borough Of The Bronx

COMMUNITY BOARD #12

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BRONX, NEW YORK 10467  
TELEPHONE: (718)881-4455/6  
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FATHER RICHARD F. GORMAN, CHAIRMAN  
CARMEN ROSA, DISTRICT MANAGER

**COMMUNITY BOARD #12 (THE BRONX)**

**Committee Meeting Report Form**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS SERVICES

DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

LOCATION: CB12 4101 W.P.R.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: FELIX M. ROLDAN

MICHAEL FELTER

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERS ABSENT UNEXCUSE: NORMA WILES



GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA: LIQUOR LICENSES

MOTION/ RESOLUTIONS PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED WERE - EASTWOOD MANOR, GUNHILL BREWING CO, JOAL REST.  
KEY CLUB, KERRY LLC.

OTHER: THE FOLLOWING WERE NO SHOW - BLACK PEARL, LLC,

PYRAMID EXOTIC BAR & REST., BARRIE'S RESTAURANT

FISH N TING EXCUSED

Respectfully Submitted: Philip M. Kald

Date: AUGUST 15, 2015