

*The City of New York*  
Bronx Community Board Four  
General Board Meeting  
Held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009  
BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER  
MURRAY COHEN AUDITORIUM  
1650 Grand Concourse

**Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair, Presiding**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Felice Bradford-Richard, Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Eldy Correa, Ms. Arthuree Evans, Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Mr. Jose Ferrer, Ms. Melody Frazer, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Pastor Wenzell Jackson, Mr. Reginald Joseph, Mr. Ryan Khan, Mr. Manuel Martinez, Rev. Earl McKay, Dr. Karie Nabinet, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda- Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Rosie Pettway, Mr. Oscar Real, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Carlos Sierra.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mrs. Digna Y. Denis.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rev. Olga Torres-Simpson, Mr. Eric Soto.

STAFF:

Mr. José Rodriguez, District Manager  
Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Ms. Aurea Mangual, representing Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.  
Mr. Carlos Ramos, representing NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson  
Mr. Syane Roy, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano  
Ms. Joy Knight, representing NYS Assembly Member Aurelia Greene  
Mr. Sherman Browne, representing NYC Council Member Maria Baez

GUEST PRESENT:

Ms. June W. McMillan-resident, Ms. Acdez Gonzalez-Bronx Lebanon Hospital, Mr. Jesus Aquino, Ms. Mildred James-resident, Mr. Ernesto Viera, Mr. Naimah S. Bilal-resident, Ms. Annie Owens-resident, Ms. Constance King-resident, Ms. Eva Kowalski-resident, Ms. Linda Williams-DC37 Community Voices Heard, Ms. Gloria Hughes- NYCPL Grand Concourse Branch, Ms. Ellenrita Purcaro-resident, Mr. Warren Freeman, Mr. Emmanuel Cabrera-Good Jobs NY, Ms. Martha Espinoza-Sharing & Caring, Mr. Carlton Hazel-resident, Mr. Mariano Laboy-resident, Mr. Robert Mattly, Ms. Blanche Roblero-resident, Ms. Fay Swavy-Church of God of Prophecy, Ms. Arlene Hall-Grand Concourse Academy School, Ms. Marie McCullough-Concourse Village East, Ms. Mary L. Blassingame-Housing & Land Use Committee member, Ms. Diami Virgilin-Citizen Advice Bureau, Ms. Holly Block-Bronx Museum of the Arts, Ms. Cynthia Cox-District Leader 79, Ms. Betty Crawford- President 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council, Ms. Angela Beriguete-resident, P.O. Hilda Estrella-NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Ms. Jennifer Mungeer, Ms. A. Rembeau, Mr. Gregory Chisholm-Claremont Neighborhood Center, Inc., Mr. Ralph Nieves-resident, Ms. Chelle Silvera-resident, Ms. Candida A. Bido- Bronx District Public Health Office.

**Public Hearing on the Register of Community Board  
Requests for the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2010**

The meeting of the Public Hearing on the Register of Community Board Requests for the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2010 was held at The Bronx Lebanon Hospital, Murray Cohen Auditorium, 1650 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY. The Hearing was called to order by the Board Chair, Ms. D. Lee Ezell at 6:25pm.

Ms. Ezell, Board Chair gave welcoming remarks and began by giving an overview of the budget process, the Community Board's role and its responsibility involving this Charter mandate. She informed all in attendance that this portion of the meeting will be Community Board Four's Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

Ms. Ezell, Board Chair began by outlining the hearings procedures and then announced the guidelines for speaking and then proceeded to call individuals who signed up.

Jesus Aguina, spoke of supportive services for substance abuse. Martha Esperanza of Sharing and Caring spoke of the services of health care services.

Board Member Mr. Ryan Khan asked for Expense item priority 16 to be moved to priority 6 and all other items to be in succeeding order. The motion was presented by Mr. Khan and seconded by Mr. Carlos Sierra. Motion was duly carried.

Board Member Mr. Robert Garmendiz asked for capital listing priority number 34 be rephrased to read that the Parks budget should equal 1% of the of the City's total budget. The motion made by Mr. Garmendiz was seconded by Barry Nissen. The Motion was duly carried.

The Board Chair acknowledged Ms. Holly Block, Executive Director of the Bronx Museum of the Arts. Ms. Block spoke of the budget cuts that the museum will be facing this fiscal year. The proposed cuts will affect their garden initiative and in addition, the \$1.5 Million cut will cause the museum to reduce their gallery production. The 60% cut from DCA will also affect youth activities and the partnerships that the Museum has established with our neighborhood schools. Ms Ezell thanked Ms Block and the Museum for all that they do on our behalf. She then asked Ms. Block to briefly outline what support Board Four may specifically provided. The Museum requested a letter of support for their garden project. Ms. Ezell proceeded to ask Pastor Jackson, has the Parks Committee Chair if he had any comments on the garden project. Pastor Jackson's inquiry was regarding the proceeds from rentals and if they directly benefited the Museum.

A motion was called by Ms. Martha Reyes and seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen to grant a letter of support to the Museum. The motion was duly carried.

Mr. Manuel Martinez made mention of the priority order of Capital request item, the Highbridge Dough Boy Monument. The District Manager acknowledged Mr. Martinez's request and indicated that he will seek to obtain clarification from OMB. A motion was made by Pastor Wenzell Jackson and seconded by Ms. Rosie Pettway to ensure that OMB indeed correctly prioritized our request of the Highbridge Dough Boy Monument. The motion was duly carried. Ms. Rosie Pettway proceeded to make a motion relating to our Capital and Expense request however, the District Manager suggested that a motion may not be necessary but the decision was up to the Board on the best course of action. The full Board requested that the District Manager review the adopted budget priorities in October and compare them to the preliminary budget document provided by OMB.

A request was made by the community to receive a copy of the budget documents and It was suggested that the Board office send an email directing community members and organizations on were to retrieve the budget documents that the Board was referring to during the Public Hearing.

At this point the Board Chair concluded the Public Hearing on the Register of Community Board Requests for the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2010.

#### **Call To Order of the General Board Monthly Meeting**

D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. She also called for all members to participate in project envision against sexual assault which will be held instead of the Executive session on 5 March 2009.

#### **Invocation**

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Earl McKay, Board Member.

#### **Review/Correction/Adoption of Previous Minutes**

The Board Chair D. Lee Ezell called for a review of the January General Board Meeting Minutes to be adopted. A motion was made by Robert Garmendiz and seconded by Felice Bradford-Richard. The motion was duly carried.

#### **Vote on FY2010 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities.**

At this point the Board Chair reviewed all matters discussed at the Public Hearing. Pastor Jackson requested clarification on the Vote which prompted the Board Chair to acquiesce and called for a motion to be made on the afore-mentioned items. The motion was made by Ms Kathleen Saunders and seconded by Dr. Nabinet. The motion was duly carried.

#### **Appointment of Nomination Committee**

Ms. D Lee Ezell, Board Chair announced that the Nominations Committee was unable to meet during the month and indicated that the Board would have to wait until our General Board Meeting in March. Ms. Ezell announced that there is a new appointment not subject to Board election rules but an appointment by the Board Chair. Manual Martinez was appointed by the Board Chair to the Bronx Solid Waste.

**By-Laws Committee Report**

A discussion commenced on the best mechanism to properly coordinate the development of the new by-laws. Pastor Jackson explained how certain areas of the by-laws will be address first, such as committees and committee membership. The revised items will be presented to the members for a vote. Pastor Jackson also indicated that the committee may email their completed recommendation. Ms. Ezell asked if the Board was in agreement with Pastor Jackson's suggestion.

Board Members again asked for clarity on how the Committee will coordinate their efforts. Ms Ezell referred to the motion that Pastor Jackson made. The motion made by Pastor Jackson and seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen to send copies of the results of the By-Laws Committee's work on the section relating to Committees and Committee Membership. The motion was duly carried.

**Remarks By The District Manager**

Mr. José Rodriguez, District Manager reported on the following items:

- January 27, 2009 Meeting with Project Envison-South Bronx Coalition
- January 27, 2009 Community Board Six District Service Cabinet Meeting
- January 28, 2009 The Gateway Coalition Meeting
- January 29,2009 site visit w/ MTA Representatives regarding the # 11 and 13 Bus
- January 30, 2009 815 Gerard Avenue Fire
- January 30, 2009 Meeting w/JHS 145 and the Parks Department
- February 9, 2009 Meeting with Nancy Biberman of WHEDCo
- February 11, 2009 Combined Borough Service Cabinet Borough Board
- February 18, 2009 Meeting regarding the READ Foundation

**Report from Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.**

Ms. Aurea Mangual, representing the Borough President made the following report:

- Bronx Borough President's Report of the Bronx Historic Preservation Task Force
- The Borough President's Unemployment Resource Guide
- The Borough President's Forum Regarding the Needs of the Special Education System
- Participation of Bronx Artists in Community Survey
- Borough President and the NAACP Black History Month

Ms. Mangual concluded her presentation announcing The Bronx Forum an upcoming event.

**Remarks by Hon. Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene**

Ms Joy Knight representing the Assembly Member made the following report.

- NYS Legislature Passes Deficit Reduction Plan
- Home Energy Assistance Program Being Expanded
- Rent Regulation
- Assembly Public Hearing RE: Governance on Education & Quality & Affordable Education

**Remarks By Hon. Senator Jose M. Serrano**

Mr. Syane Roy, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano made the following report.

- Senator Serrano Sponsors Not-for-Profit Workshop
- Senator Speaks our Against Unjust Sub-Metering Plan
- Fighting Against funding Cuts to our Cultural Heritage
- Senator Serrano Honors Visionary Bronx Icon, Yolanda Garcia at Street Renaming

**Remarks By Hon. NYC Comptroller William Thompson**

Mr. Carlos Ramos, representing Comptroller Thompson made the following report.

- Reminder to sign up for the Comptroller's email alerts
- Discussed the Comptroller's announcement against the Bloomberg administration for involvement in the Yankee Stadium financing of tax free bonds

**Committee Reports:****HOUSING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE**

Rev. Earl McKay gave an overview of items discussed at the last Housing and Land Use Committee. Several Board Members raised some concerns and brought up questions regarding the project presented to the Committee by Highbridge Community Development Corporation for letters of support. All questions were addressed by Rev. McKay and Mr. Manuel Martinez.

Rev. McKay first called for a motion to grant HCDC a letter of support for their Nelson and 169<sup>th</sup> Street project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Sierra and duly carried. He then motioned for a 2<sup>nd</sup> letter of support for their West 171<sup>st</sup> Street and Plimpton Avenue Intergenerational project. The motion was seconded by Barry Nissen. The motion was voted down.

Rev. McKay concluded by asking for a Letter of Support to Citizen Advice Bureau for their Homeless Prevention Program. The motion called by Rev. Earl McKay and seconded by Ms. Rosie Pettway. The motion was duly carried.

The Board Chair indicated that the Board's decision tonight on the first matter presented did not denied the project and HCDC may return to the Board and further explain the project and come back to the full board for a vote. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> project we did not approve a project but rather we approved the organization to plan their intentions and come back to us for a vote.

**Economic Development**

Ms. Martha Reyes gave an overview/update on the 161<sup>st</sup> Street Business Improvement District and the Review of application for inspection/recommendation for applicant's liquor license for the Hard Rock Tenant, Inc. DBA Hard Rock Café and the NYY Steak, LLC DBA NYY Steak located 1 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street & River Avenue (Yankee Stadium)

**Public Session**

P.O. Hilda Estrella, 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Unit gave an update on 2 homicides that occurred within the last 3 months. She also announced the monthly Police Precinct Council Meetings and reminded the community about their youth programs. Officer Estrella concluded by announced funding cuts to the explorers program.

Board Chair Ezell gave an overview of Project Envisions-Campaign against sexual assault.

Diami Virgilo, CAB spoke of CAB sponsored forum on Budget cuts.

Mary Blassingame, spoke of stop and frisk procedures by the 44<sup>th</sup> Pct. Police Officers.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Jose Rodriguez, District Manager for  
Mr. Oscar Real, Recording Secretary