

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes**  
**For Tuesday, May, 25 2010**  
**BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER**  
**MURRAY COHEN AUDITORIUM**  
**1650 Grand Concourse**

- **Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Board Chair** opened the meeting by welcoming all to our General Board Meeting. The Chair then proceeded to introduce Council Member Fernando Cabrera.
- **Bishop Earl McKay** lead the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
- **Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes.**  
The Motion was made by Mr. Barry Nissen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felice Bradford-Richard. The motion duly carried.
- **Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Board Chair** introduced Council Member Fernando Cabrera.
- **Council Member Fernando Cabrera** spoke about the following:
  - The City's Financial and budget difficulties
  - New office location
  - Constituent services
  - The Census
  - School Visits
  - Haitian Relief
  - Senior Ctr Closings
  - Adult literacy programs
  - Summer Youth employment

- **Car Sharing Zoning Text Amendment: Paul Philps, Bronx City Planning**

Car sharing is a service that can improve the mobility of New Yorkers, providing them with a wider range of economical transportation choices, while helping increase parking availability within neighborhoods. The Department of City Planning is proposing a city-wide zoning text amendment that would allow car share vehicles to park in off-street parking garages and lots in suitable locations.

***What is Car Sharing?*** Car sharing is a relatively recent concept in transportation and mobility. With over 275,000 members (2008) and more than a dozen car sharing organizations across the nation, car sharing is becoming a practical and viable transportation option for many people. Over a third of U.S. car sharing members reside in New York City, making New York the largest car sharing market in the nation. Car sharing allows an individual who is a registered member of a car share organization to use vehicles on an as-needed basis, typically by the hour. A member has access to a variety of vehicles that are maintained by the car share organization and stored at dispersed locations. Some of the key characteristics of car sharing are:

- membership is open to the general public;
- vehicles are available on an hourly basis through a self-service reservation system;
- vehicles are located at unstaffed locations;
- vehicles are available 24 hours a day; and

- the car share company provides insurance for its members and maintains vehicles.

***The Benefits of Car Sharing*** Car sharing can offer an efficient, economical, and convenient alternative to car ownership for those who drive relatively infrequently. The member does not have to pay the costs of owning, maintaining, and parking a car, but only for the time they use the vehicle. It can increase the mobility of individuals who either cannot afford to or choose not to own a car by giving them access to destinations that are not accessible by mass transit.

Car sharing also benefits the community and the environment. National studies show that membership in a car sharing service leads people to own fewer cars – while results vary among the studies, between 6-32% of members either shed a car that they own or postpone buying a car after becoming a member. Because each car sharing vehicle can serve as many as 40 or more members, this reduces the number of cars neighborhood residents need to own, which helps increase local parking availability. Studies also show that car share members drive less, which has beneficial effects for reducing traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

***Proposed Zoning Text Amendment*** The off-street parking regulations in the City were written nearly a half century ago, and did not anticipate the recent emergence of car sharing. The proposed zoning text amendment would define car sharing in the Zoning Resolution and establish clear rules allowing car sharing vehicles to park in public parking facilities (*garages* and *lots* that serve general-purpose parking), as well as in parking facilities *accessory* to residential, commercial, and other uses, within appropriate limitations based on use and zoning district.

Under the proposal, individual parking facilities would be able to choose whether they wish to allow the storage of car sharing vehicles, within certain limitations:

- In public parking facilities, which serve a wide range of users, car sharing vehicles would be allowed to occupy up to 40 percent of parking spaces.
- In accessory residential parking facilities in medium- and high-density residential districts, car sharing vehicles would be allowed to occupy up to 20 percent of parking spaces or a total of five spaces, whichever is greater.
- A smaller number of car sharing vehicles would be allowed in larger residential group parking facilities within lower-density multifamily residential districts, as well as in accessory parking for commercial, manufacturing, and community facility uses. Here, in parking facilities that have at least 20 spaces, up to 10 percent of spaces could be occupied by car sharing vehicles.
- In one- and two-family residential districts, car sharing parking would not be allowed, except in accessory parking facilities for colleges and universities.

Bishop McKay made a motion to provide City Planning with a letter in support of the Car Share Zoning Text Amendment. The motion was seconded by Ms Martha Reyes 2<sup>nd</sup> and duly carried.

- **Nominations Committee Report: Bishop Earl McKay**
  - Bishop McKay outlined the following individuals the Committee has chosen to nominate
    - Patricia Titley, Recording Secretary
    - Barry Nissen, Treasurer
    - Michael Rendino, Chair of Economic Development
    - Bishop Earl McKay, Chair of Housing and Land Use
    - Mildred James, Chair of Municipal Services

- Martha Reyes, Chair of Health and Human Services
  - Jean Mirvil, Chair of Youth
  - Melody Frazer, Chair of Parks and Recreation
- **Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Board Chair** gave an overview of the Board Election Process as per our by-laws and Robert Rules of Order.
  - **District Manager Mr. José Rodriguez** presented the following segment from his report.  
During this time of the year the DM indicated that he focuses his report on the Executive Budget and provides us with an outline from the Mayor's released FY 2011 Executive Budget.

Announcement: the Executive Budget for FY2011, authorizes a budget of \$198,895 (not including rent and energy) for each community board effective July 1, 2010. The Mayor's Executive Budget, which will go to the Council for Adoption in June, restores \$38,458 to the boards' budgets in FY2011 and in the plan out-years through FY2014.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> the Mayor outlined the following Executive Budget for FY 2011 and updated four-year financial plan.

**Balanced budget totals \$62.9 billion.**

The FY 2011 Executive Budget is balanced in large part by the rollover of \$3.3 billion of surplus funds from FY 2010, which was generated in large part through three years of City budget cuts. Without a State budget in place, the City was forced to make assumptions in the Executive Budget on the amount of tax dollars the State will return to the City - the Executive Budget assumes a State Budget that reduces the amount of tax dollars the State returns to City by \$1.3 billion.

- Report by the Offices of the **Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr.-Representative Aurea Mangual**
  - Announcement of the "Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act" and launched the "Living Wage NYC" campaign.
  - Borough President responded to the Mayor's Executive Budget
  - Autism Awareness Month
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "NYC Denim Day" Against Sexual and Dating Violence
  - Bronx Week Announcements
- Report by **Local Elected Officials** or their representatives.
  - Representatives from Assembly Member Gibson and Benjamin sent greetings
- Announcements
  - Board Member Ebrahim Ndure made a statement regarding fire hydrants being opened during the summer months
- Public Session.
  - Chakira Branch of Big Brother Big Sister
    - The importance for developing mentors is the Bronx
  - Ercilio Perez and Guillerma Velazquez, Homeowners long Mt. Eden
    - Quality of Life Issues

Submitted by Jose Rodriguez, District Manager on behalf of Oscar Real, Recording Secretary.