



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 5

Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., *Bronx Borough President*

Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho

District Manager
Xavier Rodriguez

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE MEETING

**MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2013**

Members Present: E. Acosta, T. Bushby, J. Castillo, M. Hunter, L. Johnson, B. Lawrence, C. McCorkle Bodiford, B. Moore, B. Omotosho, F. Guareno Ramos, D. Relf, M. Rodgers, Y. Torres, R. Whetstone, B. Williams-Johnson

Members Absent: Z. Cortijo, J. Curiel, L. Greene, H. Khalid, V. Long, J. Petty, M. Prince, A. Rosa,

Excused Members: M. Brown, A. Caballero, J. Caraballo, T. Herrera, V. Santiago, K. Speller, D. Torres,

Chairman Dr. Bola Omotosho opened the meeting at 6:15PM. Reverend Jonathan Recabarrea, Fordham Lutheran Church, said the opening prayer.

Chairman Omotosho requested the following reports:

Elected Officials Report

Victor Pichardo, representative for Senator Gustavo Rivera's office, reported that Senator Rivera will hold a wellness information session on April 6, 2013. Senator Rivera conducted another tax preparation session on March 26. It was reported that for the first time, the New York State Legislator has passed the stated budget before April 1, 2013. Senator Rivera is disappointed with the budget because it was a piecemeal one. About 5% of health services were cut and the proposed minimum wage rate was reduced.

Andy Toledo, representative for Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr. reported that the borough president is sponsoring a Health Summit on Saturday, April 6, 2013. Breakfast will be served.

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Serving these Neighborhoods:
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

Albert Alvarez, representative for Councilman Jose Rivera's office reported that the community groups may request grants online. For more information, interested persons may contact Councilman Rivers at 718 842 8100.

Precinct 46 Report

Inspector John Hart of Precinct 46 reported that crime is up 6.5%. The increase is due to more robberies in the form of the snatching of cell phones and purses. Also, a mailman was robbed while entering a building on Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York. A police officer has been assigned every day for twenty-four hours in the area. Chief Phillip Band will be managing the precinct's operations. He is from Manhattan North precinct. Precinct 46 is also working closely with the Aqueduct Homeowners Association regarding safety in their neighborhood. On April 3, 2013, there will a session on Juvenile Justice, at Hostos College, Bronx, New York. The presence of the Bloods and Crips gangs has decreased. However, there are new groups of young people forming in the precinct area. These groups are not gangs but they engage in criminal activity. The ages within these groups range from twelve years and up. These groups are called crews and are usually named after their neighborhood, e.g. River Park Towers crew.

Cynthia Thompkins, President of Precinct Council 46, reported that the next meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in April. Ms Thompkins will send an email regarding a meeting to be held at Monroe College, on May 11, 2013.

Agency Report

Lucy Torres, community liaison for Union Community Health Center, reported that occupational therapy is available at 216 East 80th Street, Bronx, New York, this Friday. The health center will participate in the Health Summit, sponsored by Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. on April 6, 2013.

Tamara Wadley-Senior, representative for Morris Heights Health Center reported health services including birthing, geriatrics, urgent care, women's pavilion, available at the health center and Harrison Circle. The center also collaborates with Bronx Community College. Mrs. Wadley-Senior is part of the center's Marketing Department

Sarah Flatto, representative for the Mayor Bloomberg's office, reported on the available free workshop on community organizing of multilingual leaders for its Office of Emergency Management. Registration for this free program has begun. Participants in the April 18, 2013 will receive certificates upon their completion of the program. The Mayor's office also needs volunteers to help host an event at Ellis Island regarding the immigration history of New York City.

Anita Antonetty, representative for the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, reported that there are six available seats on its advisory committee for community board five. Advisory meetings are held every three months, in order to assess youth services in community board five.

Enrique Colon, representative for CASA, reported that the agency released its report on the Housing Court on March 15, 2013. The agency has created movie nights for resident to view films on tenant information. The first scheduled event will be April 5, 2013. Interested persons may contact the agency at Walton Avenue and 170th Street, Bronx, New York.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Chairman Omotosho presented to each female Board five Member, a yellow long stem rose as an expression of gratitude for their work. He requested that everyone at the meeting stand in honor of these women.

Xavier Rodriguez, District Manager, reported that a proposed City Council Bill #927 states that the community boards should be informed about the submission of budget requests at least thirty to sixty days before the submission date. This bill will give the boards sufficient time to distribute, review and submit their requests. Board Five submitted twenty-one capital budget requests,

Committee Reports

Chairman Omotosho publicly acknowledged the passing of Vice Chairwoman, Bernice Williams' husband. Ms Williams thanked the Chairman, the board members and those in the board 5 community for their support during her period of grieving. Mrs Williams also reminded everyone that we must continue the fight for a better quality of life. In particular, the women are making a difference in our communities.

George Torres, Community Liaison for the New York City Buildings Department reported on safe construction of apartment buildings. Through the agency's investigation, it was found that at least 2,000 complaints were made. The complaints entailed the following:

Broken elevator doors
Illegal demolitions
Illegal Single Room Occupancy in Basements
Parking in commercial areas
Broken Window on Valentine Avenue

Mr, Torres stated that the agency can only write summons and make agreements with to make proper repairs. However, housing violations may appear on landlord's mortgage records.

Committee Report

Municipal Services Committee's Chairperson, Belinda Lawrence reported that last Thursday, there was a meeting on Webster Avenue Bus Service. The next meeting will focus on propose crosswalks on Webster Avenue. She introduced residents who are participating as the emergency response team in the Mayor's Emergency Management training program. The MTA is also planning a direct bus route from the Bronx to LaGuardia Airport.

Health and Human Services Chairperson, Bernice Williams reported that the next meeting will be on March 26, 2013. The presenter will be a counselor from Montefiore Hospital, to discuss bad relationships.

Housing and Economics Chairperson, Bola Omotosho reported that next Wednesday, a group call New Destiny would discuss the development of property at 2070 Morris Avenue, Bronx.

Public Session

Librarian reported that the Sedgwick Branch on 176th Street and University Avenue have created a computer training program that operates on Tuesdays and Fridays, each week.

Rodney stated that the Aqueduct Homeowners Association had a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding water and sewer main. Carmen Cruz, CB5 Principal Administrative Associative, Ill facilitated this meeting.

Cynthia Thompkins, President of the Marion Avenue Association, reported that the neighborhood association is planning a resource center in the neighborhood. There will be a domestic violence meeting on June 22, 2013. Community groups will be marching for street peace on March 29.

Reverend Jonathan Recaberrea of Fordham Lutheran Church will meet with Carmen Cruz to discuss outreach to neighborhood youth in community board five. He will also approach St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church and Creston Avenue Baptist Church to also reach out to community leaders.

Sally Smith complained about the junk around some buildings in her neighborhood. She asked the Board to do something.

New Business

1ST Vice Chair, Bernice Williams encouraged the board members and community to attend the Health Summit o April 6. Mrs. Williams will be a participant as a panel member of the community review research board.

Chairman Bola announced the death of the daughter of Gloria Alston, Chairwoman of Community Board 4. Services will be held at Friendly Baptist Church on March 29, 2013.

Reverend Recaberrea said the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomasina Bushby
Secretary