



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 BOARD MEETING FIVE

October 23, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: E. Acosta, K. Brandon, T. Bushby, A. Caballero, J. Caraballo, J. Curiel, R. Evans, T. Herrera, M. Hunter, L. Johnson, B. Lawrence, V. Long, C. McCorkle-Bodiford, B. Moore, B. Omotosho, F. Ramos, M. Rodgers, A. Sepulveda, K. Speller, B. Williams

Members Excused: E. Feliciano

Members Absent: M. Brown, J. Castillo, Z. Cortijo, W. Demostene, L. Greene, J. Petty, D. Relf, A. Rosa, V. Santiago, A. Sims, D. Torres, C. Westbrook, R. Whetstone

Vice Chairperson, Bernice Williams opened the meeting at 6:15PM.

Elected Officials Report

New York State Senator Jose Serrano stressed the importance of government reform in the area of campaign finance. The Senator introduced his liaison to the community board. She will report the Senator's legislative activities at future Board Five meetings. Board Member Jose Caraballo asked a question about the availability of discretionary funds. Senator Serrano stated that a system should be introduced in which programs should not be punished due to the malfeasance of elected officials.

Victor Pichardo, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera's office, reported that the senator is hosting an event on job possibilities on November 7th, 2013. Interested individuals may RSVP at (718) 933-2034.

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

Andy Toledo, representing Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr., reported that the Borough President is actively promoting legislation that would discourage gas stations from serving bikers in the neighborhood. Marsha Rogers, Board Member, complained about the constant noise from motorcycles that ride on Sedgwick Avenue. Chairperson Omotosho mentioned the presence increase of graffiti in Board Five.

Chairperson Omotosho arrived and took over running the meeting.

Ives Filius, representing Assembly Woman Vanessa Gibson's office, reported:

- That the state legislature passed a bill that ensures protection against sex offenders by limiting their rights.
- Individuals interested in the benefits under the Affordable Care Act may call 1-855-355-5777, for a navigator.
- Assemblywoman Gibson also supported legislation that requires employers to provide special services to pregnant women.

Precinct 46 Reports

Police Officer Luis Melendez reported that there is low attendance in the schools on Halloween. However, there has been less crime during this day. Officer Melendez encouraged the community to report any hooky parties and other potentially criminal activities to the precinct's community affairs office. He alerted the board members and the community about pickpocketing and the stealing of cellphones and other portable electronics on Black Friday. Community affairs have workshops on bullying in the schools. Motorcycling is also being monitored in board five. The precinct's mobile Sky Cam has been relocated to Valentine and Burnside Avenue. The Precinct Council meets every third Tuesday of the month. Chairperson Omotosho requested a report by sector of criminal activities in Board five.

Cynthia Thompkins, President of 46 Precinct Council, reported that sex trafficking will be discussed at the next Precinct meeting on November 19, 2013. City Harvest will conduct a food drive at the Precinct. There will be Toys for Tots luncheon on December 12, 2013 at the South Bronx Job Corps.

Chairperson Omotosho reopened the Public Hearing on Budget Priorities and Requests that was held at 5PM. Nicole Henry from Project Jericho gave her presentation, the public hearing was then closed.

Guest speaker, Susan Yaker presented information on the Affordable Care Act. Her email is axyo8@health.state.ny.us Ms. Yaker added that New York State has its own marketplace where one could acquire affordable health insurance. She reported that 174,000 users in New York City have completed the process and enrolled in a plan. The website is www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov. The telephone number is 1-855-355-5777. There are 500 navigators available

through community based organizations to aid consumers in the process. The information is available in forty eight languages. The Act also makes available financial assistance. Small businesses can also receive information and assistance with insurance plans.

Public Session:

- Henry Collins reported green initiatives within Board Five.
- Louella Hatch announced the Thanksgiving dinner to be held at First Union Baptist Church on November 20, 2013 at 12PM. Tiebout Block Association is sponsoring children Christmas party on December 23, 2013 at St Simon Stock Roman Catholic Church.
- Lucy Torres from Union Community Health Center, announced the Stork Nest Program for pregnant women, which participants that complete the program will be given a baby shower and take part in a graduation ceremony. The center also provides legal advice to the community.
- Matthew Arroyo, a seventh grader complained about the violence in his neighborhood on Davidson Avenue. Matthew was almost beaten up by a gang. He felt that the Park on Davidson Avenue needed to be open so that children have a safe place to play.
- Lula Daniels welcomed everyone and emphasized unity in the community.
- Enrique Colon announced that CASA is holding a second housing workshop on how to form a tenant association. The meeting will be on November 9, 2013 at 35 Marcy Place, Bronx.

Public Session ended.

Chairperson Omotosho opened discussion on the Capital and Expense budget. Board Member Thomas Herrera moved to approve, Randolph Evans seconded that number 4 be removed from the expense budget and that capital and expense items be approved as modified. The Roll Call vote was as follows: No abstains/ 18 yes Motion passed

The deadline for submission of the Yankee Scholarship application is November 14, 2013 end of business.

Board members cannot benefit from their affiliations with the board for personal gain.

Bernice Williams, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, will be a panel member at the Morris Heights Health Center town hall meeting. Board members and the community are invited.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Thomasina Bushby
Secretary
Community Board Five**