



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

September 26, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: M. Brown, T. Bushby, A. Caballero, Z. Cortijo, W. Demostene, R. Evans, E. Feliciano, T. Herrera, L. Johnson, V. Long, C. McCorkle-Bodiford, B. Moore, B. Omotosho, J. Petty, F. Ramos, A. Sepulveda, K. Speller, D. Torres, C. Westbrook, R. Whetstone, B. Williams

Members Excused: E. Acosta, J. Caraballo, M. Hunter, B. Lawrence

Members Absent: K. Brandon, J. Castillo, J. Curiel, L. Greene, D. Relf, M. Rodgers, A. Rosa, V. Santiago, A. Sims

Dr. Bola Omotosho, Chairperson opened the meeting at 6:15PM. Mr. James Williams, a community resident, said the opening prayer.

Chairperson Omotosho gave instructions regarding the agenda format

Elected Officials Reports

Andy Toledo, representative from Borough President Ruben Diaz's office, reported that President Diaz along with other City Council members asked that a gun registry bill be introduced to the City Council. Board members may review the proposed bill online. Kathryn Speller, a Board Member reminded Toledo about the need for jobs in the Bronx because of high unemployment rate in the borough. Thomasina Bushby, board member asked whether the borough president office will address the GED testing changes that will begin January 2014. Mr. Toledo made a note of these issues.

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Vanessa Gibson, Assembly Member, welcomed and new community board five members.

Ms. Gibson introduced staff member, Ms. Dionne Osei as her representative at future board five meetings. The Assembly Member was pleased that the next year New York State budget includes: increased funding for public and high education; continued funding for summer youth programs; speed enforcement cameras around the schools. She also informs the public at subway stops regarding New York State services; gives certificates to achieving students in School District Nine; provides small monetary scholarships to college students, Ms. Gibson supported the bill called Public Accountability Act. Finally, she thanked the community for supporting her office. Assembly Member Gibson resides in Community Board Five.

The Assembly Member also stated that Council Member, Helen Diane Foster has been appointed Commissioner of Human Rights for New York State. Ms. Foster resigned as of September 25, 2013. Her office near 170th Street and Jerome Avenue remains open until January 2014.

Precinct 46 Reports

Deputy Inspector, John Hart, reported that there are still shootings in community board five. However, there have been decreases in shooting and robberies in comparison to 2012. Robberies consist of snatching of cell phones and jewelry. Inspector Hart reported that the 46 Police Officers are visiting schools, attending PTA meetings and organizing forums to alert and educate the public about safety. His telephone number is 718-220-5234. Thomasina Bushby asked him about Halloween activities in the neighborhood. Because of community cooperation with the police in 2012, there was very little crime. The police will be patrolling the major areas, e.g. Fordham Road, Webster Avenue, and Burnside Avenue...Albania Sepulveda board member stated that middle school students are searched within the schools. Inspector Hart stated there are more groups called "crews" than there are gangs that are committing the crimes. These crews range in ages from 13 years to 20 years in his answer to Dayanna Torres, board member's question about the ages of these young people that participate. Inspector Hart thanked their participation at the precinct's National Night Out in August 2013. Chairperson Omotosho requested a sector report from the precinct Louella Hatch complained that the children that use Slattery Park in her neighborhood are out of control. Inspector Hart said he will look into it. Residents may also email him at johnhart@nypd.org

