

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8, HOUSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 26, 2018

Committee Attendance:

S. Sarao, Committee Chair and Member
Georgia Santiago, Committee Member
Omar Murray, Committee Member
Rosalind Zavras, Committee Member
Julie Reyes, Committee member

Committee Absences:

James Santiago, Committee Member

Guests:

Nicole Jordan, Department of Homeless Services (DHS)
Amy Joy Robateau, Treasurer, CB8
Brenda Paredes
Sergio Bautista
Joshua Stephenson, Staff Member, Council Member Andrew Cohen
Dan Padernacht, Board Member, CB8 & Traffic and Transportation Chair
Paul Ellis, Vice Chair, CB8
Rosemary Ginty, Chair, CB8

Chair Steven Sarao called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. with a quorum present. With quorum present, minutes from the October 2017, November 2017, and January 2018 meetings were approval unanimously. Nicole Jordan, Bronx Liaison, DHS was introduced for a discussion on underlying issues relating to homelessness specific to Community Board 8. Nicole Jordan presented a recent February 26, 2018, Press Release regarding Mayor DeBlasio's reduction of cluster cite units by 42% Citywide. Ms. Jordan also presented the Mayor's report, Turning the Tide on Homelessness in New York City. Last, Ms. Jordan presented a Daily Report, dated February 24, 2018 which reveals total shelter census, single adult census, families with children census, adult families census, as well as single adult and family intake data for Citywide populations.

Ms. Jordan was asked numerous times to provide underlying data with regard to the homelessness population disaggregated for CB8 without any private identifying data. Ms. Jordan refused to supply any of this information. Ms. Jordan made many attempts to explain why, none of which seemed to make any sense to members of the committee or the public present. Ms. Jordan initially stated that because CB8's homeless population numbers was so small that providing such data might reveal private information. However, upon further inspection, it was revealed that DHS does

not provide any data specifically disaggregated for any Community Boards or Council Districts., regardless of size. Further, Ms. Jordan said she would not and could not provide such data based upon a policy decision. Ms. Jordan did not offer an explanation but stated she would provide programming information and assistance to collaborate with CB8. Members of the CB8 Board including Chair Rosemary Ginty, Vice Chair Paul Ellis and Treasurer Amy Joy Robateau each made attempts to explain that CB8 merely wanted a careful accounting of the homeless snapshot specific to its geographic area of responsibility. Nonetheless, Ms. Jordan could not provide any of the data or information that members present asked for. Council Member Andrew Cohen, who was also present, also asked if DHS could provide the information that CB8 was seeking, as it seemed relevant to assisting, via Community Board programs, various issues relating to the homeless problems in the area. Ms. Jordan stated over and over that she could not provide the information that we were seeking and that she understood what information that we were asking for, but she could not provide it. Ms. Jordan was reminded that CB8 has been asking for underlying causes, via percentage, raw numbers or any other data points that could assist in understanding the root causes of homelessness, specifically in CB8, rather than Citywide for a long time, including CB8's letter of December 28, 2017. Ms. Jordan was told numerous times that the information specific to CB8 would allow us to understand what was occurring in our geographic area, as compared to other areas in the City and would allow more specific, robust efforts to be made on a grassroots effort to reduce homelessness and provide valuable services to our constituents with dignity and compassion. Ms. Jordan was respectful, but did not provide any of the information that was requested by members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.
By Committee Chair Steven Sarao