

FULL BOARD MEETING
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1
3024 Third Avenue
Bronx, New York 10455
March 31, 2016
Mr. George Rodriguez – Chairman

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Public Session
 - Ms. Laira Reid
NYCSPARX Technology Director
NYC Parks
St. Mary's Recreation Center
Re: NYCSparx Technology Program for Bronx Girls
 - Mr. Nestor Amaya
Vice President, Store Manager
TD Bank
Re: Basic Bank Services
3. Call to Order
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
6. Chairman and District Manager's Report
 - **Public Hearing on the following matter:** Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Budget Priorities
7. Elected Officials Reports
 - Mayor of the City of New York : Honorable Bill DeBlasio

- President of the Borough of the Bronx : Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr.
- United States Congress : Honorable Jose E. Serrano
- New York State Senate : Honorable Rev. Ruben Diaz
: Honorable Jose M. Serrano
- New York Assembly : Honorable Carmen E. Arroyo
: Honorable Michael Blake
- New York City Comptroller : Honorable Scott Stringer
- New York City Public Advocate : Honorable Letitia James
- New York City Council : Honorable Rafael Salamanca
: Honorable Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito

8. Committee Reports

- Economic Development-Land Use & Housing
- Health-Human Services & Seniors
- Municipal Services

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Adjournment

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MINUTES

Attendance: George Rodriguez, Ngande Ambroise, Steven Benedith, Carol Boddie, Betty Bryant-Brown, Passyna Bula-Bula, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Carolyn Chamorro, Maura Cosme, Linda Duke, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Johnson, Aracelis Lucero, Nellie Mckay, Mohammed Mutawakil, Walter C. Nash, Arline Parks, Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Sandra Stone, Betty Wessley, Delores Waller-Worrell

Absent: Clarisa Alayeto, Barbara Alvarez, Carmen Aquino, Maria Garcia-Baltazar, Daniel Barber, Isabel Figueroa, Lynda D. Gaines, John Lemon, Angel Lopez, Jewels Marshall, Evelyn Munoz, Jason Ortiz, Freddy Perez, Jr., Brenda Rodriguez, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Cesar Yoc

Public Session

TD Bank

Mr. Nestor Amaya, said that I'm **Assistant Vice President and Store Manager** with the brand new TD Bank in the neighborhood. TD stands for Toronto Dominion the Bank is actually from Toronto. They've been in business since the early gold rush in Alaska. TD is what we call Chase here in the United States it's the dominant Bank in Canada. So the reason I'm here is just to kind of introduce myself and there's a lot of great things happening in the South Bronx it's not longer a dream. There was a time when we used to dream about having a great community and making changes to the community it's actually happening. Now what we have to focus on is actually driving this bus in the changes and not taking the foot off the pedal. Now some of the services we do offer in TD are basic banking savings, business, and lending. One of the things that we're solely focused here in the South Bronx is for change so if anybody has ties to any of the non-profit organizations who cater to the youth as well as to the elderly I would love to be in touch with you. There is a rampant aspect of fraud that has been going on taking advantage of the elderly as well as the youth getting them to open fraudulent accounts. I am going to pass my business cards around anyone whom requires a conversation with me can stop by my branch any time and will have access to me 24/7 because my email and blackberry's there. Again we're not really here to sell you on banking we're here to sell you on the change that we want to take part of here in the South Bronx.

Questions

New York City Parks Department – NYCSPARX Technology Program for Girls

Ms. Laira Reid, NYCSPARX Technology Director said we're located at St. Mary's Recreation Center and also the St. James Recreation Center. We're open from 2 to 6 but the girls don't have to be there at 2:00 PM. So what they do it's a STEM Program its science, technology, engineering, arts and math just for girls age 12 to 17. We're trying to get young ladies interested in technology there at an age they're really left behind there are a lot of programs for really young kids and girls but not really a lot for that missing age group. So Wednesday's and Friday's we're at the St. Mary's Recreation Center and Tuesday's and Thursday's I'm at the St. James Recreation Center. Examples of projects that we have done and are doing we're trying to create is a personal safety device for young girls that would be a bracelet like Life Alert for seniors this one would be for teens so they hit a button and it sends a GPS location. Whatever they want to do is where I try to add technology to it in fashion

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we have clothes that have lights in them, clothes that make sounds so they have a boom box inside of the clothing. We've also done things like collaborating with the St. Mary's dance troupe helping them with their set and designs. In any interest that they have we want to show them that technology is involved and for them to know these things whether it's the app on their phones or again helping out backstage and this is being done with computers. So we're a grant funded program which translates when money runs out then we can't continue the program part of the fulfillment is that need enough young ladies in the program we're almost there we started in the summer. We want to make sure that we will still have the program in the summer so we need to recruit young ladies of that age group the website for recruitment is on the flyer if you don't have one it's <http://www.tinyurl.com/nycsparx> this gives you a look at what the girls are doing whenever they do a project I post it and you can also contact me at 347 – 394-4251 if there are girls that are interested and I also answer text all the time and I can walk them through the process of registering. There are no grade expectations so they don't have to take a test or to have a certain GPA and we would like to help them with that because we do offer homework help. If they have to do homework when they come I will help them with it we have computers and can do research if necessary. If you know of any young ladies, parents, school or organizations please let them know about us so we can continue to offer this program to more young ladies in the Bronx.

Questions

End of Public Session

The Chairman called for the roll.

The roll was called with twenty-two members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Agenda.

Motion made to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Prior Meeting Minutes.

Motion made to approve the Prior Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously with 5-abstentions.

Chairman and District Manager's Report

The District Manager opened the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Budget Priorities.

The District Manager said as everyone knows this is budget time and it has to be submitted as we do every year. The document is comprised of all our budget requests also with a tracking number on it as you know we've gone through this process several times for the new members this is the register that gets sent down to the New York City Office of Management and Budgets. It has every request that the Board has put in when you get it you'll see it starts with the Capital Budget and then on into an Expense Budget. He explained the document and the importance of this process for the new members.

Board Members voted for inclusion of the following items into the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2017

Budget:

- **The City to provide funding for School Yard (recreational area) upgrade and renovation of Dodge Vocational High School and University Heights High School to enable for sports to be played.**
- The School Yard (recreational area) upgrade and renovation of P.S. 43.

Questions

The Chairman called for a motion on the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Priorities.

Motion made to approve the Preliminary Budget subject to the distribution of the budget to the members of the Board for any recommendations. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing closed

Board Member John Johnson spoke about and explained NYCHA's new Pilot Program of Expanding Hours of Operation by staggering personnel for services and repairs of which Mott Haven has been chosen as one of the developments to participate in the program.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Chairman and District Manager's Report.

Motion made to approve the Chairman and District Manager's Report. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Elected Officials Reports

Mr. Andy Toledo representative for the Bronx Borough President said that he had several quick announcements. For those Board Members that are up for reappointment the letters will be going out in mid April and you will be notified as to whether you will be brought back or not. We're having several program events next week on Wednesday, April 13th we're having how to successfully apply for affordable housing so we're going to have folks from HUD, HPD to explain the process of how to apply. I have flyers if anyone's interested. This could really be a good event if you've ever wondered how HUD and HPD come up with the income requirements to get into these affordable housing projects. Also if you're a person who may be facing eviction from a Landlord that is very aggressive and harassing tenants you can find resources there as well. So please come out to this event from 6 to 8:30 over at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. Also we're having a Town Hall Meeting regarding the health here in the borough. I don't know if you guys remember last year we started a campaign Not62. The Roberts Wood Foundation does an analysis of all the 62 counties in the State of New York and last year the Bronx actually improved in health I believe we moved down to six unfortunately this year we went back to last place as a county it's not good. So we're having this Town Hall Meeting to again educate folks about nutrition and exercise to really get this borough to be healthy again and on the right track. So that will be on Saturday, April 2nd 11 AM to 3 PM flyers are in English and Spanish. For a long time the Bronx has always had the last place and last year I believe we actually moved up but this year we regressed back to last place. Finally the last thing that I want to report is we put together this resource guide for veterans in the community. One of the major issues we're getting is a lot of veterans are coming back to our neighborhoods and having hard issues assimilating back for housing, employment so we put this resource guide together and has everything from education, employment, financial assistance, healthcare, and housing. If you go to the Borough President's website you can download this resource guide and help veterans get back on track.

Ms. Gloria Cruz representative for the Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said that I handed out her newsletter and just going to touch on a couple of things that we have currently going on that is very important. The Participatory Budgeting voting process is happening now we have in your package voting sites where you could vote and the district office is open from 9 to 5 you can walk in to vote during these hours at anytime all you have to be is a district resident. All the projects are reviewed in the package for you to choose you would like to vote for and you have a voice as to where \$1 million dollars is spent. Melissa doesn't choose you choose on which projects get voted on and which projects get funded. That's another way that the City Council is helping with these projects that can't get any other support. We also have a Bronx Legal Clinic coming to our office the third Thursday of every month so anyone that's having any housing issues with repairs, evictions there will be at least 15 Lawyers that can assist with any information needed. A Landlord shouldn't put somebody's rent up \$500 dollars in one shot and the tenant not knowing why and so that's why the legal service is very important. On May 21st in St. Mary's Park we will holding a Bike Bonanza giving out free bike helmets recycling bikes and having bike lessons for children. It's a family event at St. Mary's Park please pass the word along so anyone whom has a need for a free helmet or not

able to fix a bike can do it there. So the 40th Precinct is holding their annual Safety Forum and it's very important because you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Ms. Farhana Hassan representative for the State Senator Jose M. Serrano said very quickly as you guys know today is the last day for budget negotiations in Albany. So right now I know that the Senator is in the Chamber with the rest of his colleagues negotiating the State Budget. I wanted to highlight a few things that I think is important to this community. The Senator is advocating a bill for paid family leave to be included in the budget for the following year. The \$15 dollar minimum wage is currently being negotiated. At the back of the report you'll see the letter he wrote to CUNY funding and the Senator and Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins have both advocated for preserving the CUNY Budget and as you guys know of the Governor's proposal to slash funding and I think that it was great that the Senate colleagues all stood up to make sure that it did not happen. So tomorrow morning I'm sure that all of the headlines will talk about what was actually passed in the budget and what wasn't. So the next I will have a more thorough report on which bills he sponsored and which bills actually went through and he is doing his best to make sure that our needs in the South Bronx and East Harlem are being represented in the budget. Other than that we just wrapped up our month of Immigration services. We had the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs as well as the Manhattan DA's Office for Constituent Hours. Next month we will be focusing on Environmental Conservation and we will have with us NYC Grow as well as the New York City Department of Conservation. NYC Grow if you guys don't know is funded through the City and operate at NYCHA housing to teach folks how to recycle as well as to share information about the Farmer's Markets that they have throughout the City. Folks can use their SNAP Benefits to go out to these Markets and get healthy products and about recycling. So they will be joining us at all of our senior centers in the district and libraries. If you can stop by please do so a lot of free things will be given out and we hope that it will encourage people to recycle and eat healthy. All information is either in the Community Board report or the other flyer.

Questions

Mr. John Fitzsimmons representative of Assemblyman Michael Blake said that I just want to come here and say some of the events we're having this week. An event we're doing this week that I think everyone should be interested in is a Parents Summit on Special Education it's a partnership between us and Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson's office. It's from 9:30 to 2:30 at Bronx School of Law, Government and Justice and it's a resource for parents who have children with special needs to try and see what is the best way to help the kids do well in a school environment. There are different resources that they can access in and outside of the school to kind of help them out. The Assemblyman is also in budget negotiations up in Albany and once everything is passed at the next Board Meeting will be able to report on what was passed and what was not passed and we won't know that until the final vote.

Questions

Honorable Councilman Rafael Salamanca 17th District said that first and foremost, very few issues are as pressing in the district than the need for truly affordable housing for families and seniors alike.

There were deep concerns from my district's Community Boards and from many other across the community. An I must admit I believe that many of the concerns from at least my community on both Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and Affordability have come from an overall misunderstanding of what these measures do. While both my Community Board leaders and I believe that much more needs to be done to improve access to affordable housing for all families, we have come to a place where we believe both MIH and ZQA will help to increase affordable housing options. But I need to set the record straight and tell you why I have decided to vote in favor today.

The benefits of MIH and ZQA first and foremost people need to know that four options presented under MIH are just starting points from which affordable housing options can grow. By no means does MIH mean that affordable housing can only be at an average 40% AMI for example but instead that should be viewed as the level in which affordability will begin. The reality is that most if not all newly rezoned projects will mandate and include units

priced well below that level and certainly in my district will include apartments affordable for those making 25 or 30% AMI. Secondly, MIH will not impact all new developments but only those developments which have requested an “upzone”, which means that only if a developer requests to build bigger or more densely populated buildings would mandates kick in. As a result, many developers will not be affected by MIH, and by no means should residents worry that they will be priced out of their current apartments because of this legislation, that is simply false. In fact I must add that currently if a developer requests an upzone they are not required to offer any affordable units. Following MIH never again will that be the case for a newly rezoned residential development. Thirdly ZQA provides great opportunities for additional affordable senior housing. While all potential projects will certainly be looked at on a case-by-case basis if there is an instance where there are underutilized parking lots at senior housing facilities there should be an option to allow for us to build additional units on those lots. In many parts of the South Bronx where we are transit rich, I think that makes sense, and I want to work to ensure that our seniors many of them on fixed incomes are provided with good affordable housing options. Finally I believe that both proposals provide Council Members with the discretion to work with their communities to decide what affordable and rezoning options are right and wrong for local families.

The remaining concerns are that I believe more could have been done to explain both bills throughout the process it has gone through to our Community Board leaders and others influential on housing issues throughout each of our communities. In the coming weeks and months I will be continuing to work to educate my constituents on both MIH and ZQA and will be working to encourage the Mayor’s office and my colleagues to do the same, because as you know perhaps nothing is more desperately needed across this City than truly affordable housing.

I am also working with NYCHA and of all the developments I will be focusing on Melrose which I believe deserves the most attention. Also I have allocated \$1.5 million to recreate the Garrison Playground.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Elected Officials Reports

Motion made to approve the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee submitted a written report and the Chairperson provided an overview of and a request for a vote on one of the presentations.

- **New York Restoration Project** provided an update on the Haven Project to beautify the Randall’s Island Connector placing signage and banners along 138th Street directing people on how to get to the Connector. Also working with Health First on a shuttle bus that will be free running on the weekends to the Connector.
- **New York City Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Mr. Ted Weinstein, Director of Bronx Planning** explained the Affordable Housing Lottery Process. It is not the traditional system it is now an automated system and that the 50 percent unit community preference requirement for residents of the district is being met.
- **Eric Palatnik, PC** on BSA Calendar No. 413-50 BZ Vol. III – 691 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York (the “Premises”) for BP Gas Station to continue operating at that location for an additional 10-years.

The Chairperson called for a vote for a Letter of Support on BSA Calendar No. 413-50 BZ Vol. III 691 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York (the “Premises”) for BP Gas Station to continue operating at that location for an additional 10-years.

Motion made to approve Letter of Support for the BP Gas Station to continue operating for additional 10-years at 691 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Health-Human Services and Seniors Committee submitted a written report and the Chairperson provided an overview of the following presentations.

- **Hope Home Care, Inc.** explained that their basic goal is to take care of the elderly or disabled within their homes and they do that by employing Care Givers which often come from within this neighborhood to help them with things that they may not be able to do for themselves anymore and also with everyday chores such as grooming, dressing and local shopping.
- **Southern Medical Group** is affiliated with St. Barnabas Hospital offers all types of medical services and takes all insurance except for MetroPlus right now.
- **New York City Health Department** provided information about the Zika Virus.
- **New York State Nurses Association** requesting for the Committee to pass a resolution on Safe Staffing. The Committee tabled the request for a resolution on Safe Staffing by the New York State Nurses Association until they provide the Committee with more information and also more information regarding the moral and performance issues of nurses.

The Municipal Services Committee submitted a written report and the Chairperson provided an overview of the following presentations.

- **New York City Department of Transportation** presented the Grand Concourse from 138th Street to 158th Street safety improvements.
- **La Cueva De Macho Corp.** request for a Letter of Support for a Liquor License. The Committee tabled this request for a Letter of Support for a Liquor License until informed by the New York State Liquor Authority if she is to be granted a license.
- **Prospect Billiards Café** request for a Letter of Support for a Liquor License.
- **Milk Burger 148 LLC** request for a Letter of Support for a Liquor License.

The Chairman asked for a motion to provide a Letter of Support for a Liquor License to La Cueva De Macho Corp., Prospect Billiards Café and Milk Burger 148 LLC.

Motion made to approve a Letter of Support for a Liquor License to La Cueva De Macho Corp., Prospect Billiards Café and Milk Burger 148 LLC. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Reports.

Motion made to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned.

