



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Municipal Services Committee Minutes

April 9th, 2026

Ngande Ambroise, Committee Chairperson

Meeting Called to Order and Agenda Approval

- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne calls the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
- Member Cesar Yoc motions to accept the agenda, which is seconded by another speaker.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne asks for any corrections or changes to the agenda.
- Various members introduce themselves, including committee members and board members.

Introduction of the Affordable Waste Reduction Act

- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne introduces the first presentation on the Affordable Waste Reduction Act.
- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson explains the bill's purpose and contrasts it with the PREA bill discussed previously.
- The bill focuses on recycling existing waste rather than just reducing packaging.
- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson highlights the affordability issues and potential cost-shifting to consumers.

Detailed Explanation of the Affordable Waste Reduction Act

- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson discusses the bill's approach to advanced recycling and its benefits.
- The bill aims to address the cost issues and realistic timelines for waste reduction.

- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson mentions the opposition from the PREA bill supporters and the need for compromise.
- The bill includes provisions for public education and reuse to increase recycling.

Q&A Session on the Affordable Waste Reduction Act

- Member Cesar Yoc asks about the bill's impact on recycling rates and the inclusion of recycling infrastructure.
- Natasha explains the bill's focus on producer responsibility and public education.
- Member Andres Madrigal inquires about the timeline for meaningful waste reduction.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez clarifies that the bill includes a needs assessment and stewardship plan.

Discussion on the Impact of Energy Prices on the Bill

- Member Cesar Yoc raises concerns about the impact of rising energy prices on the bill's costs.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez acknowledges the issue but emphasizes that the bill does not address energy prices.
- The discussion highlights the broader challenges of waste management and affordability.
- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson reiterates the bill's focus on recycling and the need for realistic timelines.

Update on the Budget and Legislative Priorities

- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson provides an update on the budget process and the challenges being faced.
- The budget includes \$30 million for nonprofits supporting communities, with \$2.1 million allocated to the Bronx.
- Assemblymember Chantel Jackson discusses the ongoing negotiations on energy, immigration, and insurance issues.
- The importance of community engagement and support for legislative initiatives is emphasized.

Sanitation Foundation Presentation

- Pedro Suarez introduces the Sanitation Foundation and its community engagement projects.
- The foundation's mission is to transform New Yorkers into active stewards for a cleaner city.

- The presentation focuses on the adopt-a-spot program and its impact on community cleanliness.
- The foundation provides kits and resources to encourage volunteerism and community involvement.

Q&A Session on the Sanitation Foundation Presentation

- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the importance of community engagement and education on sanitation.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne discusses the challenges of working with schools to improve waste management.
- The foundation's programs aim to change the culture of littering and promote community pride.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests collaborating with the foundation on larger initiatives to improve sanitation in the community.

Proposal to Rename a Street in Honor of Linda L. Duke

- Michelle introduces the proposal to rename a section of East 137th Street and Alexander Avenue after Linda L. Duke.
- Linda L. Duke's contributions to the community and her dedication to service are highlighted.
- The proposal is supported by various community members and elected officials.
- The process for renaming streets and the timeline for implementation are discussed.

Proposal to Rename a Street in Honor of Willie Colon

- Alejandro Miguel Colon introduces the proposal to rename a section of St. Anne's Street in the Bronx after his father, Willie Colon.
- Willie Colon's contributions to music and the community are highlighted.
- The proposal is supported by various family members and community members.
- The process for renaming streets and the timeline for implementation are discussed.

Legacy of William Colon in the Bronx

- Diego Colon highlights the iconic musical sound developed by William Colon on the streets of the Bronx, emphasizing the revolutionary jam sessions with neighborhood kids.
- Diego Colon describes William Colon's deep pride and love for the Bronx, noting that he always represented his hometown with dignity and integrity.

- Diego Colon suggests honoring William Colon with a street name to serve as a proud marker of his achievements and an inspiration to youth in the neighborhood.
- Diego Colon, shares personal anecdotes about William Colon's Bronx heartbeat, his gritty humor, and vivid memories of his childhood in the Bronx.

William Colon's Political and Community Contributions

- Patrick Antonio Colon, discusses William Colon's political vision and public service, including his work as a special assistant and spokesperson for Latino communities.
- Patrick Antonio Colon details William Colon's activism for Hispanic causes, civil rights, immigration reform, and community empowerment, and his various political runs and public service roles.
- Patrick Antonio Colon highlights William Colon's commitment to public safety, including his graduation from the Westchester County Police Academy and his service as a deputy sheriff until his retirement in 2022.
- Patrick Antonio Colon emphasizes William Colon's impact on salsa music, remaking it in the image of the Bronx, and his dedication to his community.

Personal Reflections and Family Tributes

- William Colon, shares his background in law enforcement and his efforts to address societal conditions and represent his peers.
- William Colon expresses gratitude for the opportunity to honor William Colon and highlights his influence on the Latino community and Hispanic culture.
- William Colon recalls growing up with William Colon's music and its relevance today, emphasizing the importance of including him in school textbooks to educate the next generation.
- Member Argelia Ortiz shares a personal memory of attending a Willie Colon concert at a young age and the lasting impact of his music on her cultural identity.

Community Support and Future Plans

- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests planning a concert to celebrate William Colon's legacy and contributions to the community.
- Pedro Suarez discusses the importance of celebrating the Puerto Rican community and the potential for partnerships to honor William Colon's life and legacy.
- Pedro Suarez mentions various opportunities for celebrating culture and history, including festivals and murals, and offers to provide more information on how to proceed.

- Chairperson Paola Martinez and Pedro Suarez discuss the process of submitting a proposal for street naming and the importance of having a concrete proposal for the City Council.

Proposal for Street Naming and Next Steps

- District Manager Anthony Jordan outlines the process of working with the New York City Council to determine the duration and location of the street naming.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the importance of clear guidance from the city of New York and the potential for a ceremony to promote William Colon's legacy.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests having a conversation with the City Council to provide a more concrete proposal for the board meeting.
- Member Argelia Ortiz makes a motion to move forward with the request for street naming, and the motion is seconded by other members, pending city council guidance.

Action Items

- Provide the Community Board with additional information and research on the PREA bill and related affordability and energy issues, including any follow-up materials requested after the meeting.
- Ensure that any questions from the Community Board that were not answered in the meeting are forwarded to the Assemblymember's office for follow-up.
- Recruit committee members and other Community Board committees to participate in the celebration honoring Linda L. Duke and support the planning of that event.
- Provide the Community Board with detailed information on the Bronx Hall of Fame and Walk of Fame nomination process so the Willie Colon family can consider that route for honoring his legacy.
- Work with the Willie Colon family and the New York City Council to determine the exact blocks on St. Annes Avenue to be renamed for Willie Colon and to design the unveiling ceremony.
- Follow up with the Community Board by sharing research and information on the PREA bill and related affordability and energy issues, and make it available for dissemination to board members.
- Coordinate a follow-up conversation with the Sanitation Foundation and the Third Avenue BID to explore a pilot program and a recurring clean-up series in the neighborhood, including how the Community Board can participate.
- Support the Community Board in organizing a student and volunteer corridor cleanup event to promote the Adopt Your Spot program, including providing kits and guidance as needed.