



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

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RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
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GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ
CHAIRPERSON

CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES

June 20, 2019

The District Manager asked the Chairperson Ms. Betty Bryant-Brown to commence the meeting with a prayer.

The District Manager said that we will now move over to the Public Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

ROOM TO GROW

Ms. Akilah King Executive Director Room to Grow said that I'm excited to talk about opening up a second site around the corner on 147th Street. So Room to Grow we've been around for 20 years and work with families that have young children ages through to 3. Families start in our program when Mom is pregnant and they come and visit with one of our Clinicians which is essentially a Social Worker but we don't like that term. They stay with the same Clinician for 3 years coming by and we talk about parenting everything from routines and feeding to making sure that the children are hitting they're developmental milestones and it's also a therapeutic session for parents. So we talk about other things that are going on in the home, how can we help alleviate any of their stress. We make referrals to other not only organizations but we have a Dentist in our network that we send our families it's a whole slew of services that we work with our families to make sure that Mom, Dad or whoever the co-parent is and child are healthy and getting the support they need.

What makes Room to Grow really special beyond this one-on-one therapeutic clinic our sites have an in-house baby boutique. So after we kind of talk about what's going on with the family we step into the Boutique and parents take home books, toys, clothing for the baby to keep and this is at every 3 month visit. We really feel that this is offsetting material hardship but it's more than that parents can go home knowing that their baby or toddler is set for the next 3 months so they can put money towards other things like bills and it just alleviates the stress around making sure that your child has everything that you need. Also for us we use it as another opportunity to continue talking about development we do a lot of coaching around reading, early literacy and just what it means to play and how it stimulates the brain for the child.

A year ago we were planning on opening up a site around the corner for 25 hundred sq. ft. and that would allow for 750 new families to be a part of our program. Just a couple of weeks ago I made the decision that we're not only going to do that we're going to open up a 10 thousand sq. ft. space in the Bronx around the corner and I'm moving Room to Grow flagship location here over the course of the next couple of years. We looking to partner with this community not just to help the families but to create community space that's here to stay. We are starting to enroll families now.

THE MISSION CONTINUES

Mr. David Rosas said that the Mission Continues is a non-profit organization geared towards veterans and helping in their transition out of the military and preparing them to be servants or leaders within our communities. So last week we actually did a project here in Mott Haven and we were working with City Foundation and the Center for Court Interventions and they're actually working with the Mayor's Action Plan in the NYCHA Housing. So we've helped rehabilitate one of the gardens at that location and we have 2 more gardens that we will be rehabilitating probably in the coming months.

But I came here just to kind of give you guys some information on some of the programs that Mission Continues has for veterans. One of them is called the Service Commission Corp. basically that is a type of fellowship that gets veterans together helping them again with their transition from military service and also helping them to learn things geared towards helping the community and being more civic minded engaging in the community. So that program was revamped from the one I went through last year I actually went through a fellowship with them and it was really great. So going forward one of the other programs is they're Service Platoons and that's where we had gone out as I mentioned to do that garden. As a member specifically of the Bronx Platoon I'm trying to get the word out about our organization for veterans and also for other organizations that we can possibly partner with to see where we can help out in the community in regards to service projects such as helping to rebuild gardens and things of that nature. So it's a lot of work that we've done I'm actually a volunteer so as I mentioned I did the fellowship last year and going forward I'm trying to help launch the Bronx Platoon because in the past we haven't had as much participation as we'd like so that's why I'm coming to a lot of these Community Board Meetings to say hey we're here for a resource that the community can use and call upon to help out. We have a growing membership and do a lot of work in other communities in other parts of the city.

The Chairperson called for the roll.

The roll was called.

The Chairperson called for a motion on the Agenda.

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

The Chairperson 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.

The District Manager said that today I received a letter from the Borough Presidents Office on new appointments to the Board and if I call your name and you're here please stand. The persons that have been appointed were informed through a letter from the Borough President they are not here for the first meeting and so will be marked as absent.

CHAIRMAN AND DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The District Manager introduced Mr. David Matthew Beller from the U.S. Census Bureau who would be making a presentation.

Mr. David Matthew Beller Partnership Specialist said that I will give you a brief overview of who I am and sort of give you what the goals are for this presentation. My job is to really go out to the community and for one spread the importance of the Census what it means for community members and what it means to New York City as a whole. Then the second part of my job is to try to build as many partnerships with organizations, business leaders, and critical stakeholders in the community that's considered to be a trusted voice and obviously the Community Board in this area is one of the trusted voices. So the presentation has 3 focuses one is the importance of the Census and what it means for you on the ground, the second part is going to be about the jobs that we offer and the wages that we provide and then the last part of the presentation will be we're trying to make the case to the Board that you can take an active role to ensure a complete and accurate account so you as a local group with the support of the Census and figure out the best ways to reach out to your community to spread the message and make sure that you're well represented.

Basically what is the Census so according to the Constitution Article 1 Section 2 requires a Census every 10 years and we've been doing it since 1790 and the next one coming up is April 2020. I would say the Census has 3 major impacts the first is portable representation the number of seats that we get in Congress is the number tied to the count that we get on the Census. The portable representation in Washington that means your voice being heard how much federal money you get on the local level and really insures that policies reflect your interest. The other really significant aspect of the census is that we get about \$675 billion in General Funds every year from Washington and it can trickle down to the local government. If we're not counted and our voice isn't heard we're not getting our fair share of money so that's money for the MTA for schools, roads money for infrastructure. The last significant role of the Census plays is local businesses, non-profits and local government use Census data for political planning purposes so if they want to build a new condominium, a rec center or possibly build a new social service center a lot of times they will use demographic data to figure out is there a community base to support it. So making sure that the community is fully represented is critical. The other thing that I'd like to talk about and this has obviously been in the News a lot is data protection and privacy. So there are a lot of misconceptions and a lot of myths about what we do with data and where does your data ultimately live. So one of the handouts was about US Census at a glance which is what we do and probably more important is our confidentiality policy. I would just say very clearly the data that we collect is never about the individual we collect what we call Personally Identifying Data all the data that we collect is about groups. We start at the Federal level will go down to the State level go down to the county, municipality, the zip codes but the lowest level we collect is on what we call Census Tract and that's anywhere from 2 thousand to 10 thousand people depending on the size of an Urban Area for instance Coop City could have multiple Census Tracts and a large housing development near here could be its own Census Tract. But the simple point is that we don't go below that level because we don't want anything personally identifying. We

don't want to release information about individuals we don't want to release information about their households all is done at the group level.

I think that's very important to state publicly is that the data is protected from unlawful disclosure that means all the data that we collect anything that we don't release the public we don't release to anyone else. So if any State or local government even if a private individual or citizen calls asking for information on household the answer would be no that information cannot be released and if a Census Bureau does there are 2 penalties one it's a \$250 thousand dollar fine and up to 5 years in prison this information is protected up to 72 years. So it's really important to let you know that we're not collecting information on individuals and by law we cannot release that information about anything that's personally identifying to any government, any individual or any organization.

So basically the Census has 4 major parts we have to first figure out where to count people, we have to motivate and encourage people to respond, we actually have to count the people and we have to release that information to the public. We're going to take all the information that we collect and we're going to create a master list and this is what we ultimately use to send out. Then ultimately next spring we will begin to send out our Census Forms and people have the option to do it over the phone we will be able to do it online for the first time in history and we will have the traditional paper form and we will do that throughout next spring. If people don't respond throughout the spring come next summer we will send the door knockers and saying excuse me and thank you for opening your door we're here to help you complete your Census. One thing to be very clear we're not law enforcement we don't force our way into anyone's house, everyone has the right to close the door in our face we're a statistical agency that's trying to collect data. Then once we collect all the data at the end of 2020 we submit a report to the President and the report has to be submitted by December 31, 2020 and then throughout the spring we will release the data publicly. On April 1st we will release it to local and State government and to the public as a whole. That is really sort of the life cycle of the Census. Right now we're in the middle of the operation we're actually in this community.

So the other thing I wanted to talk about and I clearly heard feedback from the folks in the room about jobs. So the Census has a significant amount of jobs we're going to hiring people in the metro area. We have 2 offices that are local the first one is one Third Avenue and East 151st right opposite of Model's if you know that store the second one we just opened on Baychester Avenue right in Coop City. We need to hire folks to work in those offices and then we need people to work in the field. So in the back of the room I left some cards it has information on how to apply for a job. But basically we're looking to hire people to run offices to be Office Managers to be HR Managers our jobs start at \$20 dollars an hour if you want to work in the field it's \$25 an hour, if you have management experience it can be in retail or office administration maybe you ran your own business our office management jobs start at \$31.50, and if you want to run an entire office you make \$42.50 an hour. These are full time jobs 40 hours a week with overtime eligible. The management jobs come with full federal benefits, healthcare, pension, insurance the full federal package. The Census taker jobs and the office administrator jobs do not come with benefits but they can be full time some people work 40 hours but generally regarded as seasonal part time workers. So those are the opportunities it's very simple to apply for these jobs you go onto 2020 census/jobs and its one application for every open job. You don't have to come in for an interview will interview you on the phone and if you make it through that process you'll go through a background check. The other thing we have is specialized opportunities so we're hiring for 3 special positions in the Bronx and the first position we need a West African Outreach Specialist someone that has ties to West African organizations hopefully speaks one or more West African languages, we need an African American Outreach Specialist someone with ties to African American organizations and has specific experience working with that community and then the third position is a Caribbean Outreach Specialist

and we're looking for people that either have ties to the indo or Afro Caribbean community and if you have both even better. So if anyone knows a candidate with experience in any of those communities and perhaps speaks Spanish please let me know these jobs start at \$50 thousand dollars with full benefits.

So you can work not only as a partner but you can actually take a hands on roll so we have something called the Complete Count Committee. This is when a group of trusted voices concerned citizens get together and they do outreach strategies they do events anything that they feel is necessary to make sure that people are counted in the Census. We what we do as Census employees is support you it's your show to run. We support you by bringing staff to your events, we can brainstorm and we can give you materials. This is an under counted area and last time in this area a third of the people in this community did not respond to the Census and that means it's less monies for schools, roads, and everything.

Questions and Comments

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

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

The representative for Assemblyman Michael Blake said that I'm just here to say that there's a lot of really good work that happened this session in Albany related to charitable bail reform, education money that got allocated in the budget fiscal year 19 through 20 and recently there have been a lot of strides made in rent regulation laws. So I just here to talk briefly about some highlights. There has been a repeal of high rent vacancy regulation so this means that they're use to be statutes that would allow for rent controlled units to be deregulated and put up to market value, there has now been a bill passed that if the rent reaches 2,700 hundred dollars in New York City they can't be deregulated. Another example there have been reforms on the owner use exception which means that tenants can be provided with a cause of action if they're evicted on the basis of a landlord making a fraudulent claim of the intended use of their household. Additionally there is stabilizing of apartments renting to non-profits, so if a non-profit is renting a unit intended for an individual at the risk of becoming homeless that unit has to remain stabilized only the landlord can raise that unit to market value. One last example there's been an expansion of eligibility for coverage for every county in New York State for ETPA and removing geographic limitations, that means if you are in a Municipality that has 5 percent or less of their rental vacancy value they can opt into rent stabilize that means that too many people in that municipality are not getting affordable units. If you have concerns about housing, education, minority owned business enterprises, Mitchell Lama those are just a few of his focuses he's actually still in Albany in session as we speak. So he's still fighting the good fight for all of you. There were a few key points that we were fighting for in Albany this session one being Riker's, two being Minority and Women owned businesses, and three the Specialized High School examination discussion. So a lot of people have mixed opinions about the value or the where with all of the Specialize High School admission. If you have any thoughts or suggestions concerning those areas feel free to let me know.

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The Chairperson called for a motion on the Elected Official Report.

Motion made to approve the Elected Official Report as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chairperson of the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee Meeting provided a brief overview of the meeting presentations and requested a Board vote to provide a letter of support on the proposed alterations to a townhouse at 408 East 136th Street.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the proposed alterations to the townhouse at 408 East 136th Street. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

The Chairperson called for a motion on the Committee Report.

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

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED.