



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

December 11th, 2025

Ngande Ambroise, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Agenda Approval and Introductions

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise calls for a motion to approve the agenda, which is seconded and approved.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise introduces himself as the chair of municipal services.

Presentation on School Safety

- Kevin Perez from the NYC Bronx Department of Transportation office introduces the school safety team and the Melrose neighborhood.
- Caitlin Toner from the New York City Department of Transportation discusses the project on Portland Ave, Park Ave, and Morris Ave, focusing on the high density of schools and youth population in the area.
- The project aims to address traffic-related injuries and fatalities, particularly among pedestrians and cyclists, with a focus on youth injury priority areas.
- Data on reported crashes and severe injuries in the project area is presented, highlighting the need for safety improvements.

Field Observations and Student Engagement

- Caitlin Toner describes the conditions observed in the project area, including wide streets, long crossing distances, and unpredictable roadway behavior.
- The project includes partnerships with schools and nonprofits to teach students about roadway safety and design.

- Students are engaged in workshops to redesign the street, with plans to present their proposals to the community board in early 2026.
- The importance of involving students in civic engagement and public speaking is emphasized.

Community Concerns and Feedback

- Member Audrey Dejesus raises concerns about the involvement of the fire department and the impact of double parking on traffic flow.
- Member Argelia Ortiz highlights issues with parking for school staff and the impact of construction on traffic and pedestrian safety.
- Member Cesar Yoc questions the scope of the project and the feasibility of implementing the students' designs.
- Michael Pimental and other community members express concerns about the potential for increased congestion due to street redesigns.

Discussion on Parking and Traffic Management

- The community discusses the impact of parallel parking and straight parking on traffic flow and safety.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise and other members express frustration with changes made without community input.
- The importance of maintaining parking spaces for residents and addressing double parking is emphasized.
- The community agrees to request the reinstatement of legal parking signs while the study is conducted.

Environmental Concerns and Community Engagement

- Angel Garcia discusses the environmental concerns related to the former Melrose dry cleaner site and the need for community engagement.
- The community pushes for a letter from the Department of Environmental Conservation to inform all residents in the affected area.
- The importance of involving state elected officials and pushing for legislative changes to address environmental contamination is discussed.
- The community agrees to support the letter requesting broader community engagement and environmental testing.

Discussion on Environmental Impact and Legal Challenges

- Member Cesar Yoc raises concerns about the scope of determining who was affected by environmental issues before the EPA's existence in 1970, highlighting the complexity of statute limitations.
- Angel Garcia suggests focusing on testing the health of people in the affected area to measure the threat posed by PCE, which can cause various health issues including skin rashes, neurological problems, and cancers.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise emphasizes the need for clear goals and a checklist to ensure progress, rather than just discussing what should be done without a clear direction.
- Member Argelia Ortiz shares her experience as part of the environmental awareness committee, noting the long-term fight to acknowledge and address the environmental issues in the Bronx, and expresses a desire for public awareness campaigns similar to those for asbestos exposure.
- A motion is made to send a letter to the commissioner, including elected officials, to advocate for the residents' health and safety, with a second and a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Action Items

- Send a letter to the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urging them to send a letter to all addresses in the 8-block study area regarding the former Melrose dry cleaner site contamination.
- CC the letter to elected officials including Assembly Member Amanda Septimo, Council Member Chantal Jackson, and State Senator Jose Serrano.