



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



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ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Economic Development, Land Use, Housing & Zoning Committee Minutes

February 4th, 2025

Paola Martinez – Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Meeting Introduction and Agenda Overview

- Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata, calls the meeting to order and introduces herself as the Vice Chair of the Economic Development, Land Use, Housing, and Zoning Committee.
- Member Michael Pimental introduces himself as a committee member.
- Member Stephanie Calzado introduces herself as the chair of the Young Adults and Committee Member.
- Anthony Jordan, District Manager, reminds everyone to speak clearly and concisely for the YouTube live stream.

Review of Previous Meeting Goals

- Vice Chair Susan Camerata mentions that there are no new business items or presentations for tonight and moves on to old business.
- The committee has been discussing ideas and goals for the committee, including creating a space for conversation and collaboration with business development organizations.
- The committee aims to facilitate business operations, resources, and services for the community through stakeholder meetings and training sessions.
- The committee has discussed issues like supportive housing, new market-rate buildings, and the impact on the existing community in CB1.

Discussion on Business Development and Community Engagement

- Vice Chair Susan Camerata reads an email from Paola, the committee chair, asking for ideas and contributions to the goals.
- The first goal is to create a space for conversation and collaboration with business development organizations like BID, Bro, and local Chambers of Commerce.
- The committee plans to convene a stakeholder meeting at CB1 to discuss issues and work together to improve the community.
- The committee also aims to provide training to increase members' understanding of development proposals and negotiation skills.

Challenges and Solutions for Business Development

- Member Stephanie Calzado suggests visiting local businesses to understand their needs and challenges, such as cleanliness and safety issues.
- Member Michael Pimental and Member Stephanie Calzado discuss the perception of certain areas, like Roberto Clemente Park, and the impact on business.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of setting standards for commercial districts and engaging landlords to ensure cleanliness and safety.
- The committee discusses the need for better lighting, sanitation, and public safety to attract businesses and improve the community.

Survey and Outreach Plan for Businesses

- Member Michael Pimental proposes creating a survey to gather feedback from businesses about their needs and challenges.
- Member Stephanie Calzado suggests having a fun cleanup event to engage businesses and the community.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the need for clear standards and public advocacy to address issues like loss prevention and enforcement.
- The committee agrees to develop a survey and create a skit to make businesses feel more comfortable participating.

Training and Education for Committee Members

- Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata suggests that the committee should educate themselves on various topics, such as housing lotteries, supportive housing, and development processes.
- Member Michael Pimental proposes inviting HPD to explain their process and the different types of financing for housing projects.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the importance of understanding code enforcement and the role of different agencies in maintaining standards.
- The committee agrees to gather a list of available trainings and decide which ones to pursue.

Engagement and Collaboration with Other Committees

- Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata emphasizes the importance of cross-collaboration with other committees to address common issues and share resources.
- Member Stephanie Calzado suggests merging committees to have more people at the table and more voices to consider.
- The committee discusses the need for more participation and engagement from residents and TA leaders.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions working on a flyer to promote committee meetings and encourage more involvement.

Next Steps and Action Items

- The committee agrees to develop the survey questions and create a skit for business engagement.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan will reach out to the committee members to gather questions and simplify them for the survey.
- The committee plans to present the survey findings at the next meeting and discuss the next steps for addressing the issues.
- The committee members agree to focus on one main goal and break it down into manageable tasks to ensure progress.

Survey Authorization and Initial Discussion

- Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata and District Manager Anthony Jordan discuss the need for executive authorization to proceed with the survey.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan suggests talking to Paola first, then developing a list of questions for the survey.
- Member Michael Pimental inquires about the objectives of the survey, and District Manager Anthony Jordan suggests focusing on business challenges.

Developing Survey Questions

- Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata and District Manager Anthony Jordan discuss the importance of not leading the respondents and allowing them to share their issues freely.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan suggests asking about the biggest issues faced by businesses in the last five years.
- Member Michael Pimental and District Manager Anthony Jordan brainstorm potential issues such as staffing, loss prevention, and supply chain problems.
- Member Stephanie Calzado mentions specific local issues like garbage management and security.

Creative Solutions for Community Issues

- District Manager Anthony Jordan proposes using street signs to educate the public about garbage disposal and encourage proper waste management.
- Member Michael Pimental suggests creating an educational campaign or a theater production to teach children about garbage management.
- Member Stephanie Calzado proposes a community engagement event like a cleanup tournament.
- The group agrees to finalize the survey questions and distribute them to committee members for review.

Planning the Next Meeting and Survey Distribution

- District Manager Anthony Jordan and Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata discuss the goal of having all survey questions ready for the next meeting.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan suggests each committee member contribute five questions, aiming to reduce the number to 15 or 11.
- Member Michael Pimental emphasizes the importance of asking about city services and their impact on businesses.

New Business: Workforce Development in the Cannabis Industry

- District Manager Anthony Jordan introduces a new business email about workforce development training for the cannabis industry.
- Member Michael Pimental and District Manager Anthony Jordan discuss the need for training in various aspects of the cannabis industry, from growing to selling.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan invites interested committee members to join the conversation about creating jobs and training opportunities in the cannabis industry.
- The group discusses the potential for a job fair and the need for transparency and community engagement.

Job Fair Planning and Coordination

- Member Stephanie Calzado outlines the plan for a job fair on April 5, targeting individuals aged 16 to 26.
- The job fair will involve organizations and agencies setting up tables to provide information and job opportunities.
- Member Stephanie Calzado mentions creating templates for organizations to fill out and promoting the event through various channels.
- The group discusses the need for coordination on the day of the event, including providing materials like clipboards and pens.

Promoting the Job Fair and Community Engagement

- Committee Vice Chair Susan Camerata inquires about a centralized place to post job opportunities and resumes.
- Member Stephanie Calzado mentions her youth account page and CB1 page for promoting the job fair.
- The group discusses the possibility of using wall suction slips and the pantry to promote the event.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan and Community Coordinator Steven Palmers offer to help facilitate the job fair and promote job opportunities in the Board Office.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- The group acknowledges the importance of the discussion and the need to share the outcomes with Paola.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder of the next steps and the importance of community engagement and collaboration.

Action Items

- Create a survey to gather feedback from local businesses on the challenges they are facing.
- Develop a list of potential trainings for the committee to request, such as housing lotteries, development financing, and code enforcement.
- Reach out to the committee chairperson to discuss the survey and training ideas.
- Coordinate with the youth and education committee on their upcoming job fair event.
- Share any job postings or opportunities with the community board office for distribution.