



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

LARISA M. ALAYETO

CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN

DISTRICT MANAGER

General Board Meeting Minutes

January 30th, 2025

DRAFT

Meeting Commencement and Roll Call

- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez assumes the role of acting chair in the absence of the regular chair.
- Roll call is conducted, listing all present board members and their names.
- Motion to approve the agenda with modifications is made by Member Dalourny Nemorin and seconded by Member Patricia Simpson.
- Motion to approve the full board minutes is made by Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne and seconded by Member Mohammed Sheikh

Public Session: Carmen Santiago's Address

- Carmen Santiago, a resident of Mount Haven, addresses the board, expressing gratitude to NYPD and urging young people to run for office.
- Santiago raises concerns about the drug needle distribution program and the need for inpatient care for those struggling with addiction.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan, a sergeant, responds to Santiago's questions, explaining the board's structure and the importance of committee meetings.
- Jordan emphasizes the board's ongoing efforts to address open drug use and sanitation issues, mentioning regular meetings with city agency leaders.

Financial Education Workshop Proposal

- Lillian Salas Wilkin from Primary Care Financial Services proposes financial education workshops for the community.
- Wilkin highlights the importance of financial literacy and the underserved nature of the community.
- Contact information for Wilkin and her colleague, Cheryl Ru, is provided for further inquiries.

40th Precinct Report

- Georgia Bucha, the neighborhood coordination sergeant, explains the precinct's structure and responsibilities.
- Bucha mentions the precinct's community board meeting held every first Wednesday of the month.
- Shay McClellan, a reporter, asks about the presence of mobile field forces at hospitals, to which Bucha responds affirmatively.
- Member Ngande Ambroise raises concerns about abandoned cars in the neighborhood, and Bucha promises to address the issue.

Community Concerns and NYPD's Response

- Member Ngande Ambroise, questions the NYPD's handling of abandoned cars and the need for better communication of operation plans.
- Anthony Jordan explains the process and the importance of community involvement in reporting issues.
- A resident, Lillian, expresses concerns about the safety of her neighborhood due to a new migrant shelter and asks about training to handle guns.
- District Manager Jordan clarifies the process for obtaining a gun license and emphasizes the importance of professional handling of such matters.

Discussion on Bylaws and Policy Letter

- Member Dalourny Nemorin moves to amend the agenda to discuss the bylaws and a policy letter.
- The board discusses the need for more time to review the bylaws and the importance of addressing the policy letter promptly.
- The policy letter, addressing the new immigration law, is read and discussed, with concerns raised about the potential impact on the community.
- The board votes on the policy letter, with some members expressing the need for more time to review and discuss the implications.

Elected Officials Reports

- Leonardo Coello from the Mayor's Office discusses the city's efforts to address homelessness and the new "City of Yes for Families" initiative.
- Leonardo Coello highlights the importance of community input on the initiative and mentions upcoming legislative efforts, including the "Ask the Tax" legislation.

- Nipa from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez's office provides updates on immigration concerns and upcoming legislative priorities.
- Representatives from Senator Serrano's and Assembly Member Jackson's offices address community concerns about the migrant shelter and provide information on available resources and upcoming constituent services.

Final Remarks and Closing

- Whitney Brimat, Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Septimo, announces a summit to address drug use issues in the Hub and the availability of free legal advice in the office.
- Nico from Juventud Unida por la Independencia raises concerns about legal support for tenants displaced after a fire, and Williams provides contact information for relevant organizations.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder of the importance of community involvement and the availability of resources and support from elected officials and community boards.

Community Services and Resources

- Gloria Cruz from the city council district eight announced the submission dates for expense applications and non-capital deadlines, which are March 20.
- Free tax prep services are available every Monday and Tuesday at their office, with appointments made via a QR code or by calling the office.
- Free immigration services are offered at St. Jerome's hands, and free legal services are available on February 21 for veterans and their families.
- Gloria Cruz distributed "Know Your Rights" cards in four languages, advising people on how to respond if ICE comes to their door.

Traffic Control and Data-Driven City

- Gloria Cruz addressed concerns about traffic control and the lengthy process involved in getting traffic surveys and stop signs approved.
- Emphasized the importance of calling 311 to collect data and bring awareness to traffic issues.
- Mentioned a 10-year process to get a four-way stop sign in Cyprus, highlighting the data-driven approach of the city.
- Encouraged the community to call 311 or contact her office for assistance with traffic-related issues.

Re-Entry Employment Resource Fair

- Jeffrey Pena, a community engagement coordinator, reported on the success of the re-entry employment resource fair held on Tuesday.

- Over 130 people attended, including those impacted by justice, with services like free haircuts, hygiene kits, and mock interviews.
- The Department of Motor Vehicles issued pre-identification cards, and actual employers were on-site for interviews.
- Plans for a future fair focused on women impacted by justice were discussed, with a flyer to be sent out early next month.

Committee Report: Melrose Commons Project

- Paola Martinez, Committee Chair of Economic Development, Land Use, Housing & Zoning, discussed the Melrose Commons project, a 214-unit affordable housing project with 100% affordable housing.
- The project includes 214 units ranging from studios to three-bedroom apartments, with 40% being two or three-bedroom units.
- The building features ground floor retail, three elevators, a community room, and a rooftop terrace with a production farm.
- The community had questions about transportation, trash collection, and security, with a follow-up presentation and vote planned for the next committee meeting.

Public and Transitional Housing Concerns

- Anthony Jordan, District Manager, discussed the city's plan to open a 2200-bed single male migrant facility in the South Bronx.
- The community was not informed about the facility until a committee hearing, leading to concerns about its impact on schools and families.
- Elected officials and community members expressed their concerns during the hearing, emphasizing the need for quality of life standards and resources for the facility's residents.
- The community board will continue to work with the administration and elected officials to ensure the facility meets community standards.

Environmental Justice and Sanitation Issues

- The Environmental Justice and Sanitation Committee addressed trash and waste issues, with plans for an Earth Day cleanup.
- Concerns about dog poop in the district were highlighted, with a call for stricter enforcement of leash laws.
- Grant proposals for community cleanups and tree pits were discussed, along with congestion pricing and an elected candidate forum.

- The committee emphasized the need for advocacy and enforcement to address environmental issues in the district.

Health and Human Services Overview

- Marilyn Pena, Chairperson for the Health and Human Services Committee, provided an overview of the Samaritan Daytop Village.
- The facility offers services for substance use, mental health, and medication-assisted treatment, with a central admissions process for assessments.
- Action items included collaborating with the 40th precinct and other community stakeholders to address safety concerns.
- Emphasized the importance of community involvement and participation in committee meetings to stay informed and address local issues.

Legislation and Voter Registration

- Committee Chair of Policy & Legislation Dalourny Nemorin discussed the challenges faced by the Board of Elections, including limited language support and outdated turnout numbers.
- Encouraged community members to register to vote and ensure their party affiliation is correct before the February 14 deadline.
- Proposed informational sessions on topics like bail, discovery, and ranked-choice voting to help the community understand the legal system.
- Emphasized the importance of attending committee meetings to stay informed and engaged in local issues.

Immigration Committee and Community Support

- The Immigration Committee discussed the anxiety and fear among immigrants in the district, emphasizing the need for a 24/7 help center.
- Encouraged community members to attend committee meetings to address immigration-related issues and provide support.
- Mentioned the availability of "Know Your Rights" cards and the importance of staying informed and united against city decisions that impact the community.
- Emphasized the role of the community board in supporting immigrants and advocating for their rights and needs.

Old Business and Meeting Adjournment

- Member Dalourny Nemorin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with no further discussion or motions from the attendees.

- Emphasized the importance of community involvement and participation in committee meetings to address local issues and stay informed.
- Encouraged community members to reach out to the community board and elected officials for support and assistance.

Action Items

- Email the revised bylaws to all board members for review before the next meeting.
- Coordinate a virtual "Know Your Rights" training session on immigration in collaboration with congressional representatives.
- Follow up with the 40th precinct on the specific location and timing of the reported drug activity and noise issues in the hub area.
- Reach out to the office of Assembly Member Septimo to inquire about the legal advisory services they provide.
- Submit feedback on budget priorities and ideas for beautifying Railroad Park to Assembly Member Jackson's office by February 10.