



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1
3024 THIRD AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • Email: BX01@CB.NYC.Gov

Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Municipal Services Committee Minutes

June 12th, 2025

Ngande Ambroise, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Attendance: *Ngande Ambroise, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Cecil Brooks Jr., Herman Francis Jr., Michael Pimentel*

Guest Speakers: *Dylan Cepeda, David Do, Juanita Rodriguez, Ashley Santos, Patricia Clinton*

Introduction and Meeting Agenda

- Mr. David Do introduces themselves as the Chair and Commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine Commission, accompanied by the Deputy Chief of the Bronx and Senior Advisor Dylan Cepeda.
- The meeting begins with a motion to approve the agenda, which is seconded and approved.
- The Taxi Limousine Commission is described as an agency that touches almost every community, including the Bronx and Community Board 1.
- The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the role of the TLC, especially in busy corridors, and how they can be helpful to the community.

Overview of TLC Departments and Responsibilities

- The TLC has various departments, including a TLC Police Department and an Inspections division that inspects 80,000 licensed vehicles annually.
- The TLC is one of the biggest in the world, moving people for essential purposes like doctor's appointments and grocery shopping.
- The MTA operates 4 million trips a day, while the TLC moves people twice as much, but only during daytime hours.

- The TLC addresses transportation deserts and issues related to denied taxi rides, especially for people with disabilities.

Challenges and Safety Concerns

- The TLC warns against using unlicensed vehicles, which are often uninsured and can scam passengers.
- Licensed vehicles undergo background checks, drug testing, and safety inspections to ensure passenger safety.
- The Deputy Chief discusses the enforcement of vehicle traffic laws and the prevention of illegal vehicle operations.
- The TLC conducts joint operations with MTA and NYPD to improve quality of life, especially in areas with high traffic and pedestrian activity.

Bronx-Specific Issues and Enforcement

- The Deputy Chief highlights specific areas in the Bronx where illegal activities, such as poaching passengers, are common.
- The TLC conducts car stops and issues summonses for illegal vehicles and unlicensed drivers.
- The Deputy Chief mentions the importance of clear windows on vehicles for safety and the enforcement of traffic laws.
- The TLC also addresses issues like double parking and the blocking of bus lanes and bike lanes.

Community Concerns and Education

- The community raises concerns about the refusal of service by Uber and Lyft, especially for people with disabilities.
- The TLC takes refusals of service very seriously and has a high win rate in cases where complaints are reported.
- The Deputy Chief explains the process of reporting refusals of service through 311 and the role of the TLC's enforcement division.
- The community suggests the need for educational videos to inform the public about proper behavior with taxis and the consequences of illegal activities.

Financial Assistance and Support for Drivers

- The TLC has expanded its support for drivers through city legislation, providing services like legal and financial assistance.

- The Mayor Adams' office has provided over \$125 million to the yellow industry and \$470 million in debt relief to over 2000 medallions.
- The TLC also offers financial planning and education courses to help drivers manage their finances and taxes.
- The community requests more programs to support immigrant taxi drivers, including financial assistance and education.

Pension Plans and Safety Measures

- The community inquires about pension plans for taxi drivers, emphasizing the need for a mandatory contribution system.
- The TLC provides financial education and encourages drivers to contribute to IRAs and Social Security.
- The Deputy Chief discusses the importance of safety measures, including background checks, drug testing, and vehicle inspections.
- The community is advised to use licensed vehicles to ensure safety and avoid scams.

Community Impact and Street Naming Proposals

- Ms. Patricia Clinton proposes naming a street after a deceased member who made significant contributions to the community.
- The proposal includes a petition with over 130 signatures and a biography highlighting the individual's community impact.
- The committee discusses the criteria for street naming, including the number of signatures and the community impact of the individual.
- The committee decides to table the proposal to allow the family more time to gather the necessary documentation and meet the criteria.

Final Discussion and Next Steps

- The committee acknowledges the emotional nature of the proposal and the need for clear criteria and documentation.
- The community is advised to prepare all necessary documents and meet the criteria before presenting the proposal again.
- The committee agrees to revisit the proposal in the future once all requirements are met.
- The meeting concludes with a commitment to improve the process and ensure fair and transparent decision-making.

Discussion on Motion to Table

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise initiates the discussion on whether the committee should table the motion or vote on it now.

- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne suggests that the motion should be to deny the request because the criteria were not met.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise asks for a second to the motion to deny the request due to incomplete criteria.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne confirms that the motion was to deny the request because the presenter did not meet the minimum criteria.

Introduction of Ashley Santos

- Ashley Santos introduces herself as the communication coordinator for the New York City Parks Department.
- Ashley Santos explains the role of the Partnership for Parks in supporting community volunteers and activating parkland and local green spaces.
- Ashley Santos mentions various projects and initiatives supported by the Partnership for Parks, including beautification projects, dog runs, and training grants.
- Ashley Santos provides contact information for volunteers interested in activating local park spaces.

Discussion on Community Volunteer Opportunities

- Ashley Santos discusses the availability of youth volunteers from local colleges and their interest in volunteering in parks.
- Ashley Santos mentions existing community groups like Friends of St. Mary's and South Bronx Unite that are active in park cleanups and other projects.
- Ashley Santos highlights the need for more volunteers to join these groups and help with various park activities.
- Ashley Santos inquires about the availability of funding and resources for community groups to support their efforts.

Support for New Dog Run Initiatives

- Ashley Santos discusses the efforts to establish a new dog run at Pulaski Park and the challenges involved.
- Ashley Santos explains the need for careful planning and coordination with different agencies to ensure the success of the dog run.
- Ashley Santos mentions the importance of providing tools and resources for volunteers to maintain the dog run.
- Ashley Santos highlights the issue of dog waste in parks and the need for more enforcement and poop bag stations to address the problem.

Enforcement and Funding for Park Maintenance

- Ashley Santos discusses the role of the Parks Enforcement Patrol in addressing issues like dog waste in parks.
- Ashley Santos mentions the possibility of advocating to the city council for funding to support poop bag stations and other initiatives.
- Ashley Santos emphasizes the need for more enforcement in parks to ensure compliance with rules and regulations.
- Ashley Santos suggests making complaints to the Parks Enforcement Patrol to address issues related to dog waste and other park maintenance problems.

Conclusion and Adjournment

- Ashley Santos thanks the chair and the committee for the discussion.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion to adjourn is seconded and approved by the committee.
- The meeting is adjourned.

Action Items

- Provide the community board with a clear checklist of the criteria required for street naming requests to help applicants prepare properly in the future.
- Explore creating educational videos and public service announcements to inform the community about proper taxi/for-hire vehicle usage and regulations.
- Follow up on the issue of drivers charging additional fees to return lost items left in vehicles, and consider regulations around reasonable compensation.