



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

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Seniors & Aging Services Committee Minutes

June 11th, 2025

Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Attendance: *Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Brenda Goodwin, Betty Bryant-Brown, Patricia Simpson, Elena Farciert*

Introductions and Meeting Order

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne calls the meeting to order at 12:12 PM and introduces members: Josephine Fernandez, Byrne chair, Linda, Betty Bryant Brown, Brenda Goodwin, Patricia Simpson.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne asks for feedback on the recent town hall meeting with Access-A-Ride.

Feedback on Town Hall Meeting with Access-A-Ride

- Member Linda Duke shares her experience at the town hall meeting, mentioning a presentation by a young lady and her interactions with the Access-A-Ride manager.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne and Member Linda Duke discuss the need for universal policies across the board for public housing residents.
- Member Linda Duke mentions her medical conditions and the Access-A-Ride manager's dismissive attitude towards her needs.

Challenges with Access-A-Ride and Housing Authority

- Member Linda Duke recounts an incident where she had a panic attack due to an elevator malfunction and the manager's unhelpful response.
- Member Linda Duke emphasizes the need for continued follow-up and involvement in Access-A-Ride meetings.

Discussion on Town Hall Meeting with MTA

- Member Patricia Simpson brings up the town hall meeting with MTA, expressing frustration over the lack of communication and coordination.
- Member Patricia Simpson shares her experiences with MTA, including incidents of being stranded and the need for better service reliability.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne mentions the ongoing efforts to schedule meetings with MTA and the challenges faced in the past.

Challenges with Public Transportation and Medical Services

- Member Brenda Goodwin discusses her experiences with public transportation, including issues with GPS and drivers not knowing the city.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne and Member Brenda Goodwin discuss the challenges of getting medical services and the need for better coordination with healthcare providers.
- Member Brenda Goodwin shares her experiences with CVS and the need for a special line for seniors.
- Member Brenda Goodwin suggests finding smaller pharmacies in the area that deliver medications to address the challenges faced by seniors.

Proposals for Future Events and Meetings

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne proposes the idea of a casino night or a social event for seniors to improve community engagement.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne suggests planning for these events in the fall to avoid conflicts with summer vacations.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne discusses the possibility of meeting as an ad hoc committee during the winter months to reduce pressure on members.

Discussion on Elder Abuse and Senior Month

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne mentions World Elder Abuse Day on June 15 and the need for elder abuse and elder justice programs.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne discusses the importance of recognizing May as Senior Month and the need for better programming and events.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne suggests looking into where funding for senior centers in other areas comes from and how to secure similar resources for their community.

Community Issues and Accountability

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne discusses the challenges of drug addiction and crime in the community and the need for better accountability from local authorities.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne emphasizes the importance of holding local authorities accountable for the safety and well-being of the community.
- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne & Member Brenda Goodwin discuss the need for better coordination and communication with local officials to address community issues.

Action Items

- Explore the possibility of a "casino night" or other social event for seniors in the fall.
- Continue advocating for improvements in the Hub area and hold agencies accountable.

- Reach out to senior centers to gather information on their programming and funding sources.
- Follow up with Access-A-Ride to ensure the issues raised at the town hall meeting are addressed.