



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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EDUCATION & YOUTH

MINUTES

March 14, 2019

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Gifty Boanoh said that I am a member of CCC and it's the Citizens Committee for Children. It's an advocacy program that uses research, civic engagement and other forms to kind of let New York City know about how to help children, how to keep children healthy, housed and educated. So first we really try to understand the about the problems and then we try to identify solutions to advocate for the children. We use civic engagement programs to help the public learn more about children, how to help children and learn more about the community as a whole. The research that we use is from Keeping Track Online which is a website that CCC runs and it provides a single source of government data on New York City's 1.8 million children and families. It's the biggest of it's the biggest of its type in the world I've brought a few handouts to kind of show you how to use the online tool. So in addition to this every year we release something called Our Community Risks on poverty, education, economic security and how our community looks in comparison to other Community Boards around New York City. If you look at the child population this is sort of an overview of the age of children in our Community Board.

Here's some information about economic security we've compared Mott Haven which is the high risk in terms of economic security and the Upper Eastside which is a lower risk. The Upper Eastside is mostly lower risk because there are more people that are financially stable, that have more opportunities, better housing and things of that nature. So you can see that there is a vast difference in the amount of child poverty and the medium income of families and the children. So for child poverty the Upper Eastside has 2.3 percent whereas Mott Haven has 47 percent and the medium income is \$231, 188 whereas Mott Haven is \$30,017 Mott Haven is 7 out of 59 in economic security with 1 being the highest risk and 59 the lowest.

We can turn to education so here you can see the test scores and graduation rates again I compared them to a high risk community. If you look at Mott Haven which is the green as you can see again the Upper Eastside has high test scores for grades 3-8 and also high graduation rates.

So housing in Mott Haven 32 percent have rent burden so housing is really a large issue that is in the city. We compared the highest and the lowest at risk and University Heights is the highest risk community and Thomasville in Staten Island is the lowest. So what severe rent burden means is that they're spending more than half of their income on rent and so you see Mott Haven has 34 percent which means that most of them spend half of their income on their rent.

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So we have all this data and research for our New York communities but what do we use it for. We use this data to advocate for policy change and to urge Legislators to drive resources towards programs and communities that need it. Listed here are some issue ideas that come up a lot when we look at disparities in data and usually advocate for funding and improvements in the system. It's our mission for every New York City child be healthy, housed, educated and safe. That is part of what makes us unique we work on various issues to insure the health of children. So we regularly meet with the State Senators, City Council members as well as staff from the Governors and Mayors Offices to talk about these issues. We also testify in front of City and State Government in Public Hearings for our proposed bills and other issues. We also engage members of the public in our advocacy. Our civic engagement programs educate New Yorkers on how to advocate and through our Community Leadership course we offer workshops. We're able to arm New Yorkers with concrete skills that increases their engagement in their communities and government. I would like to clarify what civic engagement is, so civic engagement is basically is where the community is getting involved with helping to improve their communities, helping improve where they live and kind of it just being all on the government we kind of take it into our own hands to help move our community forward. So CCC has been running the Community Leadership course since 1962 and concerned New Yorkers from all walks of life take the course. We visit programs that serve children and families in all five boroughs. We hear directly from Program Directors about the challenges they face and the successes they've had running programs for children. The Youth Action New York City was created in 1999 to elevate youth voices in the public and the Youth Action Leadership course is three weeks held in the fall and spring teaching High School students how to become effective advocates. Students conduct their own research, visit community based organizations and interview community leaders. They learn how to develop their own solutions to problems that their communities face and meet with Elected Officials to present recommendations for change. So for example in our community we have a lot of like severe rent burden and things of that nature. So what YALC does it helps students to bring everything they've learned back to their communities to try to help us move forward. There is another group called Peer Trainers and this select group train's youth throughout New York City on how to conduct effective fact based advocacy and how they can also become leaders of positive change in their schools and communities. So there are many trainings and workshops and CCC staff are always ready to share what they know and throughout the year they give presentations free of charge.

Questions and Comments

The Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED.