



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

General Board Meeting Minutes

March 27th, 2025

DRAFT

Public Session

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto opens the public session.
- Carmen Santiago raises four questions about the board's actions regarding the Oasis contract, eliminating syringes, and implementing a 90-day inpatient care program.
- Clarisa Alayeto mentions the Health and Human Services Committee and invites Carmen to join for monthly meetings to address these issues.
- Carmen Santiago's second question is about reinstating foot patrols, which Clarisa Alayeto refers to the NYPD for an answer.
- Carmen Santiago's third question involves a drug dealer in a dark gray Hemi SUV, and her fourth question is about a store, Role of Fashion, obstructing the sidewalk.

Antonio Whitaker's Announcement on Composting

- Antonio Whitaker, Assistant Director of Community Affairs at the Department of Sanitation, announces weekly curbside composting pickup in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island.
- He explains the importance of separating organic waste from trash and the benefits of composting, including renewable energy generation.
- Antonio Whitaker mentions the warning period ending on March 31, after which summons will be issued for non-compliance.
- He offers to answer any questions about composting and encourages community participation.

John Sanchez's Announcement on Bronx Cleanups

- John Sanchez, newly appointed secretary for the Environmental Justice & Sanitation committee, announces three Bronx cleanups on April 12 and April 19.

- The cleanups will take place at 138th Street corridor, Willis Park, and Roberto Clemente Square.
- John Sanchez mentions the planting of trees around the Jackson Avenue area to create a greener environment.
- After the cleanups, there will be celebrations with various organizations sharing their work and DJ music, along with snacks.

Board Meeting: Roll Call and Agenda Approval

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto conducts the roll call, noting four absences.
- The board approves the agenda and full board meeting minutes.
- Clarisa Alayeto introduces the next speaker, Sarita Daftary from Freedom Agenda, to present on the Close Rikers campaign.

Close Rikers Campaign Presentation

- Sarita Daftary introduces herself and her colleagues from Freedom Agenda and Bronx Connect, explaining the campaign's goal to close Rikers and reduce incarceration rates.
- Edwin Santana and Anthony Springer from Freedom Agenda provide an overview of the coalition and the reasons for closing Rikers, including mass incarceration, financial costs, and moral implications.
- Anthony Springer highlights the disproportionate impact of incarceration on Black and Hispanic populations in the Bronx.
- The campaign's plan includes decarceration, replacing outdated jails with human-centered facilities, and investing in community resources.

Detailed Plan for Rikers Closure and Community Investment

- Anthony Springer provides a detailed breakdown of the Rikers closure plan, including the need for 886 beds with 40% therapeutic units and outdoor recreation space.
- The campaign advocates for the city to expedite the completion of the new borough jails and to prioritize renewable energy and green infrastructure on Rikers Island.
- The presentation includes specific recommendations for community investment, such as converting the old 40th precinct into a Community Services Center and additional citywide investments in mental health and housing resources.
- The campaign urges the city to revert to the original planned capacity for the new jails and to ensure true outdoor space for inmates.

Community Board Discussion and Recommendations

- Board members express support for the Close Rikers campaign and discuss the importance of community involvement in the planning process.
- Brenda Goodwin emphasizes the need for ongoing communication and collaboration with the community.
- Board members raise concerns about the environmental conditions in Rikers, the need for sensitivity training for staff, and the separation of juveniles in detention centers.
- The board votes to support the campaign with conditions, including the need for written commitments for supportive housing and community involvement in the design process.

Racial Equity Presentation

- Lorenzo Van Ness from the Commission on Racial Equity presents the 2024 community equity priorities, which were developed through community feedback.
- The priorities include addressing gaps in city jobs, involving communities in government plans, and ensuring pay equity.
- Other priorities focus on language access, removing biased systems, disaggregating data, and providing housing for the homeless.
- The presentation also covers the Commission's mandate to review racial equity plans, receive complaints about city agency processes, and respond to requests from the City Council.

Voting Items: Renewal Application for the Lit Bar and Outdoor Dining License for iNine Bistro

- The board votes to approve the renewal license for the Lit Bar, a bar with a bookstore inside.
- The board discusses the outdoor dining application for iNine Bistro on Bruckner Boulevard, with concerns about the impact on sidewalk space and community needs.
- The board decides to approve the outdoor dining license with the condition that the business owner returns to discuss further concerns and potential adjustments.

Discussion on Community Concerns and Stakeholder Engagement

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of engaging with stakeholders to address concerns, mentioning Danny, Maura, and Ramona as those in favor.
- Committee Chairperson Daniel Barber highlights the need for the community board to be held to higher precedence and the impact of decisions on residents.
- 2nd Vice Chair Ngande Ambroise stresses the importance of not just saying no for the sake of it and suggests calling meetings to address issues seriously.

- 2nd Vice Chair Ngande Ambroise mentions a cooperative business in the community and suggests another meeting to have a conversation with the business owner.

Update on Community Board Operations and Office Space

- District Manager Anthony Jordan provides a brief update on the community board operations, mentioning the loss of office space due to a flood and the support from the executive committee and colleagues.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan thanks the Department of Finance and Lincoln Hospital for their support in hosting meetings.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan addresses issues with phone calls being directed to staff's cell phones and encourages reaching out via email.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the Yankee scholarship opportunity and the need for board members to recommend young people.

Public Safety Report and Crime Trends

- Sargeant Rivera from the 40th precinct provides a rundown on crime numbers, noting a downward trend in burglaries, rapes, robberies, grand larcenies, and felony assaults.
- Sargeant Rivera mentions notable incidents, including a homicide and a shooting, and introduces the Q team initiative to tackle quality of life issues.
- Captain Dill from PSA 7 provides additional crime numbers, noting a significant decrease in robberies and overall index crime.
- Captain Dill discusses the Q team initiative and its focus on quality of life issues, including noise, gambling, and traffic conditions.

Community Concerns and Police Presence

- Ramona Ferreyra raises concerns about 311 complaints being closed without resolution and the need for better enforcement of quality of life issues.
- Ramona Ferreyra questions the increased police presence at Mitchell Houses and the lack of community engagement by officers.
- Captain Dillo explains the increased presence is due to a gang of violence in the area and the need to prevent homicides and shootings.
- Ramona Ferreyra suggests more engagement by officers to become part of the community and learn local statistics.

Traffic and Parking Issues

- Ramona Ferreyra raises concerns about traffic and parking issues on 140/3 Street and Morris Avenue, including trucks blocking street lights and pedestrians being unable to cross.

- Ramona Ferreyra also discusses issues with tenant patrols and the need for police officers to do verticals in buildings to address noise and harassment.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto and other speakers echo the concerns about traffic and parking, mentioning double-parked cars and the need for better enforcement.
- Patricia Simpson highlights the impact of illegal parking on emergency vehicle access and the need for better traffic management.

Elected Officials Reports and Legislative Updates

- Courtney Aubain from Congress member Richie Torres's office provides updates on legislative initiatives, including the bodega app and health emergency legislation.
- Courtney Aubain mentions the need for privacy release forms to address complaints and offers to assist with the process.
- Jose Serrano's office provides updates on environmental conservation funding, congestion pricing, and foundational aid for public schools.
- Whitney Rimat from Assembly Member Amanda Septimo's office mentions the release of a report on community violence intervention programs and upcoming community partner day with the New York Botanical Gardens.

Community Engagement and Upcoming Events

- Maritza Wiggins from Council Member Giovanni Williams's office discusses legislation to increase transparency surrounding e-bike and scooter corral zones and streamline emergency response efforts.
- Maritza Wiggins mentions an upcoming check presentation at the Hostos Point Rec Center for playground renovations and indoor track upgrades.
- Gloria Cruz from Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala's office highlights the participatory budgeting process and the importance of youth involvement in voting.
- Jumanah Escalera from the Bronx District Attorney's office announces a child safety fair and a prom dress drive, as well as workshops on youth rights and the arrest process.

Committee Reports and New Business

- Christina Cover from the Education, Youth, and Young Adult Services Committee announces a youth job fair on April 5 at Dream Charter High School.
- Christina Cover encourages community members to promote the job fair, volunteer, and support young people in attending.
- Ramona Ferreyra announces her departure from the board due to personal and health reasons, thanking everyone for their guidance and mentorship.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and approved by the members.

Action Items

- Schedule a meeting with the iNine Bistro business owners to further discuss the outdoor dining setup.
- Reach out to the Yankee scholarship applicants and make recommendations to the executive committee.
- Send the privacy release form for the post office service issues to the full board.