



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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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

Policy & Legislation Committee Minutes

March 25th, 2025

Dalourny Nemorin, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Introduction and Participant Roles

- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin calls the meeting to order and introduces the agenda.
- Participants introduce themselves, including Clarissa (Full Board Chair), Anthony Springer (Community Organizer), Sarita (Co-Director at Freedom Agenda), and others.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan reminds the meeting is being broadcast live on social media.
- Sarita, Edwin, and Anthony introduce themselves and their roles in the campaign to close Rikers Island.

Overview of the Campaign and Initial Progress

- Sarita Daftary provides an overview of the campaign, emphasizing the coalition of survivors and allies.
- Edwin Santana discusses the history of Rikers Island and the impact on the South Bronx community.
- The campaign aims to reduce incarceration, defend the rights of people in New York City jails, and invest in prevention.
- Edwin Santana highlights the seven-neighborhood study revealing the disproportionate impact of incarceration on black and Latino communities.

Challenges and Reasons for Closing Rikers

- Edwin Santana explains the systemic issues with Rikers Island, including its failure to rehabilitate and the high number of deaths since Mayor Adams took office.

- Anthony Springer discusses the impact of Rikers on the community, including the high cost of incarceration and the disparities in incarceration rates.
- The campaign aims to reduce the jail population to less than 3500 people and close all 10 jails on Rikers Island by 2027.
- The plan includes investing \$260 million in community resources and establishing a commission for community reinvestment and closure.

Current Status and Future Plans

- Sarita Daftary discusses the current status of the jail population and the need to reduce it to 4500 people.
- The city's plan to replace the borough jails is behind schedule, and the closure date for Rikers is 2027.
- The new jails will have better program space, medical care, and more space per person compared to Rikers.
- The campaign advocates for returning to the original plan of 886 beds with 40% therapeutic units and ensuring true outdoor space in the facilities.

Community Investment and Reducing Incarceration

- Sarita Daftary outlines the city's commitments to invest in community resources and reduce incarceration.
- The campaign calls for \$39.8 million in the city budget for community-based mental health treatment teams, justice-involved supportive housing, and crisis respite centers.
- The city should fully fund these programs to eliminate waitlists and ensure adequate services.
- The campaign also advocates for restoring the original plan for therapeutic beds and ensuring healthcare staffing in both therapeutic and general population units.

Design and Operational Considerations

- Sarita Daftary discusses the design improvements in the new jails, including better access to healthcare and outdoor recreation space.
- The campaign advocates for expediting the completion of the facilities and advancing the renewable Rikers plan.
- The new jails will have more space for therapeutic units and better access to healthcare services.
- The campaign emphasizes the importance of community input and collaboration in the design and operation of the new jails.

Community Concerns and Advocacy Strategies

- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin raises concerns about the community's perception of the effectiveness of current services and the need for more specific information on what works.
- The campaign aims to address these concerns by providing detailed information on successful programs and advocating for adequate funding.
- The campaign also emphasizes the importance of community engagement and collaboration in the design and operation of the new jails.
- The meeting concludes with a discussion on the next steps and the need for continued advocacy and community involvement.

Public Housing Committee and Renovations

- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin mentions the public housing committee and Daniel Barbara, the chair, who is also the NYCHA city-wide person.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin suggests sending a PDF to Danny Barbara to verify if renovations are happening.
- The committee supports the supportive crisis center but does not want it in community board one, which already holds the jail and other services.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin adjourns the meeting and mentions a full board meeting on Thursday.

Discussion on Community Board and Supportive Crisis Center

- Dalourny Nemorin emphasizes the need for clear support for the supportive crisis center.
- The committee discusses the impact of having the crisis center in community board one, which is already overburdened.
- The meeting is described as intense with crazy conversations.
- The committee members discuss the importance of community support and the challenges faced by the crisis center.

Action Items

- Provide the community board with the hyperlinks to the "Points of Agreement" document outlining the city's commitments related to the Rikers closure and borough-based jail plan.
- Share the breakdown of the \$39.8 million in funding being requested by the campaign.
- Coordinate with the chair of the Public Housing Committee to review the "Points of Agreement" document and determine which commitments have been fulfilled or are still outstanding.
- Advocate for the new Bronx jail to have 24/7 access to service providers who can provide referrals, transportation, and other support for people being released.
- Advocate for the new Bronx jail to have a higher ratio of mental health staff and behavioral specialists compared to correctional officers.