



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

General Board Meeting Minutes

May 29th, 2025

DRAFT

Approval of Agenda and Election Motion

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto announces her early departure and hands over to Vice Chair Freddy Perez.
- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez makes a motion to amend the meeting to hear nominations for board officers after the public session.
- Discussion on the election time, with Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto clarifying that the election is due in November.
- Committee Chairperson Daniel Barber suggests tabling the motion until clarification from the Bronx Borough President's Office.
- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez amends his motion to await the decision by the borough president's office, which passes with no abstentions.

Public Session and Community Engagement

- Member Argelia Ortiz discusses the toxic situation in the district and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's neglect.
- Alicia Anthony from the Bronx Defenders talks about their community engagement and organizing efforts, including the People's Money initiative.
- Alicia explains the process of voting on community projects and the importance of community participation.
- Member Daniel Barber questions the involvement of the Bronx Defenders in public housing and the distribution of resources.
- Alicia responds by explaining the community engagement team's focus on NYCHA tenants and the process of participatory budgeting.

Electric Mobility Workforce Development Convening

- Philip Ellison from the New York Power Authority discusses the electric mobility workforce development convening held at Sankofa House.
- The event aimed to educate and connect various stakeholders, including schools, nonprofits, government, and community leaders.
- The goal was to build workforce pipelines and job opportunities in the electric mobility space.
- Local organizations like Know Your Rights, Per Scholas, and the Laboratory and Finance School participated in the event.

Liquor License Applications and Denials

- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez reviews the liquor license applications and denials, including Hudson Smokehouse, Los Nisperos Peruvian Restaurant, Milk Burger, American Bites Coffee Shop, Viva Cafe Mexican Restaurant, Safari One Liquor and Wine Bar, and Estrella Caribe Corporation.
- The committee's recommendations are discussed, with some applications denied due to lack of response from the business.
- The board votes to approve the recommended liquor licenses, with an abstention from Member Daniel Barber.
- The committee's recommendation to deny certain applications is also approved.

District Manager's Report and Public Safety Update

- District Manager Anthony Jordan provides an update on the community board office's reopening and ongoing operations.
- Member Cesar Yoc discusses the letter of support for public power and renewable energy, including recommendations for energy storage and converter stations.
- Captain Acharski and Sergeant Marks from the 40th Precinct discuss the new quality of life unit and their focus on addressing quality of life offenses.
- The team emphasizes the importance of community input and their efforts to address issues like noise complaints, double-parked cars, and abandoned vehicles.

Community Questions and Concerns

- Jasmine Humphrey asks about overnight patrols in areas with increased vandalism.
- Member Cesar Yoc inquires about the identity of people without uniforms in the community.
- Member Audrey Dejesus asks about additional support for vagrancy issues near a shelter.

- Member Patricia Simpson requests police presence inside buildings to address internal issues like smoking and noise.
- Carmen Santiago raises concerns about the Roberto Clemente Plaza and the need for foot patrols.

Elected Officials Reports

- Emmanuel Martinez from the Mayor's Office introduces himself and discusses initiatives like the \$1.6 million salad shield for bodegas and a town walk in response to a recent shooting.
- A representative from Congresswoman Ocasio Cortez's office provides updates on tariff policies, IRS staffing issues, and the need for real IDs.
- Jose Ramon Perez from Senator Jose Serrano's office provides an update on the state budget, including allocations for environmental protection, clean water infrastructure, and housing vouchers.
- The meeting concludes with no further reports from other elected officials or their representatives.

HPD and Voting Reminders

- Gloria Cruz from the Deputy Speaker's office, emphasizes the importance of HPD's presence in the district and encourages residents to reach out with any housing-related questions or concerns.
- Gloria Cruz highlights the upcoming change in administration and stresses the importance of voting to ensure the lowest voting party is not affected.
- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez thanks Gloria Cruz and inquires about the presence of the district attorney's office.

Beautification and Cleanup Event

- Jumana Escalera, introduces the DA's office-hosted beautification and cleanup event called "Plan for Peace" happening next Friday, June 6, from 12pm to 3pm at St Mary's Park.
- The event includes planting orange flowers in honor of those lost to gun violence and a simultaneous cleanup project involving marigolds and perennials.
- Jumana encourages participation, mentioning department sanitation and parks will partner with them, and provides contact information for a digital flyer of the event.

Economic Development and Land Use Report

- Committee Chair Paola Martinez reports on the Economic Development Committee's presentation from HPD about affordable housing programs and finance programs available for developers.
- The purpose of these presentations is to equip community board members with the necessary tools to participate in meetings and make informed decisions.
- Committee Chair Paola Martinez emphasizes the importance of community feedback and participation in committee meetings.

Committee Reports and Motions

- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez quickly reviews the status of various committee reports, noting that some, like Health and Human Services and Public and Transitional Housing, do not have reports.
- Member Cesar Yoc provides a brief report on three presentations: DEP's water main issue, renewable technology for Rikers Island, and the Meroe Environmental Awareness Committee's need for more support.
- 1st Vice Freddy Perez waits for all reports to be completed before making a motion to accept the committee reports, which is seconded and approved by the attendees.

Education, Youth, and Young Adults Report

- Member Joyce Pulphus, reports on the committee's efforts to organize an event called "A Seat at the Table" aimed at engaging young people in community discussions.
- The event aims to encourage young people to get involved in the community board and address their concerns.
- Member Joyce Pulphus also shares updates on meetings with Grimshaw Architects regarding the Horizon project, focusing on the design and intentionality of the new spaces.

Immigration Committee Report

- Member Mohammad Sheikh, thanks everyone for their time and provides an update on the immigration committee's efforts.
- He encourages anyone with concerns or issues related to immigration to visit the Board Office, where legal personnel and elected officials are available to assist.

Old and New Business

- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez asks if there is any old or new business to discuss, but no one has anything to add.
- Member Cesar Yoc mentions a future planning committee meeting for sanitation and environmental justice issues, inviting interested individuals to attend.

- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and approved by the attendees.

Action Items

- Provide a copy of the bylaws to the borough president's office.
- Meet with the 40th Precinct officers to discuss specific quality of life concerns in the community.
- Seek clarification from the borough president's office on the bylaws regarding the election timeline for community board officers.