



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

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRWOMAN

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Executive Committee Minutes

October 6th, 2025

Paola Martinez, Chairperson

DRAFT

Opening Remarks and Prayer

- Chairperson Paola Martinez initiates the meeting with a prayer, thanking God for the blessings and the safe return of residents after a district collapse.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez expresses gratitude for the attendees and outlines the agenda, emphasizing the importance of the meeting.
- Community Coordinator Steven Palmers is thanked for preparing the agenda, and the discussion begins on the structure of future meetings and the role of committees.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez highlights the need for community engagement and the challenges faced due to decreased attendance at community board meetings.

Introduction of Committee Members and Their Roles

- Chairperson Paola Martinez asks committee members to introduce themselves, their committees, and their leadership styles.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez shares her own leadership style, emphasizing her visionary approach and weakness in attention to detail.
- Committee Chair Mohammed Sheikh introduces himself as the chair of the immigration committee, mentioning his strengths in vision and weakness in attention to detail.
- Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus introduces herself as the chair of the LGBTQIA committee, highlighting her strengths as a doer and her weakness in asking for help.

Detailed Introductions and Leadership Styles

- Committee Chair Stephanie Calzado introduces herself as part of the young adults and education committee, mentioning her strengths in detail and her shyness.
- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena introduces herself as the chair of the health and human services committee, emphasizing her strengths in inspiration and her weakness in caring too much.
- Committee Chair Mohammed Sheikh introduces himself as the chair of the history committee, mentioning his strengths in being a people's person and his weakness in trusting people quickly.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc introduces himself as the chair of the mental justice and sanitation committee, highlighting his strengths and weaknesses in being persistent and delegating.

Commonalities and Challenges in Leadership

- Chairperson Paola Martinez summarizes commonalities among the committee members, such as being people-oriented and goal-oriented.
- The discussion shifts to the challenges of listening and being proactive, with Paola Martinez emphasizing the importance of working together.
- The conversation touches on the need for bold actions to strengthen the community board and the importance of transparency and diversity in meetings.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez shares her thoughts on the importance of community engagement and the need for the community board to be a strong and effective forum for residents.

Proposal for Committee Restructuring

- The discussion moves to the proposal for committee restructuring, with suggestions to consolidate some committees to improve attendance and efficiency.
- The proposal includes merging municipal and environmental services, young adults with education and youth, and seniors with health.
- The need for ad hoc committees for LGBTQIA and immigration is discussed, with the emphasis on engaging the diaspora and addressing policy matters.
- The importance of having a clear and strategic approach to committee restructuring is highlighted, with a focus on meeting the needs of the community.

Attendance and Quorum Issues

- District Manager Anthony Jordan presents attendance reports for various committees, showing the number of meetings held and the attendance rates.
- The discussion reveals that many committees struggle with meeting quorum, leading to delays in addressing community issues.
- The need for better planning and engagement to ensure consistent attendance and effective meetings is emphasized.
- The conversation touches on the challenges of balancing multiple committee roles and the importance of supporting each other.

Strategic Planning and Goal Setting

- The discussion shifts to the importance of setting strategic goals for the community board and integrating environmental issues into various committees.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc suggests a holistic approach to committee goals, focusing on broader themes like health, education, and economic development.
- The need for task forces and rapid response teams to address specific community needs is discussed.
- The conversation highlights the importance of having clear and achievable goals for each committee and the community board as a whole.

Final Thoughts and Next Steps

- Chairperson Paola Martinez summarizes the key points discussed, emphasizing the need for strategic planning, better attendance, and clear goals.
- The importance of collaboration and support among committee members is reiterated.
- The discussion concludes with a commitment to continue working together to strengthen the community board and address the needs of the district.
- The meeting ends with a reminder of the importance of community engagement and the role of the community board in serving the residents.

Environmental Justice and Community Engagement

- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the creation of the Mayor's Office for Environmental Justice and the community's efforts in environmental cleanup.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the need for broader goals and collaboration with other committees to address community needs.
- Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus highlights the various agencies supporting the LGBTQ community, including the Mayor's Unity Project and the Health Department.
- Member Argelia Ortiz stresses the importance of community engagement and the challenges faced by immigrants in trusting government entities.

Committee Structure and Responsibilities

- Chairperson Paola Martinez and Committee Chair Evelyn Alvarez discuss the current structure of 14 committees and the need to streamline them for better efficiency.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan and other speakers suggest merging certain committees to reduce workload and improve focus.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc proposes combining urban planning and resiliency with economic development to address broader neighborhood needs.
- The discussion includes the importance of maintaining separate committees for NYCHA and public housing due to their unique regulatory and funding requirements.

Housing and Economic Development Proposals

- Committee Chair Evelyn Alvarez suggests adding community resiliency to economic development to create a more comprehensive approach.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez proposes structuring meetings to address both public housing and community resiliency within the same committee.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the need for a separate committee for NYCHA due to its significant capital needs and regulatory differences.
- The group discusses the importance of balancing the needs of different housing sectors, including market-rate renters and homeowners.

Finalizing Committee Proposals

- Chairperson Paola Martinez summarizes the proposed committee structure, including public housing, community resiliency, and economic development.
- The group agrees to send out the proposed changes for feedback and further discussion.
- Committee Chair Evelyn Alvarez highlights the need for a proactive approach in managing community board meetings and initiatives.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adopt the proposed changes, emphasizing the need for continued collaboration and effective communication.