



# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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**RUBEN DIAZ, JR.**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**ARLINE PARKS**  
CHAIRPERSON

## **FULL BOARD** September 30, 2021 MINUTES

**VACANT**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order, and the roll was called. There were 31 members present constituting a quorum.

A motion was made to approve the Agenda. The motion was duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

### **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

The Chairperson Ms. Betty Bryant-Brown said that all candidates will have 5 minutes to verbally present why they are qualified for the position of Chairperson, First Vice Chairperson or Second Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Arline Parks and Ms. Clarisa Alayeto both candidates for the position of Chairperson made their 5-minute verbal presentations as to why they would be the best candidate for the position.

A roll call vote was taken for the position of Chairperson of the Board with 19-votes for Ms. Arline Parks and 12-votes for Ms. Alayeto. Ms. Arline Parks was voted in as the new Chairperson of the Board.

Mr. Arline Parks thanked everyone for their support and faith in her.

Mr. Mohammed Sheikh candidate for First Vice Chairperson made a 5-minute verbal presentation as to why he was the best candidate for the position.

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**Motion made** to move the Agenda and to table the nominations of First and Second Vice Chairpersons to the end of the Meeting. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ms. Arline Parks, Chairperson of the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee** said that there were three presentations made and one was a voting item. The first item that was presented Sheldon Lobel PC who appeared before the committee and asked for a letter of support for a project at 180 East 132nd Street to be rezoned from M1-5 to RA8 for them to instead of building three buildings they could build two and increase the heights and to set the buildings back so that it wouldn't be so close to the bridge. So, they basically want to raise the height to 15 floors and that way they wouldn't have to do three buildings there. So, they made their presentation, and the committee did its due diligence and asked a lot of questions to the Attorney because the actual owner of the property was not present and too many of the questions that we asked in regards, to their project regarding benefits, community issues like affordability. They informed us that this would be market rate rent and they also informed us that there would be no community access along the waterfront. Then there were issues of mitigation for flooding there. It was just too many issues that they could not respond to and for those reasons the committee members that were presented voted not to give them a letter of support. We're presenting this to the Full Board to ask for a vote in regards, to the project.

**Motion made** not to give Sheldon Lobel PC a letter of support on their project at 180 East 132<sup>nd</sup> Street. A roll call vote was taken with 21-No, 3-Abstentions and 0-Yes. Vote passed not to provide Sheldon Lobel PC with a letter of support.

**Ms. Arline Parks** thanked the Board Members for their votes and said that there were two other projects presented one was the LaGree Baptist Church whom, just came into the community and purchased a building on 161<sup>st</sup> Street. They just came as a point of information to let the Board know that they're here, and of all the projects that they're bringing into the district.

The second item which was very important was HPD and they made a presentation around their intent to put out an RFP on the lot at 351 Powers Avenue.

**Ms. Brenda Goodwin, Chairperson Health-Human Services & Seniors** said that the committee met on September 14<sup>th</sup> and the presenter was Mr. Luis Laboy, Addiction Services and Community Engagement Emma L. Bowen. He came before the committee because his Organization wants to rent a location 2776-2778 Third Avenue. It's historically a substance abuse program and is currently vacant. They want to rent that space for a medication



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assistance treatment facility but not providing Methadone, as well as with the following services of mental health, vocational and alternatives to incarceration. They do not receive funding from the city, state or federal government they charge clients for their services and licensed by OASIS.

I explained to him that on numerous occasions we have spoken about substance abuse facilities coming into the district and particularly in that area that is so overwhelmed with what's going on. I described for him that from St. Ann's and 145<sup>th</sup> down to 149<sup>th</sup> Street we are inundated with the drugs that's going on in there now with the crack and marijuana. There are also a couple of schools in the area on Third Avenue. So, I told him that these facilities have not been favorable in the past and that we'd have to vote for support for a program like this to come in again. So, there were 4 of us at the meeting we did take a vote for the program and since there were 2-No and 2-Yes, I told him that his request for a letter of support would have to be voted on by the Board. So, that's why I'm bringing it before the Full Board, because the Board has always told the Health Committee that they're tired of these programs coming into the district. At some point and time, I would hope that we would do a moratorium on this.

**Motion made** not to provide the Emma L. Bowen with a letter of support on their proposed rental of 2776-2778 for a proposed outpatient treatment service. A roll call vote was taken with 20-No and 3-Abstention. Vote passed not to provide Emma L. Bowen with a letter of support for their rental of 2776-2778 as an outpatient treatment facility.

**The Chairperson Ms. Arline Parks said that the last committee is Municipal Services,** and it is a voting item and it's regarding Patterson Housing and they're requesting a letter of support for the renaming of 143<sup>rd</sup> Street and Third Avenue to be renamed Nathaniel "Tiny" Archibald Way.

Tiny Archibald was an NBA professional basketball player who was born and raised in the Patterson Housing Projects and he used to sponsor basketball clinics, drug and violence prevention programs throughout his career.

He was the oldest of 7 children and at the age of 14 became head of the household when Big Tiny left the family. He learned all about rising from desperate surroundings it was an education that started early in life through a 14-year playing career from the Cincinnati Royals to an NBA championship with the Boston Celtics. Nate Archibald was a man who did not forget his roots and continued to be a presence in his community every summer he returned to the South Bronx to help counsel troubled youngsters. When he stopped playing basketball, he returned to New York City to run a Basketball School for under privileged kids and to work as an Athletic Director at the Harlem Armory Homeless Shelter until it close in 1991. So, at this time what we want to do is put a motion on the floor.

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**Motion made** to provide a letter of support to the renaming of 143<sup>rd</sup> Street and Third Avenue to Nathaniel "Tiny" Archibald Way. A roll call vote was taken with 15-Yes and 7-No. Vote passed to approve the name change of 143<sup>rd</sup> Street and Third Avenue to Nathaniel "Tiny" Archibald Way.

**Motion made** to accept the Committee Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

## **ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

**The representative from the office of the Honorable Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.** said that for the new Board Members I do want to thank you for taking on the responsibility and commitment to be members of the Board. To those new Board Members you will be receiving if you have not received about Community Board Member Orientation which we will be doing through WebEx on October 18<sup>th</sup> so, that will be an opportunity for you to hear from a number of city agencies, some members of the Borough President's staff and some issues on items of Budget, Conflict of Interest and a host of other issues that we will bring to your attention to give you as new Board Members information that you need to be good Board Members. So, again thank you for getting the work done.

**The representative from the office of the Honorable Senator Luis Sepulveda** said that I wanted to let you know that the Senator was here in the meeting for about an hour and a half. But I do have some updates I want to let you know that the New York City legislature convened a special session to extend the Eviction Moratorium until January 15<sup>th</sup>. This extension does provide protection to those in need household behind in rent, and we urge those people that are behind in rent and electricity to apply for the Emergency Relief Assistance Program. Our office is assisting in completing these applications. We're referring them also to our Community Based organizations. The Department of Labor has announced that funds are nearing exhaustion for the Excluded Workers Fund. While they will continue to accept new applications the Department of Labor cannot guarantee that funds will be available, and the latest updates can be found on the Department's website. Our Community Updater at our office is organizing a Community Resource Fair on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM to 5 PM and will take place at El Parque de los Nino's located at Metcalf Avenue, between Watson and Westchester Avenues. We will have services health screenings, giveaways and entertainment for all the families. Lastly, we have launched the Workforce Service Vocation Project, so, this project has current job openings, internships. So, if you know of any job opportunities, internships or after-school



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programs if you can please give us an email at [senatorsepulveda.com](mailto:senatorsepulveda.com) so that we can then post it, our number is 718-991.

**The representative from the office of the Honorable Councilwoman Diana Ayala** said congratulations to the new incoming Board Members, and to you Madame Chair on your appointment looking forward to working with you and the Board to improve conditions within CB1. As you all know the Councilmember has been working tirelessly, working to make sure that her constituency has access to vaccinations in COVID 19 testing and educational resources and vital provisions. With respect to that it was extremely vital in ensuring that the COVID vaccination vans were placed on 138<sup>th</sup> Street on Brook Avenue.

As we all know the Councilwoman is Chair of the Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing she's also Chair of Mental Health, Disabilities and Addictions, the Aging Oversight investigation committee. Throughout the summer we participated and coordinated with our NYCHA Development and their tenant leadership for several bookbag giveaways, we held several movie nights, also helmet giveaways at St. Mary's and Sawmill Park. One of the things that I want to touch upon is that this Monday the Councilwoman as the Chair of the Bronx Council Delegation convened a meeting with the Bronx Council Delegation Cabinet Members with the New York City Police Department Commissioner Dermot Shay his Executive Staff to talk about and see how in partnership with the New York City Police Department how, can we address the issue of a rash in gun violence throughout the Bronx. As we all know there's been an increase in gun violence and unfortunately there has been unintended consequences as a result of some of the reform laws which were necessary but however there are some unintended results chief among them has been a proliferation of drug abuse and also an increase in gun violence. Just 2 weeks ago while I was at our Bronx office shots were fired across the street where I had to rush and bring several constituents into our office and a week prior to that incident there was a shooting that resulted in a homicide. It's been rampant throughout the borough in Member Gibson's district, Councilmember Riley's district and Councilmember Salamanca's district where actually his office experience a shooting from a block away where a bullet entered his office while his staff was in operation there, thank goodness no one was hurt. But that is why we convened the meeting with the Police Department to talk about ways in which we can work together, we can sort of make amendments to certain laws while keeping the reforms there but also strengthening them. Lastly, I just want to let you know that our office has is open and we're here to serve you Monday through Friday from 9-5.

**The Chairperson Ms. Arline Parks asked Mr. Jose Rodriguez from Honorable Councilmember Diana Ayala's office** to give an update on DOT'S proposed Jackson Avenue Bike Boulevard

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project and to give information to the Boardmembers present regarding the work that has been done around that issue.

**Mr. Jose Rodriguez** said that first I want to thank you and Hakiem for bringing this to my attention and working with you all concerning the Jackson Avenue corridor and pressing upon the Department of Transportation to really look at that corridor and to understand that, that particular corridor as it is may not be the appropriate area for what they're trying to accomplish. I will say this as far as from the Councilmember while we respect and agree to some extent the city's efforts in creating transportation alternatives, however that particular corridor is problematic for what the city wants to do. It's congested as it stands now and the Councilmember feels that should this proposal be implemented it would further exacerbate the congestion on Jackson Avenue regardless of what the Department of Transportation has presented to us and what they say that this will alleviate some of the congestion while providing bicycle access along that corridor, and not to mention the loss of about 150 parking spaces which are desperately needed in this community, this is unacceptable and this is her official position. We reached out to the administration this week and we haven't heard from them as of yet, but rest assured that we will not let this down and you know I spoke to the Councilmember today to say that I just want to make sure that we're all in alignment. What I just responded to you all is exactly her statement and we hope that the Department of Transportation the Commissioner's Office not the Borough Commissioner addresses this particular issue because they had a Zoom meeting, but we wanted an in-person. We understand that we're still in COVID and there are some issues health wise, however with this type of proposal and given when it was announced we could have done some type of in-person so that the community could have an understanding about what's happening. They did a virtual meeting and not too many people showed up, we also coordinated a meeting on our own a few more individuals attended that meeting chief among them was the Moore Houses Association and residents of the Moore Houses. I do believe that we were not given the proper notice that this, particular proposal was coming into the Jackson Avenue corridor. There are several schools there that will affect the pickup and drop off. There have been many questions that the Councilmember requested of DOT that we have yet to hear a response from and we've reached out to the administration and want the Commissioner's Office to respond. I personally myself reached out to their Intergovernmental Unit and let them know that the Councilwomen is not in favor of this proposal, so this is where she stands.

**The Chairperson Ms. Arline Parks** said that I've gone down that street and if they close it down there are actually homeowners who wouldn't be able to turn in their block to get to their,



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houses. What I saw there today was that DOT was out there to proceed with the project, so it would be helpful if the Councilwoman could send some form of formal request asking them to not to move the project further until there is proper consideration as to what can be worked out in regards, to an appropriate bike lane in the district. That said at the next Board Meeting perhaps what we can do is have a vote by the Board to issue a formal resolution from the Board in regards, to this matter and cc all the Elected Officials for district, DOT and the Mayor's Office to help Diana fight for us in this particular matter.

**Motion made** to accept the Elected Officials reports as presented. Motion duly seconded.  
Motion called and passed.

**Motion made** to table the elections of First and Second Vice Chairpersons until the next Full Board meeting. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

## **NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**The Chairperson called for a motion** to adjourn.  
Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**