



# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • E-mail: brxcb1@optonline.net

*SERVING PORT MORRIS • MOTT HAVEN • MELROSE*



**RUBEN DIAZ, JR.**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ**  
CHAIRPERSON

**CEDRIC L. LOFTIN**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

## FULL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

February 23, 2017

**Attendance:** George Rodriguez, Maria Garcia-Baltazar, Carol Boddie, Betty Bryant-Brown, Passyna Bula-Bula, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Carolyn Chamorro, Maura Cosme, Linda Duke, Isabel Figueroa, Lynda D. Gaines, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, John Johnson, Nellie McKay, Mohammed Mutawakil, Walter C. Nash, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Carmen Santos, Mohammed Sheikh, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Delores Waller-Worrell, Cesar Yoc.

**Absent:** Barbara Alvarez, Ngande Ambroise, Carmen Aquino, Nathaniel Aviles, Daniel Barber, Steven Benedith, Ronnie Caraballo, Richard Iyasere, John Lemon, Aracelis Lucero, Jewels Marshall, Brenda Rodriguez, Alice Simmons, Sandra Stone, Hakiem A. Yahmadi.

### Public Session

### New York City Commission on Human Rights

**Ms. Sophie White Associate Human Rights Specialist** said they assist and represent tenants that are being discriminated within the housing system. They will be holding the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Symposium on Thursday, April 27, 2017. The symposium is in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NYC Fair Housing Law and will be held at Hostos Café C Building/East Academic Complex located at 450 Grand Concourse, 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There will be a Session 1 from 2:30 PM to 5:15 PM for attorneys, advocates, and service providers and Session 11 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM for tenants and tenant organizers. A Tenant Resource Fair being held from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM to provide those attending with an opportunity to meet with government agencies and service provides.

### Questions and Comments

### TD Bank

**Mr. Victor Rodriguez Assistant Vice President Store Manager** for TD Bank said that we offer investment and wealth planning options with private client banking offering personal service; investment management working with you to develop a personal strategy; credit, lending and personalized mortgages offering customized lending for personal, business, commercial and specialty financing needs; and trust administration and estate planning working closely with you to design a plan to help preserve and transfer your wealth across generations. They have Customer Service access 24/7.

### Questions and Comments

### **Mass Mutual**

**Mr. Fernando Jimenez Financial Services Representative** said that it is important to have insurance so that your family is protected if something was to happen and we offer term life which provides temporary coverage for a specific period of time, perm life that is yours for life as long as you pay the premiums and whole life a type of permanent life insurance.

There are five scenarios where life insurance may help there are singles carrying some debt which could pass on to surviving family members or it may provide financial support for siblings or aging parents; you are a single parent caregiver do you have enough life insurance to ensure your children's financial future; is you're married and one of you dies would the surviving spouses income be sufficient to pay off debts, loans or monthly bills; married with kids and come down to one income would that be enough to keep you family's plans for the future intact; and just because your children are grown and the mortgage is paid does not mean that you no longer require life insurance.

Mass Mutual works to make your planning for financial wellness in achieving your financial goals easy through our guidance, online tools and financial solutions.

### **Questions and Comments**

### **Urban Up Bound**

**Ms. Danpang He Financial Coach from Urban Up Bound** said that her organization works specifically with the Jackson, Melrose and Morrisania Air Rights tenants in assisting them to create assets and networking. The tenant will earn rewards for saving money if they've saved \$20 dollars a month they receive an extra \$10 dollars in reward for free and can obtain up to \$60 dollars. We work with tenants on improving credit and credit scores, assisting them in making a budget and in managing their debt and loans.

### **Questions and Comments**

### **School District 7**

**Ms. Elisa Alvarez Superintendent of School District 7** said that there has been some progress in the testing scores. The Shepherds Program is allowing form them to acquire more Social Workers and Guidance Counselors. The students at PS154 are doing advanced studies and doing very well. She is still seeking additional space.

### **Questions and Comments**

**The Chairman called for the roll call.**

The roll was called with twenty-three members present constituting a quorum.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Agenda.**

Motion made to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.



**The Chairman called for a motion on the Prior Meeting Minutes.**

Motion made to approve the Prior Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously with 7-abstentions.

**Chairman and District Manager's Report**

**Mr. Cedric L. Loftin District Manager** said as everyone knows since January 2017 we have a new President a new election and the President has come up with various policies and one of the ideas and policies he has is trying to create some type of new environment related to people being able to come into the country achieve employment be able to stay here and some families that were here got separated and it's really gotten to the point of an enforcement issue. Where certain parts of the government have actively gone out in different parts of the country for to get people on certain types of violations and that have a record and then take those people out of the environment that they presently reside in. The issue was how does the impact of what ICE is doing Immigration Customs Enforcement have on our city and on people coming from other parts of the country that are here. So I sent correspondence to two people first to the American Civil Liberties Union when this first broke out that was three weeks ago no one ever responded to me. I called them up again no one ever responded to my calls. So I assume that they were not interested in what was happening in the Bronx they never responded to my query. However, I then reached out to my Commanding Officer to come and speak about the issue related to ICE and he's here tonight to talk to us about what the Police policy is and what it's related to what ICE is doing. I'm going to ask our Deputy Inspector Brian C. Hennessy to come up and he has the floor. He's been our Commander for eight months and he's done a yeoman's job in that time.

**Deputy Inspector Brian C. Hennessy Commanding Officer of the 40<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct** said thank you Mr. Loftin for inviting me tonight regarding some of the issues of the residents in the community on their immigration status. The New York City Police Department doesn't require immigration status. When it comes to someone being stopped in the street a victim of a crime or a witness we will never ask their immigration status whether it be for a summons or an arrest we don't ask that at all in any scenario what-so-ever. The New York City ID we consider it a valid form of government ID what don't ask immigration status we don't force civil immigration warrants whether it be from an ICE Agent or Administrative Judge. The only thing we do however we will honor a Federal Detainer. If someone in custody is arrested for a violent crime or is suspected of terrorism and he gets fingerprinted and those rap sheets come back our Criminal Justice Bureau will get the Detainer from ICE and will hold him for ICE on that violent felony or terrorist act. But other than those actions we don't take any action. We don't inquire about immigration status we don't detain arrest or anything other than that status just mentioned. As far as ICE action in the Precinct in my prior precinct sporadically from time to time you would have a notification that enforcement was being done but since I've been here I've not had any notification that enforcement was being done in this Precinct when we are aware of it we will let the Board know and keep you informed. But that is the department policy regarding immigration status.

**Questions and Comments**

**Mr. Cedric L. Loftin District Manager opened the Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2018 Budget.**

**There were no requested speakers.**

**Mr. Cedric L. Loftin District Manager** provided some highlights from the Mayors 2018 Preliminary Budget it's not the final budget it has to go before the City Council for approval.

**Detective Claudia Mera** announced a Public Safety Meeting being held at the Lincoln Hospital auditorium next Wednesday at 6:30 PM open to the public where you can ask any questions and share any concerns you may have.

**The Chairman called for a motion on his and the District Manager's report.**

Motion made to approve the Chairman and District Manager's Report as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

### **Elected Officials Reports**

**The representative from State Senator Serrano's office** said that Senator's Serrano and Hoylman introduced bills to make New York a safe place for immigrants The New York State Liberty Act Bill (S4075A) would protect immigrants from being victimized by unjust deportation procedures and racial profiling. The legislation would ensure that that anyone in need of vital government services would not be unnecessarily questions about their immigration status. The Liberty Act also prohibits local law enforcement agencies from stopping or arresting a person based on perceived immigration status or a suspected violation of federal immigration law, prevents them from inquiring about the immigration status of persons contacting such agencies including victims and witnesses and provides the right to legal representation for all people facing deportation proceedings. In addition, Senator Bill 4234 would prevent the State local governments from participating in any federal registry or database based upon race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion or national or ethnic origin.

Senator Serrano is a co-sponsor of the Raise the Age Legislation (Bill S5642A of 2015) and will continue to fight for the passage of this important legislation. Every year as you know nearly 28,000 sixteen and seventeen year-olds face the possibility of prosecution as adults in criminal court. So in order to prevent that there is that bill. As research has shown, placing adolescents in an adult criminal justice system is counterproductive for both the defendant and for public safety.

Finally I would like to remind you that every Tuesday we hold Constituent Hours either in a public library or in a senior center. The next Constituent Hours will be on Tuesday in the Bronx on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Mitchel Houses Senior Center from 11 AM to 2 PM.

**The representative from Councilmember Salamanca's office** said that just want to mention a couple of things one on Monday we will be having a Black History celebration co-sponsoring with Senator Serrano's office it will be happening at HOSTOS Community College it will be from 10-1 and we're encouraging everyone to come out. We will be honoring a lot of our local officials and dignitaries for the work they do in the community. Secondly we're working on a Know Your Rights Town Hall and hoping to have it within the next couple of weeks maybe the second week in March. What we're trying to do is educate our documented and undocumented constituents letting them know what their rights are. We want to educate people and let them know as much as they can and also to let them know documented or undocumented you're still our constituents and we're here to serve you no matter what. Additionally we're also going to be having legal services from New York Legal Services the Bronx chapter working here in our office on March 9<sup>th</sup>. So their doing it scheduled through appointments so you can call our



office and we will set it up for you it's going to be from 2-5 PM and they work on issues such as housing, benefits consumer rights ect. So if you have some issues or need some kind of legal assistance you can reach out to our office and we can set up an appointment for you with them. On top of that it's also budget season so the Councilman working to kind of get more money geared towards our community and has already been able to get several million dollars pumped into this district and he's trying to get some more and do as much as we can to improve things around here. But also in honor of Black History Month the Councilman wanted to honor the District Manager Mr. Loftin and I'm here with a Citation from the City Council this is acknowledgement on the work he's done in the community.

Everyone present clapped on Mr. Loftin receiving the Citation.

**Mr. Cedric L. Loftin District Manager** thanked the Councilman for the Citation.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Elected Officials Reports.**

Motion made to approve the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**The Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee Chairperson** provided an overview of the following presentations.

- The New York City Department of City Planning on the Harlem River Waterfront Expansion and Update.
- The New York City Economic Development Corporation on the Lower Concourse Investment.
- Xenolith Partners LLC on the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Site 23 Block 2418, Lot 6 Borough of the Bronx Community District 1.

**Chairman of the Committee called for a motion from the Board on the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Site 23 Block 2418, Lot 6.**

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Site Block 2418, Lot 6 and the Article 11 Tax Abatement. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously with 2-abstentions.

**Mr. Cedric L. Loftin District Manager** said that the Municipal Services Report was in the Board Member folders.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Reports.**

Motion made to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**Pg. 6**

**Old Business**

Ms. Tracy Woodall provided an update on C-Ball upcoming activities and events.

**New Business**

Ms. Nellie McKay said that next month the New York City Housing Authority would be installing new lighting, doors, key fobs for the doors and that the colors for the flooring have been picked out.

**The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.**

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned.**