

FULL BOARD MEETING
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1
January 30, 2014

MINUTES

Attendance: George Rodriguez, Robert H. Barnes, Carol Boddie, Michael C. Brady, Betty Bryant-Brown, Passyna Bula-Bula, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Maura Cosme, Gloria Cruz, Linda Duke, Isabel Figueroa, Linda D. Gaines, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Johnson, John Lemon, Theresa Marrero, Walter Christopher-Nash, Linda Ortiz, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Delores Waller-Worrell.

Absent: Ngande Ambroise, Carmen Aquino, Maria Garcia Baltazar, Jessica Clemente, Silverio Guzman, Jorge Leon, Eileen Marquez, Nellie Mckay, Evelyn Munoz, Alice Simmons, Marcelo Villagran, Betty Wessley, Maria Davis-Wilson, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Hakiem A. Yahmadi.

Public Session

The District Manager introduced Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo.

Assemblywoman Arroyo said thank you for your attention Happy New Year to everybody. Happy everything well except the weather it's cold but I think at this time last year it was not this cold. But it is a new year and we have work to do.

I'm here today and you will see me now more often because we have a big problem in our community specifically in the district that I represent in Albany. The voting in this community has gone down about 30 percent and that is a disaster. Having elections years ago that we have 8,000 people coming out to vote down to 3,000 is a shame. How this works is very crucial for us because in this community I represent they count us by the people that vote and we have a district that 28 and 32 thousand people vote. Even though each district has the same population 120 thousand individuals and from those 32 thousand to 3,000 in the South Bronx that puts my face down. Then I spoke with my Speaker and we agreed in something that is important that we come out to the community and make a campaign to register people because other communities don't have the problems that we face. One of the problems that we face is the mobility of people

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from one side to another. If you look the district has about 12 shelters people and shelters are not permanent residents that affects all of us. Another part is a big population from the community is

moving away because our schools are failing and people of course look for a better environment for the children I don't blame them. The schools were not good when I had my children I never moved but I went inside and fought for their education. You know that I was a School Board member for years and I helped the schools and helped the parents to improve the ability of our children and the capacity to learn. Now we have Charter Schools and what is happening is that the Charters are becoming better schools than the Public Schools. This year we have 68 percent more applications for Charter Schools for children than was last year. People believe in Charter Schools for two reasons Charter School is a community school you have the opportunity to meet the Teacher you have a direct contact but more than that the money is controlled by the school. It's not like we send billions of dollars to the city for education and from those billions only pennies go into the classroom. There are Public Schools where the Teacher has to use money from her salary to buy things for the classroom is that a shame. The past Administration for 10 years is water under the bridge let's see how working together we can help to change this because you know who's the one affected our children.

Developing in my office a registration drive. Nada Franco now works with me. You know Nada from the community and she is well known in this community. We are going to be visiting buildings speaking to people and putting flyers in the buildings under the doors to make sure that those that are not registered come out and get registered. New citizens please advise them that the first thing that they must do is get registered to vote. Let's work together in our community I need help everywhere that I go I scream and fight for my community as I do every day and I have been doing that for 20 years. This is my 20th year in the Assembly and you didn't send me to Albany to decorate the walls because the walls of the Capitol doesn't need decoration you send me over there to work and that's what I am doing.

Let me tell you a big victory that I had this year for many years we have been fighting with the Board of Regents and the State Department of Education because bi-lingual education has been put aside for years. I'm the Chair of bi-lingual education in the Assembly and day by day involved in education across the State because it's not only the South Bronx who has children that need bi-lingual education. You'd be surprised how many children need bi-lingual education and how the government takes the money and puts the money down the drain except in the classrooms for the children. After so many years of fighting we have a big victory you have to know this because you send me there to fight for you. The Board of Regents made a position of Assistant Commissioner of Education. For the first time in the history of the State Department of Education we have a Hispanic woman sub-Commissioner in charge of Bi-Lingual Education Angelica Infante from New York. A friend of mine such a woman is a professional she got a Doctorate degree. She sits in the cabinet of the Commission she is one of the head there making decisions for us. For me that is the biggest victory that I ever had in the State Assembly even though we have achieved a lot because I was the creator of Charters. When nobody believed in Charters I think together with a group of people and we put Charter on the table and Charter is

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working. What works the fact there is money that is what I am concerned about Bi-Lingual Education receives federal funding in the billions that money never goes to the classrooms. But

now we have a watchdog in the Department of Education that is going to be working for us and with us. In general education the Governor is putting money where the money belongs and we are telling him where he makes mistakes. He happens to be a good friend I call him el muchacho because I know him when he was a muchacho and he's doing very good. This year he passed a ten point bill for the rights of woman to receive in pay the same money for the same work as men that never happened before. Those are issues that we have to work with.

The minimum wage we are all listening to what is going on. Now the President brought it to the table and also gave the order the Federal Contractors to pay \$10.10 an hour to employees that were making \$7.00 an hour. In our community because I receive complaints there are a lot of small businesses that are concerned and the concern is how I can pay that. These are programs that we have to work with. As a community representative I represent everybody not just the workers but also the small businesses. What we are trying to do is give them a tax incentive for each extra penny that they pay in salary that they receive a tax break from the federal government and the state government. Then we can match the situation and everybody will be happy because if a person is making a couple of dollars more a day they're not going to go to Washington to spend the money they are going to spend the money in the neighborhood and that is important.

Questions

Police Officer Hector Espada said that the Deputy Inspector was working on a Domestic Violence Forum for the 40th coming up in March. We have the place but we're trying to figure out the date and time. We would like for as many people in the community to participate in this forum because a lot of people are not educated as far as domestic violence especially if you have friends and neighbors that are from country that are scared to report domestic violence because of deportation. That's not true no one is going to get deported we don't look for that we don't ask for that we treat everyone the same if you're a victim you're a victim that's what we look at, at the end of the day to make your life less dangerous. So please tell those people that weren't born in the United States that are not educated with knowing the law we're not here to question where you're from. So please spread the word. The forum will be held on March 5th 6 to 8 PM.

Questions

End of Public Session

The Chairman called for the roll.

The roll was called and there were twenty-five members constituting a quorum.

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The Chairman called for a motion on the Agenda.

Motion made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. 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. Called and passed unanimously with 6-abstentions.

Chairman & District Manager's Report

The Chairman and District Manager gave their report on the following items.

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has added 735 Melrose Avenue (Bronx) the former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner to its Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites within New York's State Superfund Program. This state program identifies, investigates and cleans up sites where large accumulations of hazardous waste may exist.
- The development of Bronxchester sites 6 and 7 is to be developed by a project called La Central proposing to build five apartment buildings with a total of 985 units on the last large parcel of city-owned vacant land. This project will include a YMCA, a rooftop farm, a recording studio, stores, restaurant, a clinic and parking garage.

The District Manager asked Paul Philps from City Planning to provide a brief overview on the proposed project.

Mr. Paul Philps said that these are the Bronxchester sites which I think everyone is familiar with sites 6 and 7. The development team HPD did an RFP they selected a team and the previous Mayor made an announcement in December. The team came and gave a brief presentation to the committee in January. They will have to go through ULURP because it's city-owned property. They will be working with our department and HPD on the proposal so that's to say that they will come back to you guys several more times. Some of the Board Members have identified questions and concerns about some aspects of the development. They've taken all those into account they will work with HPD and Cedric and come back to you guys. When it does enter public review it will be a full ULURP item so we will go through the usual process it will come to Community Board, the Borough President, City Planning Commission and the City Council as well.

Questions

- Fresh Direct had informed the Board that they have begun test borings on the site at the Harlem River Yards. Will keep the Board informed of any future developments.

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

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

Elected Officials Reports

The Bronx Borough President's representative submitted his written report on the following items.

- The Bronx Borough President urges Bronx residents to heed call to civic duty and apply to your local Community Board.
- The Bronx Borough President joined by elected officials, business and community leaders for his inauguration ceremony and official kickoff to Bronx County's year-round centennial celebration.
- Statement from Bronx Borough President regarding City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. "I offer my congratulations today on this historic occasion to my colleague in government, City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito on her election to the position of City Council Speaker".
- Statement from Bronx Borough President regarding Governor Cuomo's "State of the State" address. "I am thrilled that Governor Cuomo committed his office to bringing four new Metro North stations to the Bronx in his "State of the State" address today".
- The Bronx Borough President said that he was happy to have worked with the Bloomberg Administration, Deputy Mayor Steel, the NYCEDC and the Bronx Overall Economic
- Development Corporation to help make this agreement a reality of the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market committing to stay in the Bronx until at least 2021 keeping approximately 3,000 jobs.

The State Senator Jose M. Serrano's representative submitted his Reports to the People.

- The State Senator and Assembly member Linda B Rosenthal announced today that they are drafting legislation that will close the dangerous loophole in New York State law. Myls Law will require the NYPD and police officers across the state to notify local child welfare agencies, like ACS whenever a person who is the primary caregiver of a child is arrested or taken into custody. Hopefully this will ensure that children are left under safe and secure supervision by someone qualified to provide this care.
- The State Senator and Assembly member Brian Kavanagh announced the introduction of a new bill banning the sale of children's projects containing the carcinogen formaldehyde

- by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers in New York State. Despite the proven health threat it continues to be used in many households' products including those used by children such as toys and linens. Children are more susceptible to the danger of formaldehyde which can cause serious nervous system damage and asthma.
- The State Senator applauds the decision of Landmarks Preservation Commission to grant Landmark status to interior of the Bronx General Post office.
- The State Senator wrote a letter to New York City Housing Authority urging repairs at Mitchell Houses Senior Center. Since this letter repairs have been made.

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

Motion made to accept the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Economic Development-Land Use & Housing committee submitted a written report on the following presentation.

- La Central Project on large piece of city-owned vacant land.

Old Business

None

New Business

Board Member Justino Rodriguez made a motion for the Board to send a letter of congratulations to Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed with 3-abstentions.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned.

