

FULL BOARD MEETING

January 28, 2016

MINUTES

Attendance: George Rodriguez, Barbara Alvarez, Ngande Ambroise, Maria Garcia-Baltazar, Daniel Barber, Steven Benedith, Carol Boddie, Betty Bryant-Brown, Passyna Bula-Bula, Carolyn Chamorro, Maura Cosme, Linda Duke, Isabel Figueroa, Lynda D. Gaines, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Johnson, Aracelis Lucero, Jewels Marshall, Mohammed Mutawakil, Walter C. Nash, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Brenda Rodriguez, Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Sandra Stone, Betty Wessley, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Hakiem A. Yahmadi, Cesar Yoc.

Absent: Clarisa Alayeto, Carmen Aquino, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, John Lemon, Angel Lopez, Evelyn Munoz, Jason Ortiz, Johnny Rivera, Delores Waller-Worrell.

Public Session

Mr. Cedric L. Loftin, District Manager presented a check in the amount of \$750.00 dollars to Ms. Jaryanna Rivera, Ms. Adelle Rosa, Ms. Amanda Fraticelly, Mr. Taleek Neal and Mr. Elijah Ramos the five awardees of the Yankees 2015 Youth Leadership Award.

End of Public Session

The Chairman called for the roll.

The roll was called and there were twenty-four 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 12 abstentions.

Chairman and District Manager's Report

The District Manager Cedric L. Loftin introduced Inspector Carlos Valdez Commander of the 40th Precinct.

Inspector Carlos Valdez Commander of the 40th Police Precinct said that I'm the new Commanding Officer of the 40th Precinct I was assigned here July 22nd. I apologize for taking so long to come and meet everyone here I've met a few people and there are some familiar faces but the Police Department had sent me to what is called a Police Management Institute Course given by Columbia University and what it entailed was since the beginning of last year I was scheduled to go away upstate where they give this course for a week at a time. Unfortunately it coincided every time there was a meeting here so I heard that some people were looking for me that's the reason why I haven't been able to attend it's hard to be two places at once. But now that I've completed that course it's over basically I had to give a presentation to the Police Commissioner or my group does on how to improve the department. So I just wanted to get that out of the way so I don't want anyone to think that I was dodging the Community Board.

A little background on myself I am coming up on twenty-six years in the department I'm originally from Queens. My parents migrated here from Peru they met here I'm one of three brothers and my father currently resides in the Bronx so I do have some ties to the borough. I started off as a young Transit cop here in District 11 and I as a young Sergeant here in PSA7 I was the Crime Sergeant for a couple of years the majority of my career has been spent in the Emergency Service Unit I think a lot of people know that as SWAT. But when I made Captain that's when I left that part of my career and started off as an Executive at PSA2 I've previously commanded PSA1 and prior to coming to the 40 was Commander of the 61 Precinct. So this is my third Command. I'm very happy to be here and very familiar with the neighborhood. The Officers in the 40 Precinct are the best you can find anywhere they're very hard working and dedicated. So I do appreciate being here very much.

Just to let you know what happened last year in the 40 Precinct. Unfortunately we did have a big crime increase overall. We led the City percentage wise in crime 24 and a half percent increase altogether by December 31st and of the seven major categories except for Grand Larceny in automobiles we were up in everything robberies, rapes, homicides in every category. The positive things that happened the command was down in violence we were down eight percent in shootings last year which is a good effort going in the right direction. I think a lot of that had to do with the amount of guns the 40 Precinct took off the streets they took close to 130 guns this last year. Again this is a reflection on the hard work that the Officers in the Precinct do. We did have a takedown of two major crews in the Mott Haven and Patterson Houses the first week of December. It was a long term investigation that was started by my predecessor Lorenzo Johnson and with the help of Narcotics which was headed by a former 40 CO Inspector Chris McCormick. The investigation went on for about a year and a half we were able to put away 49 very, very bad people through Federal Indictment which means that these people will not be seeing the light of day anytime soon. They were locked up for robberies, shootings, homicides and narcotics. So it was a good take down and we got a lot of positive feedback from the community and although there were 49 arrests they weren't all picked up the first of the year about 20 of them were picked up two months prior to the take down. So that's one thing that's good. So far this year we do have one shooting it happened on the first of the year approximately 2:30 in the morning by 135th Street. We really don't think that it's anything retaliatory that it has nothing to do with the 40 the individual that was shot was actually from the 46 at a local bar or restaurant on Bruckner Boulevard. He was not from this area but it so happens that he got shot here. Now what's going on new in the 40 it's been prevalent throughout the City now and it started up in the Rockaway's and the 33 and 34 in Manhattan and we just started the program here two weeks ago called the Neighborhood Community Officers Program (NCO). What's happened really is that the whole Precinct has been restructured. Before this the Precinct was broken down to 11 different sectors and I had a whole variety of specialized units schools, narcotics, conditions and things of that nature. So what the department came up with this new program we broke down the 40 Precinct into 4 different sectors and we assigned these NCO Officers to each sector and

along with these NCO Officers we're going to have dedicated Officers assigned to each sector. The basis for this is for you to get to know your community Police Officer. Commissioner Bratton and Chief O'Neal what to bring some sort of community outreach back. I brought with me today Sergeant Feigenbaum my NCO Supervisor Sergeant in charge of the 8 NCO's in the 40 Precinct there are 2 assigned to each sector. So if you're having any problems reach out to the Sergeant and these Officers and they will try to address that as much as possible and if they cannot they will bring it to my attention and if we have to resource the problem out if its narcotics or gangs then we will do so. It's a program that so far has gotten back a lot of positive feedback in the other Precincts that have been running it for awhile and we look forward to continuing that progress. The Commissioner doesn't want this to become a specialty department they want a well rounded Officer one that can address all your issues not just narcotics, not just gangs but they want the Officers to address all issues. So one thing it did I had to reassign all these Officers that were in specialty units and they're back on patrol. In essence I have a lot more Officers out on patrol then I did just three weeks ago. So that is the one thing that not only this Precinct has going on but of course the department does also. I think that's really what I have going on right now. Once again I look forward to being here. I enjoy my time here it is a challenge every day and I have very dedicated Officers. I started in the Bronx and I've always liked the Bronx.

Questions

The New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer said that for those of you who don't know me I'm Scott Stringer the City Comptroller. You elected me two years ago and I've been making my way to Boards all over the City and the reason I go to the Boards is because I understand very clearly that the heart and soul of community is defined by a Community Board the people who come out to meetings and the people who serve for no money but serve the community every month. Think about how many people the Community Board represents and how few people are on the Board and come out to the meeting to watch out for your neighbors and for your community and I want to thank you for that. When I was the Manhattan Borough President I worked very closely with Community Boards. I do believe very strongly that if you are smart to want to learn what's happening that you will come to the Community Board. So that's why I'm here tonight. I want to tell you just a little bit about what I'm doing. Also for you to know there's a lot I want to do with you. Part of the job of Comptroller is to do a couple of things first I work very closely with City Hall I'm the Chief Fiscal Officer and we work with the Mayor. While working with the Mayor I'm also the Auditor so just when he wants to put his arms around me and say I love my Comptroller that's when it gets complicated right. That's a good thing because you need checks and balances. Nobody is right all the time and nobody is wrong all the time. My job is to watch out for the people in this City and for the last two years we have spent a lot of time doing something that has never been done before we have gone into the New York City Housing Authority with seven audits looking at finances. Because unless we protect this valuable housing stock this City is going to become a City for very wealthy people maybe enclaves for the poor people but the aspirations of NYCHA will not exist in the next ten to twenty years we have to say that it is very serious. Today we have said for the first time that NYCHA must be funded there is a \$17 billion dollar deficit. The answer can't be infill development luxury units. What we need to do is find new revenue streams and one of the things I've proposed is to take you know Battery Park City in lower Manhattan they actually provide a lot of money and it's been an agreement that the City gets some of those proceeds. I'm now saying that we should take \$400 million dollars of that money and spread it out over ten years so that we know that NYCHA is getting the first dedicated funding stream. That is something that I want you to support because we have to invest in NYCHA. The reason we have to invest is because if we don't take care of the capital needs of NYCHA then we're going to have more people living in homeless shelters. Eighteen thousand people are now living in our shelters but get this I believe that three thousand of them are children. In this day and age in

a City that its fiscal health is as good as it's ever been now today we're stronger than ever but many people are sleeping in homeless shelters. I know this means a lot to many of you because you have kids and grandkids. We can't have the babies in the shelters and part of what I'm doing now is going shelter by shelter and the investigations are showing that these shelters have thousands of violations. Some of the people that live in shelters live with rats, rodents and a whole lot of other creatures 86 percent of the shelters I looked at had housing code violations this is serious and hazardous these violations have to be fixed. We're now working with HRA Commissioner and the Mayor to finally fix these shelters. No one was looking at the invisible City and that's what has been happening with the shelter system. I'm focused on NYCHA and the shelter system.

We also have to make sure that we claim an economic pipeline for our children let's face it our kids are the smartest and most diverse these kids that go to our Public Schools need resources. We've got to own the high tech economy and make sure that our kids benefit from that. We can't just have the entrepreneurs here and we're not preparing our kids. When I became Comptroller we did a report on Arts Education and we found that places like the South Bronx right here in this community there weren't enough Arts Education Teachers and that was true in Central Brooklyn. Working with the Mayor we are now investing in Arts Education Teachers. Things have changed now in Arts Education and Engineering you can get a job that pay \$75 thousand dollars our kids can get right to middle class they don't even have to go up the ladder. In this high tech economy they're going to make it and we need to prepare our children for Arts, Engineering and Science Teachers and we need our kids to benefit. That is where I'm coming from as Comptroller. We have to help the children and we also have to help the people that are suffering in our shelters and those who are living in NYCHA as they've helped build up their communities. You can't let them down and you can't talk about building affordable housing and leave NYCHA behind. You can't build and forget who built up the neighborhood and that's what this agenda's got to be about. I just want to say we're going to work with all of you.

Questions

The Chairman called for a motion on the Chairman and District Managers Report.

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

Elected Official Reports

Mr. Andy Toledo the representative for the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said a quick friendly reminder to those Board Members that are up for reappointment if you have not submitted your application please do so. If you are not reapplying just a reminder your term ends on March 31st. If you're interested in serving on the Community Board we are accepting applications and the deadline is next week Friday. Just a reminder you can be as young as 16 years of age. So if you have a son, daughter, niece or nephews that are interested in government and policy please have them fill out an application. On the event note February 18th is the State of the Borough address all the Board Members and general public are invited. Seating is limited so if you're interested in attending I have some flyers and there's a phone number where you can RSVP. If you're not able to attend but still interested in watching the State of the Borough address it will be streamed online so you can log in to the Borough President's website and see a live stream and Bronx Net will also have an airing later that evening. So it will be on Thursday, February 18th at Cardinal Hayes 11:30 A.M.

Ms. Gloria Cruz representative of the Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito said that I hope everyone has our News Letter. There are just two things I want to touch base on Participatory Budgeting is one. We are now picking the projects to be able to be on the voting ballot. We also have fiscal year 2017 applications and it's on the website. As you know District 17 has an empty seat and Melissa want to reassure everybody in the community that there are still people working there to serve the community. So she will be at the District 17's office for a Melissa meet up on February 17th from 5:00 to 7:00 to reassure this community that they will still be served until they get a new Councilperson. Any concerns or complaints please feel free to call and I will do my best to fix the problem.

Mr. Ramon Cabral representative for Congressman Jose E. Serrano said that I'm here to assure you that the Federal Government is not your enemy. There are people working against you and that's unfortunate but Congressman Serrano is working for you all and definitely for housing. As of now we've recently sent a letter to the Secretary of HUD to kind of figure out what we can do for the AMI. AMI is big issue now with the Housing Plan and it doesn't show what the actual income is in the Bronx because it's including Westchester and Long Island. Because of this the income goes up to what's not reality. So we recently sent a letter to HUD asking them if they could figure out another way to determine the AMI in the Bronx either by Zip Code or district but we are working on that. The second thing is that we have an even on February 23rd, Tuesday from 10:00 to 12:00 PM it's celebrating Black History Month at Hostos Community College. If you want more information you can call our office at 718 – 620-0084.

Ms. Rayna Taylor representative for Assemblyman Michael Blake said that I'm here to tell you about two events coming up. So we're having a Civil Rights Round Table taking place on February 3rd at 6:00 PM in our office at 777 Concourse Village East and discussing issues of people with criminal background, housing discrimination, tenant harassment, employment discrimination, equal educational opportunities, immigration rights and religious rights. If you want more information about the Round Table you can call us at 718 – 538-3829. In addition to that we're going to be having our State of the District this Sunday, January 31st 2:00 PM at 1085 Washington Avenue and you can RSVP by calling our office.

Ms. Jessica Reynoso representative for the Public Advocate Letitia James said that Tish is involved in a lawsuit with NYCHA. She's suing NYCHA because there are a lot of complaints and they're not up to par with heat. Two she's also working to try to pass legislation having to do with the Sanitation Department so they can have some type of program to help the elderly and disabled with snowplowing. Lastly she is also involved in a lawsuit against Success Academy Charter School because they have a lack of accommodations for disabled children. That's about it for now.

Ms. Mariel De La Cruz representative for the Comptroller Scott Stringer said that there's two events that he didn't mention one is happening on February 4th at 9:30 AM and that is the Clergy Tax Workshop for any religious organization that may have questions about their taxes. The second event is a Town Hall meeting on March 31st I don't have a flyer on this yet but when their ready I will bring them here.

Ms. Farhan Hassan representative for the State Senator Jose M. Serrano said that I'm here tonight to talk about our upcoming events in February focusing on free tax services. So everyone should have this calendar showing our upcoming Constituent Hours in the Bronx offsite at Libraries and Senior Centers. Please note that at the Libraries specifically we will be by Ariva to provide free advice to you so come out if you need general advice on how to do your taxes and we're putting together a packet of all three sites throughout the Senator's district. So through that packet locate the nearest site to you and bring your necessary documents to have your taxes filed for free. There will be special accommodations for

disabilities. Refer to the Calendar of Events that is being sent around. I've also handed out our January News Letter. So if you have any questions feel free to call or email us. You'll notice in the Report that we have attached our letters in the back that the Senator has signed on to or has sent. You'll notice that he sent a letter to the MTA about the Yankee Stadium station we've been advocating for it to be repainted. We just want to make sure that the MTA holds to its word. Lastly tomorrow we're having a free SNAP screening at the Mitchell Houses Senior Center. So if you know someone who could be eligible for SNAP have them come by and they will be assessed it will be from 11:00 to 2:00 P.M. I will be there and will be joined by the Food Bank of New York City. Just to recap refer to our Calendar of Events for the coming Constituent Hours and free tax service.

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.

The District Manager Cedric L. Loftin said that I had a conference call with the New York City Department of Health on the Zika Virus. They called today to let me know that we now have 31 cases. So it appears that is spreading from South America and Central America to the United States. The flyer in your folder will provide you with background information related to it from the Health Department. They're saying they don't believe it will be an epidemic but as you may have heard no control of this virus has been developed by the government as of yet. I will keep you informed.

Committee Reports

The Education and Youth Committee's written was in the Board Member folders.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Report.

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

Old Business

Board Member Carmen Santos said that the 40th Precinct Community Council gave away over 400 toys to the children that they had collected from people in the community.

New Business

None

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned.

