

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ CHAIRPERSON

FULL BOARD MEETING

BRONX COMMUNITY BORD 1

3024 Third Avenue Bronx, New York 10455

AGENDA

March 30, 2017 6:00 PM

Mr. George Rodriguez - Chairman

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Public Session
 - Mr. Adolfo Figueroa
 Community Coordinator
 New York City Department of Education

 Re: Pre-K for All
 - Ms. Zaira Hernandez-Cinto
 Immigrant Health Outreach Coordinator
 Family Health Center of Harlem
 Re: Program Services
 - Mr. David Soto
 Community Coordinator
 Resident Engagement Department
 New York City Housing Authority
 Re: South Bronx Youth Leadership Council "Green Day"
 - Mr. Glenn J. Bullock
 Community Engagement Coordinator/Senior Financial Counselor
 Jobs-Plus
 BronxWorks
 Re: Jobs-Plus expansion
- 3. Call to Order
- 4. Approval of the Agenda

and other youth throughout the city. So April 12th we've been engaging a bunch of non-profits and agencies throughout the city to come support this initiative. We're actually doing work throughout four developments St. Mary's, Betances, Patterson and Mott Haven. Our youth have also been engaging NYPD Explorers and other youth organizations. Part of this event is actually intergenerational so we're looking to engage seniors and adults so that way they come out an advocate for gardening, clean up, cleanup beautification. We're doing a mural art project for everyone to be involved in. What we're doing now is actively engaging adults and seniors to come out on April 12th to be a part of Green Day. You've been given a handout hopefully you can consider coming yourself or try to get the word out so that we can have folks come out to support our Youth Council. Jewels Marshall which I'm sure all of you know is actually part of our Youth Council we're happy to say that. Mr. Barber was kind enough to connect us with her. So we're just having a great time since November we've done up to fifteen meetings successfully and we're looking forward to having our final summit in June and every young person gets a hundred hours of credits and will receive a certificate. We're doing a tree pit cleanup on Brook Avenue so we're looking for another team to actively be involved in that as well.

BronxWorks

Mr. Glenn J. Bullock Community Engagement Coordinator said that a couple of years ago I had the chance to address the Community Board on the Jobs-Plus Program which is an exclusive workforce development program that focuses on certain housing developments. At the time when it came out two years ago the three housing developments that we services were the Betances Houses. The Moore Houses on 149th & Jackson and the Courtlandt buildings which are managed by Melrose but we did not provide services at the time in Melrose. So I'm here today to say that we have won the new Jobs-Plus contract administered by HRA and now not only can we continue Jobs-Plus services through the three developments I just mentioned but they added the Melrose Houses. So beginning in April finally we start providing employment services to folks who live in Melrose, one-on-one financial counseling, and also building community supports, networks, sharing information and those sorts of things. So if there are Melrose residents that you know they do not have to be on the lease they do have to live in the developments then we can provide employment services and financial counseling to them. We do free tax prep during the tax season. Coming through the Jobs-Plus Program people can actually get access to a lot of BronxWorks Programs elsewhere for example we have a lot of seniors programs, a great HIV prevention and support department. BronxWorks pretty much does everything for from toddlers to seniors.

Questions and Comments

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca said good evening today was a nice day so was yesterday I think that it's going to rain tomorrow. First I want to say how humbled I am to be here and just want to start off with I am doing Participatory Budgeting. I'm sure you all know what that is I'm taking a million dollars from my capital money that's allocated to me at City Hall and I'm allowing the community to tell me how to spend that money. We went around to the communities throughout the last couple of months to get ideas and we gave the ideas to City Hall. I mean to the Finance Committee in City Council and they came out with ten projects that are acceptable for the Participatory Budgeting. So if you have not filled out a ballot please do so. This is the only way that everyone is allowed to vote after that we're going to submit this the ballots are going to get tallied and then we'll come back and make announcements as to who are the winners for the Participatory Budgeting. I think one of the main ones in my Council District is Alfred E. Smith High School lights for the football field which is one of my favorites because I went to

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Alfred E. High School and we didn't have lights back then so it would be great as the Councilmember to put lights.

This afternoon actually this morning I did a walk through down at the HUB you may see it in the news with the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs. It's a new initiative that the Administration is doing and basically we hit up 70 businesses on the HUB and it's just to educate the businesses to the do's and don'ts so that you can avoid getting a violation. We had an Inspector there with us they spoke to them and they left information. If you need more information you can contact our office or you can contact the Third Avenue HUB Bid and they will provide you with any information or any business owners in the area that did not get a visit from Consumer Affairs. On my way here to meet the Commissioner on 149th & Third Avenue I drove by Brook in front of the Horizon Detention Center and I saw what I always saw double and triple parking and it really angered me. A year ago I did a walk-through of Horizon Detention Center with the Commissioner Carrion at the time she's no longer there and I brought that to her attention I said why is it that your employees are double and triple parking and parking on the sidewalk. You know no one can walk through these sidewalks is unacceptable. I don't see anyone here from the 40 Precinct I'm going to take it up with them as well. There's no enforcement from the 40 Precinct. This is something that needs to be addressed. If I'm parked somewhere blocking a fire hydrant even with my permit from the city I'll get a ticket and its \$115 dollars. So why are they not enforcing number one and number two why is the Department of Corrections allowing their employees to double and triple park. It's not about double and triple parking its more that driving towards Westchester they have to drive over the yellow line because cars are blocking. So rest assured that I'm on top of that and tomorrow morning at 11 AM maybe you want to give you agency a heads up I'm going to call them out.

The other issue that I have is that I know last month you guys voted on the Phipps ULURP project on 156 maybe 2 months ago and now it's gotten to the stage that it's on my desk and I have issue with that project ad I want to be very straight forward with the community. Mr. Weinstein who prides himself on having employees that are part of labor the Teamsters when I went to Via Verde and saw them and said wow they're doing a good job. I met with the Teamsters President. These guys are getting paid a little less than \$12 dollars an hour and they're not getting health insurance I have a problem with that. Now they're offering them the Obama Care Insurance. But now these employees are having an option to choose whether they get the insurance of Obama Care I know there's another name for it Affordable Care. It's either that or bring food to the table and what are they choosing they're choosing to bring food to the table. Here you have a CEO that's being compensated over \$7 hundred thousand dolla5rs a year but yet he is sub-contracting with sub-contractors with the Teamsters and they're paying their employees less than \$12 dollars an hour ad they're not providing them with health insurance. So until Mr. Weinstein fixes that problem I'm going to have a problem with his ULURP and it may get denied from my office.

With that my office is on Southern Boulevard & Westchester and I'm here to serve you. I take seriously the work that I do and very seriously protecting workers rights. I'm very passionate about my work. God Bless you all.

Questions and Comments

End of Public Session

The Chairman called for the roll.

The roll was called and there were twenty-five 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 Minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously with 8-abstentions.

Chairman and District Manager's Report

The District Manager Cedric L. Loftin introduced the honorable Public Advocate Ms. Letitia James.

Honorable Letitia James New York City Public Advocate said hello everybody and it's an honor and a privilege to be here at Community Board 1. For those who do not know me I am your Public Advocate and I'm here obviously to talk to you a little bit about what the Office of Public Advocate does. The Office of Public Advocate is second in line to the Mayor of the City of New York. The Public Advocate presides over the City Council. If you can't sleep at night you can always watch the cable channel where I preside over the City Council I guarantee you that will put you to sleep. In addition to that the Public Advocate introduces legislation. I have introduced more legislation than any other Public Advocate in history. We also sit and I am a trustee on the NYCER's Board which is the Pension Board for the City of New York where we invest retiree's monies in investments seeking a high yield for their retirement. In addition to that the Office of Public Advocate I've sort of transformed somewhat we have Case Workers, Social Workers you can walk in we can resolve your issue you don't need a fancy Lawyer you don't need a high paid Lobbyist all you need is a cause. We also have an Investigative Unit and last but not least we have a legal department because I am a Lawyer where we are basically engaging in litigation based on pattern and practice and based on when agencies fail to do their job. So although the Mayor and I are close allies we worked in the City Council previously I represented downtown Brooklyn we're in different roles and now I have to sue him and so I've sued the Mayor from time to time I've also sued the Governor from time to time particularly when we feel that individuals are not being heard and they have grievances that have not been addressed by the City and/or State agencies such as children in Foster Care. Children who I argued were not being cared for but psychologically and sexually abused and we brought the attention to the Mayor's Office. In addition to disabled children that were riding on hot buses. The law requires that you have air conditioned buses and the buses last summer were not working and the children who unfortunately were not verbal were being transported to schools in buses seated in over 100 degrees. Unfortunately we could not get that corrected so that's why we took it into litigation. So that's some of the cases that we have initiated.

Just today I had a forum because this is Women's History Month. So today we had a forum with Chelsea Clinton and we announced that we have legislation that will be passed on April 5th and the legislation goes something like this perspective employers cannot ask perspective employees about their salary history. Why, because women often times leave the workforce and are disadvantaged when they come back into the workforce after raising children or caring for a sick parent or grandparent. They often time argue against themselves and they're put at a disadvantage. So now certain employees not all but certain employees will not have to post salaries so that individuals and particularly and this effects all employees both men and women again not be in a position where they're arguing against themselves. It goes to the issue of pay equity women not being paid less than men for basically doing the same job and if you think

that this is a women's issue it is not because it's an issue that effects all of us it effects our families, it effects our economy. We want to again provide more resources to women so that we can raise the stake for women so that we can address the issue of feminization of poverty in this State. That bill will be passed in the City Council on April 5th and I want to thank the Mayor for that. We passed a bill several weeks ago where we're going to do a pilot program where we're going to promote recycling. So individuals that live in Public Housing will receive cards where you can redeem those cards and you will get discounts as long as you recycle. What we're trying to do is promote recycling, why is that because we New York City taxpayers spend billions with regards to trash garbage is a business and individuals are making billions of dollars off trash. In order to reduce those costs we need to reduce the amount of garbage that we send to other States to deal with our garbage because we're running out of space here in New York.

I know here in this district as I walked in you were talking about opioids again I want to applaud the efforts of Councilman Salamanca and the First Lady of the City of New York for all that we're doing about the drug crisis that we're seeing and I know that I attended a forum here in this district with respect to the problems and I know that the Council Member is working on it along with the Mayor of the City of New York. My office too is seeking to address those conditions that currently exist and provide help to individuals including those individuals that might be in the midst of drug addiction and including those individuals who might be losing their life. It's really important that we train individuals on how to help so that we can reverse the trend of those people that are dying from drug overdosing in the City of New York.

Last again promoting green economy it will increase opportunities for individuals that are unemployed. Also when I was a member of the City Council we were working with the Administration to get jobs in the Film Industry particularly Production Assistants because they pay good salaries. It's critically important that after we give tax dollars to production crews all throughout the City of New York that they have to train New York City residents in these good jobs which can lead to the middle class. But not the least we all need to focus on small businesses supermarkets are closing gas stations are closing and before you close your eyes up pops a luxury condo. So what we really need to do is address those public assets that are in the City and of course rent is too high. We need to make sure that we build housing for moderate working families. The scoured of homelessness is a sin thousands of New Yorkers including children are homeless. We need to build affordable housing for people who live here and we need to make sure that we build housing for families, seniors and supportive housing. We need to again recognized that a lot of these individuals have lost work and we have to confront the stereotype their not drug addicts or lazy it's just that their wages are too low and they cannot pay these rents which are unfortunately escalating. So all of us need to talk about the homeless and the homeless is us it's our friends our family. A lot of individuals in these shelters they work and the issue of domestic violence. We need to talk about these issues as the Mayor of the City of New York seeks to address this growing crisis. So those are the issues and I will open it up for questions.

Questions and Comments

Detective Claudia Mera 40th Police Precinct said good evening everyone the CO excuses himself he's at a meeting with Father Skelly. Some of you know if you follow us Twitter and now we're on Facebook we have a Safe Streets event that's every Thursday everybody seems to be very receptive to it the streets are full of kids they're playing jump rope, basketball. We have light food and refreshments for them. I understand some parking issues came up and the 40th Precinct is dealing with the best they can. We have construction that takes about 500 feet from Third Avenue onto 138th Street that's about a good fifteen

spots. Police Officers although we have a Parking Lot is a very tiny Parking Lot and we don't all fit at any given time there's about 300 people in that building we have to come to work. The Supervisors are doing their best to get us out of the crosswalks. We ask to please bear with us and we do know that it's an issue and we try to make it as safe and comfortable for everybody. April 5th is our next Annual Safety Forum and I confirm from every department within the NYPD you'll have Vice, you'll have narcotics you have school safety you have sanitation and traffic there will be a rep from each of these to speak to you with Q and A for an hour. This is on the 5th at 6:30 in the Lincoln Hospital Auditorium. We do this every year and it's hard to get them there and the seats are empty if I could have all of you get there its great information.

Officer Hector Espada said that I don't know if anyone has noticed but 149 and Melrose is getting a little better day by day. We have assigned a couple of Officers at that corner during the day to make sure that the citizens that like to hang there are moving along.

Questions and Comments

Mr. Saul Rivera Community Coordinator New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene said that I've been attending Bronx Community Board 1 meetings for the past couple of months. It's amazing to see everybody coming together and talking about these issues and if you look around we have a lot of people in here but did you know that one out of five people is suffering from a mental illness in any given year. So those are the statistics from Thrive NYC. Thrive NYC is the First Lady of the City Chirlane McCray's initiative to address mental health issues in the City of New York. So as part of that there has been an adaptation of a Mental Health First Aid Course. So similar to First Aid and CPR we have prepared this course that will prepare you in the case of an emergency or if someone is having a mental health crisis, mental health illness or the early stages of a mental health disease, Alzheimer's or anything else connected with a psychosis. As a matter of fact I just came from giving instruction on the course. It's an 8-hour course from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. We cover so many things in this course we give so much information that people even wouldn't realize how much of this is common in our city around the area. In this course you will receive a manual and the course is administered in many different languages we have English, Spanish, Mandarin also Bengali. We have a course in Spanish that 'coming up on April 6th it is at the Segunda Ruiz Belvis Clinic on 142nd and St. Ann's. It is an all-Spanish language course and we do have an English course coming up on April 11th as well. It is free for everybody and at the end of the course you receive a certificate that's good for three years from the National Health Behavioral Council and for that it will open up pathways if interested looking into health fields. If anyone is interested you can have my name and number and then from there we can work on how we can bring this training to you and my primary audience is the faith community but none the less we do have this training at the Department of Health on 175th and Arthur Avenue my number is 646-265-4363.

Questions and Comments

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 the Mayor's Office said that I've been here before but I wanted to come back tonight I have a few announcements coming from the Mayor himself. So Saul who just left spoke about Thrive NYC and the things we're doing for mental health issues. Part of Thrive NYC is an initiative that we have called Healing NYC. How many people know about the opioid crisis in the South Bronx. There is an opioid crisis happening in the South Bronx we in response to that launched Healing NYC and that basically says it's a few parts to it one of the parts is that by 2020 all NYPD Officers will hold Naloxone kits on them. The Naloxone kits save people that are overdosed on heroin or opioids. So say someone is suffering from an opioid overdose an NYPD Officer can heal them or treat them with the Naloxone kit that they will be required to carry. That's something that will be established with every NYPD Officer down to the Captain will have one of these. In addition to that there are a series of other events and initiatives to create awareness of opioids and anti-opioids. So if you have any questions about that I'm happy to answer them. So the training will happen there was a scheduling conflict and they canceled it. It's going to happen for the South Bronx and the First Lady herself will be there we've committed to that. There's already been one in Brooklyn so we want to replicate it in all five boroughs.

Questions and Comments

The representative for the Bronx Borough President said that for those Board Members that did not reapply today is the last day as official Board Members. So we'll send you the list of those Board Members that did not reapply. Yesterday we released our Annual Development Report again the Bronx had a record number of investment 3.3 billion dollars-worth of investment Community Board 7 led the way this year and Community Board 1 was in second place. Since 2009 Community Board 1 has led all the twelve Community Boards in investment dollars. So just to give you a quick snapshot of what we're talking about 3.3 billion dollars of investments residential investment 1.7 billion, commercial investment 1.3 other investments 2.28 million dollars encompasses parks, infrastructure projects for organizations and so on. A number of new buildings, 365 new buildings in the Bronx, new residential addresses 239, schools and other properties hospitals as well 2.34 million dollars investment in the Bronx. So please I encourage everybody to go to the Borough President's website where you will get the full Report there.

Lastly mark this down May 11th that's Bronx Week we are having a Community Board Appreciation night it's going to be over at the Bronx Supreme Court building in the rotunda from 6-8 PM. Once we have all the details we will email all the Board Members the information.

The representative for Congressman Jose E. Serrano said that this is my first time here and I am the Community Liaison for Jose Serrano the Congressman and I'm here to announce an event that we will be having tomorrow to celebrate Women's History Month. It will take place in the Bronx Museum 165th and Grand Concourse from 6-8 PM. Feel free to invite anyone you want we will have performances and we would love to see new faces there. Like I said I'm the new representative if you have any questions feel free to ask but I will have more for future Board Meetings I will be here every month.

The representative from Senator Jose M. Serrano's Office said that he recently introduced the Liberty Act (S. 4075A) which would protect immigrants from unjust deportations and racial profiling. The Liberty Act will also prohibit local authorities from stopping or arresting a person based on their perceived immigration status.

This month during our Constituent Hours we will be bringing in legal services for our immigration community throughout the 29th Senate District. The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and Legal Services NYC have been tabling with us in the Bronx, East Harlem and the Upper West Side. For the month of May our Constituent Hours will be focused on creating awareness about the small and large ways in which our communities can contribute to a more sustainable city and planet. We will be joined by GrowNYC and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation who will be sharing information about various services and programs available to anyone who is willing to become a better steward of the environment.

The representative for Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo said that what we've been working with if you know that Junior High School IS162 is closing and we're opening another school in its place which is a STEM and Dual Language school. So there is a Committee from the Chancellor's Office and I'm part of that to get the school setup. We've had meetings with the community and parents and they're excited about it we have a lot of money that's coming in for the school and to keep the children in the school if they want to stay or they could apply to the other five Middle Schools. So it's a new school it's STEM and Dual Language and it's opening in September. The 162 closes in June 30th and during the summer we will be doing the setups for that school. All the Assembly people are up in State with the Governor working budgets.

The representative for the New York City Comptroller's Office said that it's been quite some time and I apologize and I mentioned to a few of your that there are some transitions in our office why I can't be some places even though I would like to be here more often, I will try.

So I brought a few reports over but I'm just go over two very briefly. The first is an Aging Report so from 2005 to 2015 about 1.1 million adults over 65 live in New York City and the city has not done much to make accommodations for the seniors. So more than 40 percent of households are senior headed households dependent on government programs. The Comptroller is proposing that eligible seniors be enrolled into SCRIE. Seniors don't have SCRIE because they don't know what it is or how to attain it so they want automatic enrollment. So he raised threshold for SCRIE to \$50,000 dollars a year. Also he's proposing the expansion of the Senior Citizens Homeowners Exemption so if you're a senior over 65 making \$37,000 or below you are eligible for this program. Also there should be money for seniors who want to upgrade their homes who can't pay for the upgrades or their landlord won't do the upgrades because it's so much money there should be more opportunity to do so.

The other report is on the National Endowment for the Arts there is a lot of money around the country for art. So between 2000 to 2016 the NEA gave \$233 million to New York City. So Trump wants to cut the program. So just keep in mind that the National Endowment is one third of one hundred and one percent of the Federal Budget. I guess he's cutting it because it's too much. We all think that it's critical not only does the Comptroller think that. So we're going to be doing things in the future regarding this program.

The representative from the Public Advocates Office said that on April 19th she's having a South Bronx Town Hall at Casita Maria on Simpson Street from 6 to 8 PM. It's very essential that people RSVP because we did have one scheduled for March but the snowstorm. Please spread the word.

The representative from the Council Speakers Office said that there is a lot of information in my newsletter but the most important thing that I want to say that if I don't know what's going on in the community you are our eyes and ears so my contact information is on here you can email or call you don't have to come to the office and tell me what the issue is and I'll try to address it. There's a lot of things going on the overdoses with the cars with the lighting so if there's anything that the Speaker can do to make it better I would know if you guys would call or email me and we will try to fix it. We have a Housing Clinic and last month we had the lawyers not to come because not one person registered for a free lawyer advice Housing Clinic. The community is not taking advantage of and utilizing the things that we give out. So we have a free Immigration Clinic, Housing Clinic and a CCRB Clinic. We have a lot of clinics that we have going on but some people don't even bother coming to them so it's very important that you utilize the newsletter and things that are there and you can always call me and ask me what we can do to make it better.

Assemblyman Michael Blake said hello everybody and hopes that everyone is doing well in the room. We are in Albany and this is the critical week of us working on the budgets if we are to be on time of getting the budget done its due by midnight tomorrow night. But we don't know if that's going to happen to be very honest with everyone. We are aggressively pushing forward on priorities on education for an increase in foundation aid so we can get more monies to our schools. Again making sure that there's an increase in foundation aid. We are not where we need to be as of yet right now we're pushing the Senate Republicans and the IDC to increase the numbers and the Governor quite frankly to increase the money that needs to be there. The overall budget 63 billion dollars for all expenses but recognize that about 70 percent of that goes to Medicaid and Education as a whole. But then there's breakdowns on how the education may dole out. So that's one. Number two our Criminal Justice System we are aggressively pushing to raise the age as you know New York and North Carolina are only two states in the country with sixteen and seventeen year olds are tried as adults. So we are aggressively pushing for several items including the sealing of records for sixteen and seventeen year olds. So they don't have to wait ten years for their record to be sealed. Pushing forward to have young people tried in Family Court and also to provide them with the services they need in the first place. That we make sure to find ways that if the DA is trying to file any motions for Criminal Court that there is a high burden of circumstances that they would have to meet in order for that to be the case. We want to help these kids. We're also pushing to get more funding as relates to housing there's a current proposal \$500 million dollars for NYCHA Specifically \$100 million dollars over a five-year span. On top of that we're pushing for an increase of \$400 million dollars for Mitchell Lama funding which relates to affordable and supportive housing as well. So that we can have affordable housing in the district, community and throughout. Also the Republicans have moved forward on rent regulations as well when we think of overall in terms of job creation the Governor put forth a proposal of \$1.2 billion. So where we're at right now we're in Albany we will be here again tomorrow we don't know if we will be here during the weekend and what that looks like. The prior week and this week are critical week when we're trying to get the budget done. But our priorities are to you. Deon, John and Tina are doing a yeoman's work. If you have any questions on the budget I'm going to give you our Assembly phone number 518 – 455-5272 and ask for Joelle Cullo she is my Legislative Director.

Questions and Comments

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

Mr. Cedric L. Loftin District Manager said that the Youth & Education Committee Chairperson was out of town but her report was in there folder.

The Municipal Services Committee provided an overview of the following presentations of which one is a voting item.

The New York City Parks Department on Anchor Parks, St. Mary's Recreation Center and Garrison Playground Reconstruction.

The Chairman called for the vote of a support letter on the New York City Parks Department Anchor Parks, St. Mary's Recreation Center and Garrison Playground Projects.

Motion made to approve a support letter for the New York City Parks Departments Anchor Parks, St. Mary's Recreation Center and the Garrison Reconstruction Projects. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The New York City Department of Transportation on the East 138th Street Safety Project.

Old Business

NONE

New Business

Board Member Hakiem Yahmadi said that in June the Guns Down Life Up organization was planning a march against violence around the housing projects with all the schools.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned