

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | 6 pm
Bronx Museum of the Arts
1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY
MS. BEVERLY BOARD, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Dr. Serge Caceres, Ms. Tricia Claxton, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrows, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Dr. Veronie Lawrence, Ms. Crystar Lopez, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahon-Stancil, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Glenn A. Saenz, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray, Ms. Latasha Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Ms. Gleny J. Camacho, Ms. Musu Drammeh, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Mr. Van Miles, Ms. Marie A. Stroud.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Ms. Michelle Gardnier.

STAFF:

Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Socrates Solano, representing Mayor Eric Adams
Tamar Rothstein, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Sommer Bedford, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
Crystal Diaz, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson
Yudelis Moronta, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais
Tyreke Israel, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens
Esperanza Diaz, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz
Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala

GUEST PRESENT:

Leonardo Coello, Shantavia Inabinet-Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC, Joseph C. Piscopo-Yankee Tavern, Carolyn Bastone-Yankee Tavern, Luis Rodriguez-Volunteers of America, Mariano Laboy-Morrisania Diagnostics & Treatment Clinic, Daniel P. Silvera-Bridge Builders Community Partnership, Mildred James-Resident/44th Precinct Council President, Debra Myers-Resident, Ana Galarza-Parent Care NY, Gabrielle Johnson-All Four Years College Coaching, Alexander Reyes-Oyate Group, Angel Perez-Credit Life Bar & Grill, Shayla Colon-The New York Times, Enrique Colon-CASA,

Orlando Diaz-167th ST. Billiard and Café Inc., Shoshana Brown-Community Resident, Judith Crawford-Grand Concourse branch NY Public Library, Cristian Reinosomontes-NYPL Highbridge branch, Tamara Mayfield-Volunteers of America, Magda Perez-Lincoln Hospital/Public Affairs, Captain A Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct, Officer J Vladimir-NYPD 44th Precinct, Isai Roca-Guns Down Life Up, Saladin Wilson-Guns Down Life Up, Maribel Rivera-Keys to the Kingdom, Coco McPherson-Resident, Belinda Gallegos-Resident, Esther Polanco-Volunteers of America University Family Residency, Barry C. Thomas-Resident, Sharline Parker-Resident, Saida Cabrera-Resident, Andre P.-Resident, Fraynette Familia-Resident.

Public Session:

1. Mariano Laboy - Morrisania Diagnostics & Treatment Clinic:
 - Their organization is seeking Board of Directors and if anyone is interested, please reach out for an application.
 - Expressed the health issues that are arising with the elevator out of service on 161st; specifically those with limited mobility.
 - Expressed concern for attention on the betterment of the homeless population in our community.
2. Alexander Reyes - Oyate Group:
 - Spoke briefly about their organization, which serves college and high school students.
 - They have helped individuals start businesses recently, as seen with their success with the Mott Haven Rising.
 - A 4-year, \$20K college scholarship fund is available for those eligible in the Bronx.
3. Ana Galarza - Parent Care NY:
 - Spoke briefly about ParentCare and its services, which is a home care agency for children and adults with mental and intellectual needs.
4. Gabrielle Johnson - All Four College Coaching:
 - Spoke briefly about their organization's work, which is to provide college coaching from all phases of the college process (pre-college through college graduation). Ms. Johnson just retired from the Department of Education, previously was an English teacher, and encourages all to seek support from the organization despite the costs (they work with all income levels and even work for free).
5. Shantavia Inabinet - Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC:
 - Searching for Bigs and Littles in the Bronx and if anyone is interested, please apply.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Beverly Bond, Board Chair. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:17pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedure of Community Boards and their committees are governed by the applicable provisions of the City Charter and New York State Open Meetings Law (OML, Section 100-111 of the New York State Public Officers Law) and Freedom of Information Law (FOIL, Section 84-90 of the Public Officers Law). Each Community Board shall meet at least once each month. Community Board 4 shall meet every fourth (4) Tuesday of the month, in person. This Tuesday, January 28, 2025, the meeting was held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Martha Reyes.

Roll Call for Board Members: Present 31, Excused 3, Absent 9 = Total Board Members 43

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct: Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct provided a report from the last 30 days (12/30/2024 to 01/26/2025) where there was a 10% decrease in crime, measuring the number of robberies, burglaries (21 versus 18), and homicides (72 versus 72) in our area. Year to date (January 1st-28th, 2025) there has been an 11.6% decrease in crime. Captain Ortiz will deploy an overnight patrol along the Grand Concourse and Franz Sigel Park to monitor and observe the car break-ins mentioned during the meeting's Q&A. Captain Ortiz took a question about ICE raids during the meeting's Q&A and noted that NYPD knows they are being conducted, they just don't know when and don't have much direction other than not to get involved.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting minutes (1):

- Veronique Green motioned to accept the minutes of November 26, 2024 with corrections. Second by Lilliam Rosa. 3 abstains. The motion carries. The correction is that under public session, it states that Michael Pimentel was present at this month's Municipal Services Committee meeting but was instead, invited to attend the same committee meeting.

Search/Hiring Committee Report:

- New District Manager Leonardo J. Coello
 - Motion by Martha Reyes and second by Zonia Ortiz to enter an executive session to discuss the hiring of a new district manager final candidate, Leonardo J. Coello.
 - Martha Reyes motioned to hire Leonardo J. Coello as Bronx Community Board 4's new District Manager, seconded by Zonia Ortiz. 1 abstain. 1 no. The motion carries.
- Motion by Zonia Ortiz and second by Martha Reyes to exit an executive session at 7:11pm EST. The public began returning at 7:12pm EST. Public Session resumes at 7:13pm EST.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Report was made by the Committee Chair, Mr. Leandro Monzon. The Committee did not meet this month:

NYSLA – Renewal [2]

1. J&L Yankee Inc./Yankee Tavern (located at 72 East 161st Street)
2. Credit Life Bar & Grill (located at 1275 Edward L. Grant Highway)
 - Motion made by Leandro Monzon for the approval of all two applications, second by Rosemary Dais. 4 abstain. The motion was duly carried.

30-day wavier letter: On-Premises Wine, Beer & Cider Restaurant New Application License [1]

1. 167th St Billiard and Café Inc. (located at 185 East 167th Street)
 - An application for this establishment was already approved by the Committee in 2024, however, due to an error on the establishment's part, they had to re-do their paperwork and are seeking a 30-day waiver letter for Wine, Beer & Cider.
 - Motion made by Leandro Monzon for the approval of one, 30-day retail permit application, second by Robert Garmendiz. 4 abstain. The motion was duly carried.

Dining Out NYC Applications [2]

Outdoor Dining program for roadway/sidewalk café designs aimed at Applicants to operate an open-air, easily portable (simple to assemble/dismantle) structure from April through November.

1. Bronx Drafthouse (located at 884 Gerard Avenue)

2. Yankee Twin Eatery (located at 844 River Avenue)

- Motion made by Leandro Monzon for the approval of two, Roadway Café Setup applications, second by Robert Garmendiz. 3 abstain. 1 no. The motion was duly carried.

Committee Reports (Called by the Board Chair):

HOUSING & LAND USE:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Rosa:

- Meets 1st Monday of Each Month
- Discussion/Review:
 - The committee did not meet this month but all are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings. The next committee meeting will be on Monday, February 3rd.

YOUTH & EDUCATION:

The report was made by Ms. Ortiz and stated the committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month.

1. No voting items.
2. The committee had a short meeting this month. They discussed the resource manual, which is still in the works. They also discussed bringing back a revival of a youth day.
3. All are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Dr. Veronie Lawrence:

1. Discussion/Review:
 - The committee did not meet this month due to a scheduling conflict with the holiday, New Year's Day. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5th, all are welcome and encouraged to attend. The FDNY is expected to be present at February's meeting.
2. No voting items.

PARKS:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Yohanny Rincon:

1. The Parks Committee meets every third Wednesday of every month.
2. No meeting was held this month but Ms. Rincon provided the following updates:
 - a. The next Committee meeting is on Wednesday, 2/19
 - b. Customer service week is coming up and events are happening throughout this time in February (2/4-2/7 and Wednesday, 2/12) that are open to everyone (no need to be a member)
 - c. The committee is working on advocacy for the Parks and an upcoming Parks tour (most likely towards the Spring when the weather is nicer).

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Veronique Green:

1. No voting items
2. Parentcare was present at this month's committee meeting. Parentcare is a home care agency for children and individuals with mental and intellectual needs.
3. Discussion/Review:
 - a. Reminder about the importance of mental health and available resources for mental health support:
 - 9-8-8
 - NYC Well
 - b. Community Resources:
 - MyBronxImpact.org
 - Hitesite.org

Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President and Local Elected Officials:

1. Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
 - Ruiz has already reached out to all Board Members who are up for reappointment this year. The Borough President's office is also accepting applications for new community board members. The deadline for both applications is in March 2025.
 - The Committee on Open Government is hosting training sessions that could be beneficial for Board Members in two sessions: from 10am-11am EST and 1-2pm EST.
 - Savor the Bronx is returning this year and flyers with more information are available on the back table.
2. Socrates Solano, representing Mayor Eric Adams
 - There is a surge of NYPD police in the city's subway system, 300 police officers who will be checking/inspecting MTA train cars during midnight hours (12AM-5AM). They will be paid overtime from the Governor's office. This is being called a "search." It is unknown how long this will last, but anticipated until when the public feels "safe."
 - Since Mayor Adams took office, there have been 20K guns taken off the street (both ghost & regular guns); 3K more than the previous administration.
 - The mayor working on securing a development partner for the affordable housing project that is coming to the Grand Concourse Library.
3. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala
 - Shared flyers for Deputy Speaker's constituent hours, services provided, and on-site clinics in East Harlem and South Bronx. Their office does offer free immigration services and Gloria is the lead contact for the Bronx office.
4. Sommer Bedford, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
 - The Senator is currently in Albany for the current session and spoke briefly about updates when it comes to budget proposals, such as Parks.
 - The Senator is participating in an upcoming virtual forum with other Senators from the Bronx and encourages everyone's attendance.
 - District Office- 335 East 100th Street bet. 1st and 2nd Avenues, Mon.-Fri. 9AM to 5PM, (212) 828-5829 or serrano@nysenate.gov
5. Tamar Rothstein, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres

- Discussed the federal funding pause at the time; their office does not expect SNAP to be affected but should anyone face issues with their benefits to reach out to their office to see if they can assist.
 - No info on the ICE raids but to reach out to their office to see if they can assist if you or someone you know is affected.
 - Congressman Torres was involved in helping the victims of the recent fire on Willis Avenue.
6. Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
- DA Clark held a reentry fair today where professional attire was given to fair chance candidates and mock interviews were conducted with ADAs.
 - DA Clark's annual prom clothing drive is coming up and donations will be accepted for that drive soon.
7. Yudelis Moronta, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais
- The Assemblyman is currently in Albany. Their office took a brief break for the holidays and discussed their recent accomplishments (e.g. provided turkeys and toys to the community during the winter holiday season).
8. Esperanza Diaz, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz
- Discretionary funding is still available through their office and those interested are encouraged to apply.
 - Free citizenship and immigration services are available through their office.
 - Housing attorney services are also available through their office.

New/Unfinished Business:

- Rev. Julian Stephenson spoke about the fear the community is facing right now because of the ICE raids. Those with information on how to be prepared are encouraged to share that information with the Board so they can share it with the community.

Announcements: N/A

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM

Submitted by Michelle Mootreddy