

*The City of New York*  
**Bronx Community Board Four**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | 6 pm**  
**Bronx Museum of the Arts**  
**1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY**  
**MS. SHEKERA ALGARIN, 1<sup>st</sup> VICE BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Dr. Serge Caceres, Ms. Triciah Claxton, Ms. Brenda Dock, Ms. Michelle Gardnier, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahon-Stancil, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lillian Rosa, Mr. Glenn A. Saenz.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Ms. Gleny J. Camacho, Ms. Musu Drammeh, Ms. Crystar Lopez, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Mr. Van Miles, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Ms. Marie A. Stroud.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Dr. Veronie Lawrence, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray, Ms. Latasha Wright.

**STAFF:**

Leonardo Coello, District Manager  
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President  
Greer Mayhew, representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander  
Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark  
Terrell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano  
Nicole Liberato, representing NYS Senate Luis R. Sepúlveda  
Daniel Osoro, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson  
Yudelis Moronta, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais  
Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens  
Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Mariano Laboy-Morrisania Diagnostics & Treatment Clinic, Daniel P. Silvera-Bridge Builders Community Partnership, Kassandra Manriquez-Bronx Office Department of City Planning, Cynthia Paladines-1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds/Community Engagement on Career Pathways Training Program, Kareem Brown-Resident, Ariana Bon-WHEDco, Kimberly Troncoso-Oyate Group, Michelle Lee StMarthe-Friends of 4 Parks Alliance, Antonio Whitaker-NYC Department of Sanitation, George Sotiroff-CASA/New Settlement, Mishell Coronel-Le-Mount Siani Selikoff Centers for

Occupational Health, Winston Ward-Concourse Village, Marcia Biederman-NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, Judith Crawford-NYPL Grand Concourse Branch Library, Diana Reinoso-Volunteers of America, Daniel Nieves-Resident, Hatice Nieves-Resident, Samira Lacayo-Resident, Edward T. Beglane, Ed.D.-Siena House, Esther Polanco-Volunteers of America University Family Residency, Edward Bunge-Resident, Willie Kim-Bogopa BTM, LLC, Miriam Tabb-BronxWorks, Cristian Reinosomontes-NYPL Highbridge Branch Library, CO Deputy Inspector Joe Pulgarin-NYPD 44th Precinct, Detective Shala-NYPD 44th Precinct, Lt. Moyles-NYPD 44th Precinct, Elvin Torres-1470 Estrella Bar & Restaurant Corp., Andre P.-Resident, Jacqueline Carter-Community Resident/Parks Committee Member, Enrique Colon-CASA, Fraynette Familia-Resident.

## **Public Session:**

- Mariano Laboy, Morrisania Diagnostics & Treatment Clinic (Morrisania D&T)
  - An announcement raising awareness about Bill 798 and his opposition against the proposed bill due to safety concerns on how this will affect the community and justice-involved populations.
  - Councilmember Athena Stevens is a sponsor of the bill and encourages those who are in support of the opposition to reach out to her office to share such sentiments directly.
- Antonio Whitaker- NYC Department of Sanitation
  - The warning period for composting ends on March 31, 2025.
  - The Department of Sanitation will begin issuing summons for compost violations starting on April 1st, 2025.
  - Flyers are available in English and Spanish on the back table with waste guidelines for curbside composting.
- Ariana Bon- WHEDco
  - A brief overview of WEDco and flyers are on the back table with more information.
  - Free magnets on the back table have general information about WEDco's services, local officials, and other basic information that they thought might be helpful for community residents.
- Kimberly Troncoso-Oyate Group
  - A reminder that their scholarship fund is still accepting applications; flyers are available with more information. The flyer is double-sided, the other side speaks about an internship program for undocumented youth, from ages 16-20, which they also spoke about in their announcement.
- Michelle Lee StMarthe-Friends of 4 Parks Alliance
  - An announcement about an upcoming event in collaboration with the Bronx is Blooming and the 161st Street BID on Saturday, May 3rd, from 1pm to 5pm EST.
  - This is an annual event in Joyce Kilmer Park with live music and free tamales. Community-based organizations (CBOs) will also be tabling.
- George Sotiroff-CASA/New Settlement
  - An announcement about an upcoming workshop on housing rights, like lease & succession rights, and appointments with a legal clinic. Childcare will be provided.
- Mishell Coronel-Le -Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health
  - An announcement spreading awareness about Mount Sinai's occupational clinic, which is available if anyone gets injured while at work.
  - Locations are in Harlem and Staten Island.

**Welcoming remarks and announcements** by 1st Vice Board Chair, Ms. Shekera Algarin, in place of Ms. Beverly Bond, the Board Chair. The 1st Vice Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. 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, March 25, 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 Martha Reyes.

**Roll Call for Board Members:** Present 21, Excused 9, Absent 8 = 38 Total Board Members

**Report by NYPD 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct:** CO Deputy Inspector Joe Pulgarin provided a report from the last 28-day period, where there is a 13.5% decrease in crime. Crime is also down year to date. There has been a spike in grand larceny crimes because of the number of mopeds being stolen in our district, specifically along 161st Street & River Avenue.

Detective Shala announced the following upcoming events hosted by the 44th PCT:

- Wednesday, 4/9: the next monthly Community Council meeting and is in the same location as tonight's meeting.
- Thursday, 4/10: a youth and senior event on 161st Street.
- Saturday, 4/26: an Autism & Resource Fair at the Wendell Foster Center.

All who are interested are encouraged to reach out to Detective Shala and to stay connected with the 44th PCT via social media.

During the Q&A, Ms. Rasheida Alston asked if the surge in auto-related crime is concentrated in a specific area in our district. After the discussion, it is mostly the mopeds being stolen along 161st Street and Yankee Stadium, like near Gerard Avenue.

The Q&A session came to a close, and Mr. Coello introduced a surprise guest, the Honorable Vanessa Gibson, Bronx Borough President, who provided a brief update on past and current developments her office is working on throughout the Bronx.

**Report by CB4 District Manager** by Leonardo Coello

- Mr. Coello thanked the Board for their attendance and spoke about:
  - An upcoming clean-up day in collaboration with the Parks Committee.
  - An upcoming health fair in collaboration with the Health & Human Services Committee, specifically with NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health's Morrisania clinic.
    - Ms. Martha Reyes asked for clarification on NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health's Morrisania clinic being referred to as a "hospital," and Mr. Coello clarified that this clinic falls under the NYC Health + Hospitals' umbrella.
  - Diving into the rezoning that is happening on Jerome Ave.
  - Following up on the new school from Success Academy coming to our district.
  - His attendance at Committee meetings to work on the FY26 Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

Presentation - **Cynthia Paladines, Field Coordinator: 1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds/Community Engagement on Career Pathways Training (CPT) Program**

- Ms. Paladines provided an overview of a career pathways training program open to the public offered by 1199 SEIU, a healthcare union.
- This program is designed to help fill the labor gap in specific healthcare occupations that are in demand due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the healthcare industry. Those interested do not need to be a member of 1199 SEIU. This is a new pilot program.
- The list of eligible occupations is on the flyers that were provided to the Board and on the back table, which includes information on eligibility requirements (e.g., a completion commitment and a service commitment).
- If one does not follow through with the specific eligibility requirements, they could be liable for reimbursing 1199 SEIU for the relevant tuition.
- This program is open to those 18 years and older.

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

- Ms. Veronique Green motioned to accept the minutes of February 25, 2025. Second by Mr. Leandro Monzon. 1 abstain. The motion carries.

**Committee Reports (Called by the 1st Vice Board Chair):**

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:**

The report was made by the Committee Chair, Ms. Veronique Green:

**1. Voting items (2) –**

- **Letter of Support request** for START Treatment & Recovery Centers, Inc. (StartCare) to assume operations of a 30-year facility Concourse Medical Center, Inc. located at 880 Morris Avenue in community district 4 and resume its vital resources of medication for addiction treatment (MAT), counseling individual/group, and HIV education services
  - A representative was not present.

**Discussion/Review**

- Concerns of loitering at this establishment's location were raised by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. It is unclear if the loitering is from this establishment's program participants or from a neighboring establishment run by Montefiore.
- Ms. Michelle Mootreddy suggested that if StartCare's program participants are mandated to their program through the court then the establishment should be able to handle issues of loitering by their program participants, especially if they receive MetroCards, and this type of activity could be brought up in court if one is out of compliance for loitering on the premises and is not supposed to be.
- The motion was amended with conditions about the process or procedure to address the loitering by program participants.

Ms. Veronique Green, reporting on behalf of the Health & Human Services Committee, moved for the approval of a letter of support request for START Treatment & Recovery Centers, Inc. (StartCare) to assume operations of a 30-year facility Concourse Medical Center, Inc. located

at 880 Morris Avenue in community district 4 and resume its vital resources of medication for addiction treatment (MAT), counseling individual/group, and HIV education services with conditions that the establishment is responsible for any issues arising from loitering by their program participants. Second by Mr. Leandro Monzon. 2 abstains. The motion carries.

- **Letter of Support request** to amend the NYC Council Bill Int. No. 1096 Administrative Code to protect the vested health insurance coverage and contributions of NYC Medicare-eligible retirees from city services
  - Rep: Marcia Biederman, NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees

#### Discussion/Review

- Marcia Biederman began this advocacy via a Facebook group with other retirees from the City.
- As an organization, they have had 11 “successful” lawsuits so far.
- Ms. Martha Reyes asked if this would apply hypothetically to a retiree from a factory, and the representative confirmed no; this request only applies to retirees from the City not private industries.

Ms. Veronique Green, reporting on behalf of the Health & Human Services Committee, moved for the approval of a letter of support request to amend the NYC Council Bill Int. No. 1096 Administrative Code to protect the vested health insurance coverage and contributions of NYC Medicare-eligible retirees from city services. Second by Mr. Glenn A. Saenz. 1 abstain. The motion carries.

2. Ms. Green reviewed the minutes from this month’s Committee meeting.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

The report was made by the Committee Chair, Mr. Leandro Monzon:

- Voting items (4) –

#### NYSLA Renewals [3]

1. **1470 ESTRELLA BAR & RESTAURANT CORP** (located at 1470 Jerome Avenue) for Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider
2. **KANITA LOUNGE CORP./Gota Lounge** (located at 136 East 174th Street) for Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider
3. **NPK DONUT INC./Court Deli Rest** (located at 96 East 161st Street Corner Walton Avenue) for Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider

#### NYSLA – New Application and Temporary Retail Permit [1]

**BOGOPA BTM, LLC** (located at 610 Exterior St., 4th Floor) for Wine Beer & Cider

- Ms. Martha Reyes asked during the Q&A to confirm if the “4th floor” was correct for this establishment’s address, which, after discussion, was confirmed as correct since it is located on the 4th floor of the Bronx Terminal Mall.

Mr. Leandro Monzon, reporting on behalf of the Economic Development Committee, moved for the approval of a letter of support requests for all four applications presented/above, second by Ms. Tricia Claxton. 0 abstains. The motion was duly carried.

## **HOUSING & LAND USE:**

The report was made by the Committee Chair, Ms. Lilliam Rosa:

- Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.
- No voting items.
- Discussion/Review:
  - Ms. Rosa reviewed the minutes from this month's Committee meeting.
  - All are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings.

## **YOUTH & EDUCATION:**

The report was made by the Committee Chair, Ms. Zonia Ortiz:

- No voting items.
- The Committee did not meet this month and an anticipated presentation will also be rescheduled.
- All are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES:**

The report was made by the 1st Vice Board Chair, Ms. Shekera Algarin, in place of the Committee Chair, Dr. Veronie Lawrence:

- Discussion/Review:
  - Ms. Algarin reviewed the minutes from this month's Committee meeting.
- No voting items.

## **PARKS:**

The report was made by the Committee Chair, Ms. Yohanny Rincon:

- No voting items.
- Ms. Rincon reviewed the minutes from this month's Committee meeting.

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

1. Jumanah Escalera, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
  - An upcoming event in collaboration with the New York Yankees.
  - DA Clark's annual prom dress and suit drive is happening now. Their office is collecting prom dresses, suits, accessories, and shoes. Anything that a person would need for prom is welcome. A bin is in their office's lobby for any prom-related attire or accessories. Their office can coordinate a pick-up for donations as well if needed.
  - A reminder about their workshops, especially important for youth. DA Clark's office hosts educational workshops on how arrests and depositions work. They are working on another workshop on gang violence, and have a workshop on gun violence available. These workshops can be done in schools, for community boards, at the courthouse, and on court tours.
2. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala
  - Shared flyer packets about the Deputy Speaker's constituent hours, services provided, and on-site clinics in East Harlem and the South Bronx. Their office does offer free immigration services and Gloria is the lead contact for the Bronx office. Their office is also holding free tax prep and information about this service is included in the flyer packets provided.

- A happy Spring and Summer to everyone.
- 3. Nicole Liberato, representing NYS Senate Luis R. Sepúlveda
  - Reported on upcoming legislative goals that the Senator is working on and a project from their office called “Mission 32.”
- 4. Terrell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
  - Reported on a listing of events and happenings the Senator is doing, whose upcoming programming includes collaboration with other local elected officials:
    - i. An EPA grant for \$100 million was secured by Senator Serrano.
    - ii. The proposed NY HEAT ACT.
    - iii. Addressing high asthma rates in the Bronx with healthcare providers.
- 5. Brandon Gonzalez, representing NYC Council Althea Stevens
  - A tax prep event is happening at the office on Thursday, 3/27.
  - The Councilmember’s “State of the District” event is on Wednesday, 4/2.
  - An upcoming wellness event about the mind/health/body in collaboration with Assemblymember Chantel Jackson.
  - During the Q&A, Mr. Laboy asked why the Councilmember is supporting Bill 798. Brandon Gonzalez encouraged Mr. Laboy to email him directly so the office could follow up accordingly.
- 6. Greer Mayhew, representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander
  - A brief overview of two reports released by their office: 1. MTA's Express Bus Service and Accessibility, and 2. Financial deficits around public safety and violence; both reports are available on the City Comptroller’s website.
- 7. Yudelis Moronta, representing NYS Assembly Landon Dais
  - The Assemblymember is working on a bill that aims to empower men entering fatherhood.
  - Stay tuned for updates about the Census.
  - Stay tuned for an event happening in April.
- 8. Daniel Osoro, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson
  - The Assemblymember has been back and forth between the Bronx and Albany focusing on “getting bills passed.”
  - Legislative ideas are being accepted by their office about quality of life, as well as funding ideas for capital projects and community infrastructure or equipment.

**New/Unfinished Business:** N/A

**Announcements:**

- Mr. Mariano Laboy announced that Morrisania Diagnostics & Treatment Clinic (Morrisania D&T) is still searching for new Board Members and to reach out to him if anyone is interested.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Robert Garmendiz motioned to adjourn tonight’s meeting. Second by Mr. Leandro Monzon. 0 abstains. The motion carries.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 PM**

*Submitted by Michelle Mootreddy*