



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

April 28, 2021

Bronx Community Board 5 General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 6:00 PM.

• **Board Members:**

- **Present:** E.Acosta, A. Caballero, C.Camara, J.Curiel, M.Estrella, R.Gonzalez, N.Graham, Jr., M.Health, A.Hernandez, B.Lawrence, M.Griset, T.Mims, B.Moore, E.Morris, Dr.B. Omotosho, R.Owusu, L.Reyes, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, P.Stewart, Dr.Brown,
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- **Absent/Excused:** B.Akumah, S.Bah, P.Blanco, A. Dejesus, P.Dominguez, J.Parra, D. Perry, F.Ramos, M.Rosado, C.Westbrook, C.Rosado.

○ **Welcome**

- Opening Prayer was done by Nero Graham Jr.

○ **Quorum Present:** 6:53 pm

○ **Approval of Minutes:**

- February General Board Meeting 2021, approved.
- First in Motioned by Belinda Lawrence.
- Seconded in motion by Angel Caballero.

Roll Called: 20 Y / 0 Abstention.

○ **Chairperson Dr. Bola Omotosho Report:**

Report: None

- **District Manager's Report:**

- I wanted to start by congratulating a board member Bobby Akumah, who, on his initiative, started the wheels rolling for a very successful. Food Distribution event that we had at Captain Roscoe Brown Plaza this past Saturday, the 24th, we served 150 foods to people with Bobby help. We were there from about 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm approximately. The Test and Trace was there, and they were able to help people with appointments; I want to say it was a pleasant experience, and I want to compliment Bobby for setting the wheels in motion and doing a lot of work around that. Knowing the state of the victualling moratorium extended to June 31, FEMA has available up to \$9,000 for funeral-related expenses. If you need to contact them, there's a phone number available to people like the mayor's said that it would be good for city agencies to reopen on May 3. We have been in touch with the college; they essentially remain shut to the public. And we will keep the office closed will remain working from home, at least until the time that the school reconsiders opening the campus, which should be in September that they're going to review it. I want to thank the staff, the LaShawnda, and Alva, who are helping to keep things running smoothly.

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- **Presentation: Amalgamated Bank updates by Maura Keany, First Vice President, Commercial Banking**

- My name is Maura Keaney with Amalgamated Bank. We were formed in 1923 by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union as a bank for immigrant workers that were members of the Union. Many of the women were from Eastern Europe. We were pleased to open a branch in the West Bronx on Burnside Avenue in 2008 during the 12 years that that branch was open; unfortunately, we operated at a loss every year. Despite to effort to support the community to bring in a business's nonprofit clients. It just was something where we were, losing money every year. All our New York State branches closed temporarily a little over a year ago, due to the pandemic.

At the end of June, we announced the permanent closure of five branches, one of which was on Burnside Avenue. At the time, we communicated with all our customers via mail and email.

We also made phone calls during the pandemic to connect with communities after the announcement of the branch will permanently closed on September 25. At the time of the closure. I would note that we had 67 small business customers and a little under 1300 consumer customers. Most of those consumer customers did have online accounts. 40% of those consumer customers had savings accounts only. So, we know those people tend to be doing fewer transactions. 81% of those customers at the time of closure had a debit or ATM card. We currently have 54 Small Businesses of those 6754 small business customers remain so that 80% and 1148 conserver customers remain, but 90% stayed in; we've seen a growth in deposits of accounts associated with that branch during the transition the unit closed. We did extensive customer outreach; as I mentioned, we had done outreach during the pandemic. I reached out to all the Elected Officials in the area with information available in the branch; we did follow-up mail and email communications outlining transition services, including office hours at Davidson Community Center. I want to thank Angel Caballero and his team for being so welcoming to us. That was about 1300 consumer customers and about 80 business

customers during the closure. Since then we've had multiple meetings and conversations with community board five and the JARC committees. Thank you, Ken, his leadership in that area, all those conversations, and Dr. Bola for initiating those discussions. So, as I mentioned, after the branch closed in September. We maintained office hours at the Davidson Community Center for nine weeks. Again, thank you, Angel, and your team for hosting us. We had 21 People that visited over those nine weeks. For example, in the last four weeks, only one person came. So those office hours ended. We also set up a dedicated phone number and email for customers of that branch to reach out to the bank; you'll see that it's slightly cut off; we've only gotten a handful of calls. In those conversations we've had with CB five and JARC, we've talked about training, including financial literacy training classes first-time homebuyer training. I'm passionate about and excited about training nonprofit organizations and with the trust plus program that I'll speak to a little more about in a minute. We've also talked about doing direct support for CDFIs, community development finance institutions. Amalgamated never made small business loans; it's not our expertise; it's not what we do. But we want to facilitate those loans, so we would consider. I just wanted to let you know that I can send out or participate in a more significant affordable housing deal. I'm doing equity; it's always too low for CDFI. For small business loans or individual consumer loans. We do consumer mortgages. We also do loans, lines of credit mortgages for nonprofits on the banking side. We've talked about how our online account opening process is straightforward. And we can provide training folks on that we've talked about nonprofit banking, and we've also talked to the city about a program they're calling New York City moonshot. And I can't speak in detail to it because we just had an initial call with the city a week or two ago, but the idea is to bring more banking services to unbanked or underbanked communities in the Bronx. We're excited about that. We've also talked about funding opportunities through the Amalgamated foundation or CRA grants. For banking services are available remotely mobile phone; you can deposit checks using, view account information, pay bills with online banking, do all of that, and view and print copies of checks or statements. Different services we have available include debit cards. You can use both to pay cash out and make payments; we are part of a network of banks through the whole points network that provides 45,000 or extra; it's 55,000 ATMs worldwide that are available to Amalgamated clients for no fee cash withdrawals. It's called All Points Plus, which are special ATMs where you can make cash deposits. You can also make online bill payments, pay bills without writing checks, and you can transfer funds. The amalgamated account can do online, either using a mobile phone or a desktop computer. As I mentioned, all points ATM provides amalgamated clients with access to 55,000 ATMs at Walgreens, CVS Duane Reed, and lots of Bodegas. You can find the location by using our Amalgamated website or our amalgamated mobile app. And then we've just joined this all points plus option. And this here is a list of All Point Plus ATMs. These are ATMs that take cash, where you can deposit some money into your Amalgamated Bank account. So, you can see there's a handful of Duane Reade and Walgreens. In a recent conversation with the JARC and CB five. So, we've suggested sharing. I'm particularly proud that we must restart the checking account, designed for customers who've previously denied checking accounts elsewhere due to credit history. And we are the first bank to accept IDnyc to allow clients opening an account. We want to change that, but the third-party companies that review those IDs and confirm. We're doing a program called neighborhood trust. Neighborhood Trust is a

nonprofit; it's springing out of a credit union in northern Manhattan. It is one-on-one financial coaching designed to help people plan for a retirement plan for college, payments, and savings, pay down debt. One-on-one coaching by phone, video, and text- it's available in English and Spanish. Once you connect with a coach, you can keep going back to that person. A lot of different options here, raising a credit score finding a free checking account, thinking about it is better to rent or buy. How should I save for retirement? What's a 401 K plan? We started this program in November. We set up a particular code for Burnside Ave amalgamated clients. Then we set up a code for general Bronx residents. We printed up 10,000 fliers in English and Spanish that we got to the Davidson Community Center. In January, the founders got there. So, part of what we wanted to do today, and again thank you, Dr. Bola and Ken, for allowing us sometime today was really to share with all of you. Because you are the connected community members who can share this information, the community board team can get you the flyers if you need them. But we want to get this word out to communities. It's certainly helpful for low-income folks; this is for anyone that needs a little help thinking about their finances. It's straightforward. You text the code Bronx to a phone number, and then you schedule an appointment, and once you have that appointment scheduled, you can keep coming back repeatedly with that same code to see how your plans are growing to make, you know, new plans in a new area. So, if I can leave one thing with everyone, it would be to ask that you try to help get the word out about this great program. We're not just a Consumer Bank. However, we do that; we focused on nonprofit banking if you were affiliated with nonprofits and looking for a bank. We're here. We offer the complete service of nonprofit options—the great community groups in the West Side. Thank you. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

- **Presentation: Ranked Choice Voting**
- (http://www.rankedchoiceny.org/request_speaker)
- This community is the luckiest because you guys have rank choice voting, unlike the rest of the state. And the primary election this year is June 22, with early voting running from June 12 to June 20. It's the first time in nearly a century that rank choice voting used in New York, so for most people, this is going to be the first time they could use the rank choice voting, which is why we're here because we want to make sure people are familiar with it. We want to make sure that people know how it works. We want people to be able to educate themselves and their community about it ahead. Rank choice voting, like I said it's the first time used in New York and nearly a century. What is rank choice voting? Rank choice is simply an instant runoff election. It's a simple process were going into the voting booth, instead of just picking your one candidate, now you're going to be able to number the candidates, one, two, or whatever your first, second, third, fourth choice. You get to rank your preferred candidates instead of that single option. This process ensures that the winner of the election has the broadest possible support.
- Rank choice voting in New York City this year, during the special elections in Queens. Exit polls showed how easy rank choice voting is for average voters. Going into the polls, only 37% of voters said they were very familiar with rank choice voting. Still, overall, an overwhelming 95% found filling out the rank choice ballot either very simple or somewhat simple. So, you don't need this fancy slide deck to explain how rank choice voting works, but I'm going to break it down for you here as thoroughly as I can. For example, New York City is

trying to adopt an official ice cream plate flavor. Now, if I lived in the city. You can see, I want chocolate, so that's my number one vote. I'm cool with Rocky Road, I'm also willing to go with pistachio or vanilla, but I am not a fan of strawberries. I'm not even going to vote for it; not even rank it and the last place. So once those are class, how do we figure out which option has the broadest support. First, we come up with the first choice. The majority in the first round was 52%. But what would happen if a majority were one in the first round? In this second example, nobody has 50% or more. The strawberry is still lead with 31% but counted with the first point at the end of the day. We're going to have to go into an instant runoff election. Pistachio was in the last place with 11%. So those people who voted perfect pistachio are now going to have their second-choice votes counted. You can see in this sample here how distributed are getting most of these pistachio boats. A timeout of 32% between strawberry and rocky road. So, now chocolate is in the last place. That was my sample ballot that was my choice, and it's getting knocked off, so now my second choice, rocky road, is going to get my vote. And it looks like most of the other chocolate people made that same decision. So now, the rocky road has pulled ahead, but still not with the 50% of the vote needed to win a runoff election. So now, vanilla, it's up to them. Strawberry could still pull it off if most vanilla voters go for strawberry. But they're all going for a rocky road. Rocky Road is winning this instant runoff election. So that's rank choice voting and how it works. But why do we need it? Well, that's simple to elected politicians with the broadest possible support and a plurality system, which New York City still must use for general elections and what New Yorkers. I would only get my chance to vote for chocolate, people who preferred vanilla. But now, once votes counted, it turns out that rocky road was the winner. So, if you will, those other candidates, Chocolate, Vanilla, pistachio, were splitting the rocky road, and strawberries could pull off. The win was less than a third of the vote. Now, in this example, that would mean strawberry chocolate and vanilla spoiled the rocky road vote by using rank choice voting; we learned that New Yorkers preferred rocky road, and that would be how it'd become the official flavor for New York City. Ranked-choice voting is a simple solution to the many candidate problems; instead of taking just one candidate, rank-choice voting lets you rank multiple candidates. You prefer them rank choice voting is already being used around the world and across the country. And these places have shown us that rank choice voting empowers voters and candidates alike. One study compared rank choice voting cities to plurality cities in California. It showed that representation for persons of color increased by nearly 20% in ranked-choice cities, while the plurality cities only had increased 3% In the same timeframe. In another study of nine US cities where women made up about a quarter of representatives in city councils before rank choice voting, those same jurisdictions after adopting rank choice voting women became council members, about half the time. Some choice voting more fairly represents the full spectrum of voters, which positively affects voter turnout. For all these reasons, ranked choice voting rank choice New York is advocating rank choice voting, up and down the ballot in New York, not just two primaries and special elections like you guys have in New York City right now, but also in general elections. We have a more comprehensive presentation where we bring in experts to do a q&a. We have a handout we're developing that we will get to community boards such as yours. And our goal is to build a moveable movement to expand ranked choice voting to all elections in New York. You can use your phone to scan that QR code to get to our social media, website, etc. I'm going to throw the link once again into the chat. If you're interested in having a presentation, a more comprehensive presentation, and if you're interested in volunteering for the cause to expand rent choice voting in New York State. So, that's the presentation I have for you, but I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

- **Voting Item:**
- **Letter of Support: MG 54 - presented by Adam Clayton Powell**
- Proceed forward with the board members to consent and further letter of support for MG 54
- Reports: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank you to all the board members who will work fine. I represent my name is Adam Clayton Powell, and I represent MG 54 Bar and Lounge Incorporated, which does businesses of MG 54 lounge, location on 1546 & 5048 University Avenue. That's just north of the Cross Bronx Overpass, right where the bin begins. They have been there and doing business for two years now, with wine and beer. To give you a brief background, two years ago, when they put in the application, you know, a silly mistake they put one beer instead of full liquor. When you put in a new application, you know you get full alcohol, but they bought wine and beer. And so, Kathy Saldana, who I've known for some time now, reached out; she's a wonderful lady. By the way, she's here with us at the board meeting, and she was at the other two board meetings that Mr. Nero, chairperson, attended. She is a strong woman struggling like all businesses have because of this pandemic, and she's trying to upgrade to our full liquor. It's not a huge difference, but it does allow you to do a pina colada, it does allow you to do an honest Margarita, or you can do a margarita with wine, but you know it's not the same thing. We've reached out to the chair to the city council member, Mr. Cabrera, and several other people are to get the support of can be required in our application to class change or want to be at the full liquor with the New York State Liquor Authority. That's it in a rundown. Some issues were brought up, such as noise, every restaurant serving alcohol will have some noise issues; the city we live in. But the other more profound problem that came up during the two meetings that we held is that some of those issues that Ms. Kathy Saldana and our business accused of really come from another restaurant, which is a joining complicated. Some of them come from a public part which is about a block away. Some community board members testified to that. So, I'm here to answer any questions; thank you for your time.

First Motion: Nero Graham, Jr.

Seconded: Dr. Brown

- 9 Yes, 5 No, 6 Abstained. Vote does not carry.

- **46th Precinct by Captain Carlos Peralta**
- Reports: The 20 a day number so our homicides are down the roof was one report flat one versus one robbery are up 34 versus 26 friends showed up 44 versus 41 burglaries are down 10 versus 16 versus 51 versus 32 grand larceny orders are 10 versus eight. We have one shooting in the 28 days, recently on 2125 Tiebout Avenue Bronx, NY. We had a motorcycle come by and take a couple of shots, and they shot the victim will not know if the victim was the intended target. We are looking at some evidence; we got some great whoever's got a trail, and you know, hopefully, we'll catch up to these guys soon. It was at the Rivers Park towers, by the doors in an apartment. It was a domestic dispute. We know who the parties were, we know who the perpetrator is, and we are actively looking for a purpose or currently.

Public Session

- **Sallie Smith, Resident:**
Report: I'm a little saddened about losing one of your board members and one of my friends, what I like to say to the board. I'm always saying, Community Board Five is a population of over 140,000 people. We have committee members and board members who lack community engagement and lack community outreach. When you have a committee meeting, and there is a community board, five members there, and three voted to decide what happens to the population of this community and how people are coming out of canoes and arrest us and keep us awake all night. I could understand Roxanna very much as a homeowner and a person who has attended these board meetings. It is said to have three members who can decide on how we sleep at night. This is sad. This is sad. It doesn't make sense that we can have a population of this many people if you decide how we will rest our lives. Thank you very much. I want the thing to say, but this is it. And I will never, and I wouldn't say I like how I must come to the board me to log on, and then I get this message that the House has not done something, and I got to call them to get logged in. Thank you so much.
- **Robert Clemente State Park by Frances**
Report: I want to give my condolences to your board member Ms. Thomasina Bushy. Great community member, we're losing some great people. You've got some great years, some great people moved on and just, it's sad, and I hope you have some youthful people that will continue to move up into those shoes of the people you've lost over those years because I've had requests for them so that and first foremost I will stick with that and Sally, you are there, and I pray for you. I love your strength that you continue to be there all these years because you are someone that people should be looking up to, and I pray that you continue to be there all these years,

continuously. So, my prayers are for you to stay strong. With that, the State Park Robert Clemente opened, we continue to move forward, and we are putting out plans to survive and move forward with plans to start programming. We have submitted to the board some of the programs that we have begun for this spring season. For the summer, we have a table; open registration has started for a table for the kids. Soccer has its registration; you can go online, or you can register at the park. We prepared the full for the summer, so we hope and plan to open the poll for July 2.

We are hiring. We are in desperate need of applicants if you know anyone looking to hire. We are hiring we are looking for maintenance staff. Last year at this time, we would have droves of people coming into the park and grabbing applications. We've put it out this time, but we have no one coming in; I've had this conversation with a few people at the board, but please if you know people. We're looking to hire we need lifeguards we need maintenance staff we need people. So please have them come in and grab the application. They can either go to parks.ny.gov and look for application part one part two and submit it; they can submit it to NYC vacancies, [and.gov](https://www1.nyc.gov), and so just come to the park and get the application there. I'll also send the link to Kenneth and ensure everybody has it, but we need added locations for applicants to work this summer. We're looking for Park stores for security if they have an eight and 16 hour or if they have experience at this point again; we are just looking for people. The Park is open. I am grateful we have been open every day through COVID. We get many comments from many people that it was their mental release to help them through this stressful time, and we were open every day, so we were grateful for that, and I have a great team, and we've been able to be there. I wish everybody a great time. Everybody comes down to the park, and just you know, come, and enjoy a walk and get rid of that stress.

- **Frances Martin Library by Jacqueline Brown**

Report: This is Jacqueline Brown from Francis Martin, and we are still open for everyone to come. We have virtual programs; we have available book discussions we have a chess club. We have a mystery club; we have a virtual book—a book club. Everybody can come to check out books; they must help put the book on hold, then they can go and pick it up. When it's ready, so there'll be emailed, or you get the telephone call. And, you can get a tech kit, performance; you can order that online. That's a new program, and we have Self Help for anyone that wants to put any book on hold. Thank you very much for letting me have this time to speak. I want to give my condolences to Thomasina Busby; all my prayers will be going to the fence. Thank you very much.

- **Bronx Legal Services by Samantha Newman**

Report: This is my first time at this community board meeting, but my name is Samantha Newman; I'm from Bronx legal services, so that's legal services NYC, not legal aid.

In any case, we are in the South Bronx. We exist to provide free civil legal services to low-income folks in the Bronx. I specifically work in our Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics, so I just wanted to share with you guys some relevant information about some tax matters to keep in mind. You can share with your friends and loved ones just some of this relevant information. So, if you didn't

know the tax filing deadline extended to May 17, if you need an extension of that even, you'd have to request that from IRS, so keep that in mind. Still, it has extended past the average equal time. Free tax filing help is available throughout the Bronx for low-income people. Your income doesn't have to be that low usually to receive free tax preparation services. We encourage people to be filing their tax returns for this year. If you're low income and wouldn't usually have a filing requirement, they're still going to want to do that to preserve your right to the economic impact payments. That would be the stimulus payment if you didn't receive one. There is a recovery rebate credit option on the 2020 tax form, which he would check to claim any stimulus payments that you didn't receive. Last year, the year before, stimulus checks of \$1200, then \$600, and the one from this year \$1400. If you didn't receive any of those, you could claim that credit on the 2020 tax form. If you already filed, the IRS would amend that for you. But if you didn't, you're going to have to check that. So, keep that in mind. Another thing is that there will be advanced payments in 2021 for the child tax credit if that's something you would qualify for. But that's why you must have a 2020 tax return on file, or else the IRS is not going to know that you would be eligible for the child tax credit and be able to give you that advance payment in advance for filing your 2021 tax return. So, this is looking forward. But those are just some benefits to filing your return even if you're low income and wouldn't usually have a filing requirement, among other reasons.

- ***Elected Official's Report***

- ❖ ***Honorable Jumaine Williams, Acting Public Advocate***

Representative is Brian Polanco

The 60,000 people in shelters demand public health and emergency responses.

- ❖ ***Honorable Ruben Diaz, JR., Bronx Borough President***

Representative is Tom Lucania

Report: Good evening, board members. First, I want to express my condolences to the board and Mrs. Thomasina Bushby's family on her passing; I had the opportunity to work with her. In between district managers, she was very helpful in getting to know the board and the members and the community. I was working with all of you. So, I want to share my condolences with all of you, just like Doctor Bola, I sent you a text message if you would look at the text message from me, please ask. Secondly, the folks up for reappointment letters will be going out within the next

two weeks regarding reappointments. New members will be appointed—the latter part of May, probably into June. I apologize to all of you who have received emails from me regarding these sexual harassment training who may have sent me their certificates. Since all the board members have the burden of taking this, I'm getting certificates, you know, 500 certificates emailed to me, and I may miss one, so I apologize if I email you and ask you to send it to me again. I will be working with DCAS. Mr. Shorter has not received a certificate. Bronx week will be held beginning the second week of May. I will be sending the board and board members a schedule of events. Each month, our website is up to date on all the latest information regarding vaccinations, COVID testing protocols, COVID, and how agencies and the city are dealing with it. And to go back to what Ken said a little earlier regarding community board five and the opening of city offices. I had spoken about it, and I appreciate that he did due diligence and talked with the CUNY management. Now we are comfortable that Ken and the board have done their due diligence. Unfortunately, we will not be able to open yet. But we will work with them. As September comes around, to hope that they can open, and we will work with the board on any alternative locations if that becomes a necessity. Thank you all very much. Ken did mention that to me, and if you remember, Dr. Bola. When we were in the house, we filled out a requisition form to DCAS. I told Ken is I would go back to see if I could find that form that we filled out back then because it does have to go into the city planning document for city office space. So, I will go back and check, and I apologize to Ken that I said I would do it earlier this week. I have to see if the form is there. If not, I will get it from D CAS, and we will; we will send it out to you, and you can fill it out again; remember, Dr. Bola, we did this when we were in the house.

❖ ***Honorable Vanessa L, Gibson, Council Member District #16***

Representative is Nereida Gomez

Reports: Hi, good evening, everyone; this is Nereida Gomez, from councilmember Vanessa Gibson's office. First and foremost, I want to echo the sentiments that I've heard and let you all know that we're deeply saddened both the member, myself, and my team. I want to offer my sincere condolences to her family and you, all her colleagues or friends. The community always had encouraging words for me, especially when I first started with the office, and I felt like I needed it the most. And I hold those memories that were there. Our office does continue to work remotely; please continue to utilize us as a resource and keep in touch with any concerns you are hearing. I'll put our information in the chat as usual. Another update is our offices, working with the Office of the Attorney General regarding some technical training available for small businesses. If you know of any small business owners who can benefit from the opportunity or would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out to me again. I will put our information on the chat, including my direct email, and go from there. Please take care, everyone, and have a great evening.

❖ ***Honorable Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District***

#86 Representative is Steven Ochoa

Hello and Good Evening Board Members; this is Steven Ochoa from Assembly member Pichardo's office. Like everyone was saying, I want to express my condolences to Miss Bushy. I'm going to try and make this very brief. So, as you may know, earlier this month, the Assembly passed a budget. And in addition to that, one essential thing to note is Bill Number 807175A, the COVID-19 Emergency eviction, and foreclosure Protection Act. So, what this means is that pretty much the eviction moratorium is now being extended to August 31, 2021. And so, it's been passed through the assembly. Tenants cannot be evicted until August 31, so we've it passed in the Assembly, and most likely, it's going to be signed by the governor. In addition to that, and when it comes to the district office, we are open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm; the Assembly Member hopes more people get vaccinated. If any community residents have any more questions, you can feel free to call our office at 718-933-6909. Thank you.

❖ ***Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District#77***

❖ ***Representative is Casey Bautista***

Hello. Yes. Good evening, everyone. God bless you. And yes, we are deeply saddened by the loss of Ms. Thomasina Bushy. May God bless her. My name is Casey Bautista. I work as a community liaison with the Office of Assemblywoman Joyner, and I want to share with you two events that will be taking place this Saturday; there will be a COVID-19 vaccine pop-up. Morris Heights Medical Center at 1227, Edward Grant Highway. There will also be a food giveaway. Would you please encourage any neighbors who would like to have the vaccine? Moderna will be there at their location this Saturday at 9 am; we will be there between nine and five. And we encourage the community to please go. Also, this Sunday, May 2, from 11 am to 2 pm. We will be cleaning the strip, 1520 Sedgwick Avenue. There is so much garbage there, and we have been getting many complaints, so it will be a community effort to clean that place. We are always here to help; feel free to reach out to our office; I will be sharing our information in the chat, and God bless you, and stay safe. Thank you.

❖ ***Honorable Gustavo Rivera, NY State Senator District #33***

❖ ***Representative is Caitlyn***

Hi everyone, this is Caitlyn from Senator Rivera's office; I want to share some quick updates. As Assembly member Pichardo's office said, the legislature was able to pass a historic budget earlier this month. I wanted to share some of the programs included because they will significantly impact the Bronx. First, 2.4 billion allocated for an emergency Rental Assistance Program include a three-year phasing of foundation aid, ensuring that all school districts receive their total foundation aid by the 2023 24 school

year. It also created a first-in-the-nation excluded workers' fund. And it also allocated \$800 million for a small business recovery grant program. And one of the last things I want to touch on is that it mandated all internet service providers to offer affordable high-speed internet to low-income customers. I also know that you guys had a presentation regarding one of the senator's bills last month, so I want to update you. The senator is the main sponsor of the Patient Medical Debt Act, and it's one of his priorities to pass in the remaining months of the legislative session. Lastly, tomorrow at 6 pm, Senator Gustavo will be hosting a virtual immigration webinar to discuss policy updates, including the excluded workers fund and one of the senators. The other bill is the Empire State Licensing Act. The webinar will stream in Spanish, but you can register on Zoom for English, and I will include the link in the chat; and I will also include my information in case anybody needs to reach out with questions.

❖ *Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney*

❖ *Representative is Eric Sawyer*

My name is Eric Sawyer from the Bronx District Attorney's office. An upcoming gun buyback is supposed to be taking place somewhat soon. We don't have a specific date or time yet, but I will keep you guys up to date as soon as we do. The schedule is somewhere close to the 42nd precinct, but it can change at any point, depending on the location. I know that there will be a gun buyback, but I don't know when and where as of yet, but I will keep you guys posted. Thank you.

❖ *Committee Comments*

- **Economic Development:** Chairman Angel Caballero:
- Reports: This week you're going to be seeing new banners on the strip of Burnside Ave Jerome and Tremont, which is something that looks like this bag here. This banner will identify the BJT Bronx Merchant Association. At the beginning of the information piece, we're trying to do this strip of Burnside, Jerome, and Tremont planning to have bags for the local businesses to give out to their customers. They can also understand what we're trying to do on the strip of Burnside. The bags will look like a regular green bag with the BJT Bronx Merchant Association's logo. We're very excited to open. I know that the state has passed that bill. I believe that there's a lot of money coming down for small businesses. I hope that the small businesses that we have can qualify. That's one of the things that I wanted to speak to some of the elected officials that were online, but it's getting late, but I will give them all a phone call about that.

- **Immigration Committee:** Madam Chair Pooi Stewart.
 Reports: Good Evening to all Board Members and other elected officials; I'm the chairperson of the immigration and thank you and other board members coming in this month. Our next month's meeting will be the second week of May, Thursday; it's our immigration committee meeting, and please join us, hopefully, that we have 32 board members. Hopefully, some of them, at least 15 members, can attend the immigration meeting for next month, the second week of our Thursday, and we will be talking about the dreams and the promise. And if people were interested in the community, or the neighbors, you know if you have some people living in the building that are interested in applying. I'm not the attorney but there are presenters, next month can help you. The second week is on Thursday. Thank you.
- **Veterans Committee:** Madam Chair Roxana Gonzalez
 Reports: Good Evening, my name is Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, and we had another successful meeting this past Tuesday. We had another presenter from our borough from the Bronx Vet, representing the available resources to all our veterans in our community. We also shared some of the available food pantries. Unfortunately, we don't have one in our district, and that's something that we need to adjust for the veterans; we are working closely with worldwide veterans and family services to get that done. I believe I can forward it. FYI any of those veteran's friends or families, the third stimulus should have been received, especially disability, by any retired veterans. They went directly to their account, and everyone should have, should have been taken care of. Our next meeting is on May 11, the second Tuesday of every month, at 6 pm. I look forward to seeing what all the chairs are advocating. Come, and join us. If it is not for resources for you, you could gather it and give it to someone your neighbor, or even someone when you're riding the bus walking down the street, you might find a veteran say Hey, this is a resource, and you have that handy. Thank you so much for your time and have a good evening.
- **Municipal Services:** Chairman: Nero Graham, Jr.
- Reports: At the last meeting on April the 13th., we did meet with DOT staff and City Planning, they were at the meeting, and they are going to be doing some major work over at the state park over there, and that should be, I think round Cedar Avenue and Tremont. Over the last section. They call it the Tremont bridge that goes down around that way they're going to be doing a rehabilitation project, and it's going to be a long process when they get started. So, they will be back to give us an update, then we'll bring the information to the board of how it's going, and we will be going from that. Three people did not decide tonight. So, don't leave thinking that the entire board made that decision, but three people only decided to go forward. So, let's not get cross. Of that, keep it that way, and I have been ever since I've been here, I have been saying, I even put out flyers before to people to come out from the Concourse. And you know what, nobody shows up until it rains on them, and they come out in groups. So, you see what happened tonight. It may not be in your favor, but unfortunately, we must work together as a community to make things better. And on another little note, I would like to say also, listen, let us all respect the chair. If you have something to say the chair, Nero Graham, Jr. talking now. Please, I ask that you all be courteous and obedient to the board chair and members. I'm telling you; I see a lot of things

going on. Let's be respectful and have a blessed night, and I hope to see you all come out. May the 11th on Tuesday at our next meeting. So, the input will be there. Thank you.

- **Governing Committee:** Madam Chair Belinda Lawrence
Reports: We have an update from the Borough President's office regarding amending the bylaws. We have an update from the Board President's office regarding making amendments to the bylaws to include language that addresses the election frequency for the executive officers and virtual elections for the executive officers in June, during an emergency. In this case, it will be a pandemic. Details discussed at the next meeting on Thursday, May 13 at 6 pm. Be on the lookout for the notices and the schedule from the Board Office.
- **Ad Hoc Community Outreach Committee:**
Reports: Good evening, everyone. I think it's all said, we need support at the committee meetings. Thank you, Mr. Acosta, for mentioning the Cross Bronx Expressway. I think our last meeting was on Wednesday, April 7, in which the solid waste Advisory Board gave a presentation, and that fits right in. So, we'll be following up on that. Our next meeting will be on May 5 at six o'clock, and we do need participation. We have two or three people in meetings and don't want to sound like a broken record, but we need committee participation. Thank you.

❖ **Old Business:**

Reports: I wanted to comment on things affecting my neighborhood, and a lot of other people are. There's a lot of law, which comes back to the whole thing that we discussed today. I understand the noise situation because I go through it, I'm going to read now, there are people blasting music out of their cars with prominent speakers, there's. what do you call it- dirt bikes, quad bikes, mopeds, zipping around menacingly popping wheelies? So, I think, quality of life in our community needs addressing. And at the same time, we must also be fair to the people in a specific business and give them, you know, allow them to work within the community. Everybody needs to be respected. Everybody wants to sleep soundly. And I understand. Roxanne and I see the business position, so I think what is needed in that scenario are coming together and knowledge. Still, you know, we want economic development in our community. The two in two parts could come together and work things out; I think it could be a win-win situation as opposed to someone losing, you know, someone that can sleep and a person can keep their business afloat. Thank you.

❖ **New Business:**

Reports: None

❖ **Meeting is adjourned :8:49 pm**

The next General Board Meeting will be held on May 23, 2021

Prepared and submitted by

Ms. P. Stewart

Board Member and Secretary of Community Board 5