



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**

Community Board Five

General Board Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2021

Virtual by Webex Video Conference

• **Community Board Five Board Members**

• **Attendees:**

- B.Akumah, S.Bah, A.Caballero, L.Deng, R.Gonzalez, N.Graham, A.Hernandez, B.Lawrence, G.Medina, B.Moore, E.Morris, J.Parra, R.Perez, D.Perry, L.Reyes, M.Rosado, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, P.Stewart, C.Westbrook P.Rojas,

• **Absent/Excused**

- E.Acosta, P.Blanco, C.Camara, J.Curiel, A.Dejesus, P.Dominguez, M.Estrella, M.Heath, T.Mims, Dr.B.Omotosho, R.Owusu, J.Pope, F.Ramos, U.Smith, S.Solano,

Welcome:

- **Opening Prayer** by Cheryl Westbrook
- **Quorum:** 6:58 pm

• **Angel Caballero - First Vice-Chair Chairperson's Report :**

- **Proceedings:** The Housing Committee, which is Dr. Bola and Anthony's they meet on the third Tuesday. The Jerome Avenue Oversight is Cheryl will meet on Tuesday. The Land Use is Pablo Blanco and Cheryl. On the third Tuesday, Parks and Recreation are Griset Medina and Pooi on the fourth Tuesday; the Economic Development is Angel Caballero on - fourth Tuesday. The Health and Human Services is Annette DeJesus- every first Wednesday. The Education is Jaqua Curiel on the first Wednesday. The Youth is Bobby Akumah, the chair on the first Wednesday. Cultural Affairs, Denise Perry, and Pablo - every fourth Tuesday. Immigration is Pooi Belinda, on the fourth Thursday. On the second Tuesday is Veteran's Affairs is Roxanne and Juan- the second Tuesday.

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Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

Municipal services are Nero, and Anthony, on the second Tuesday. Governing are Belinda and Pooi, on the second Thursday. The executive Committee is Dr. Bola and Angel Caballero on the second Wednesday. The Ad hoc committee outreach is Charles and Nero on the first Wednesday.

- **District Managers by Ken Brown Report:**

Good evening, everybody. For those of you that are new. My name is Ken Brown, and I have the pleasure of being your district manager. I want to begin by welcoming everyone, and hopefully, we're at the tail end of the COVID crisis. Hopefully, we can get back to normal sometime soon. And with that in mind, I want to extend my thanks and compliments to the best Community district office staff conceivable LaShawnda and Alva. They've given me no cause for complaints, and I depended upon them, and they have performed wonderfully, so it is to the rebounding glory that we owe them. So, the district manager's report included in the packet of materials you received is just some highlights. The Department of parks continued to work; they have restarted their capital projects on June 29.

There was a design meeting for the aqueduct walk. They are going to continue with the designing and reconstructive walk up north of Morton playground. They said that this all together takes about 30 to 45 months to complete. I'll walk the Friends of the aqueduct wall, a catalyst program for the parks department—the partnerships for parks, whose mission is to bring community involvement in ownership and stewardship. Aqueduct walk has been meeting monthly and a few times a month; over the summer, we had a partnership with the youth at the Davidson Community Center; they came out twice a week for activities gardening, and we had fitness classes. I had the profound pleasure of running a creative running group. I want to thank Angel and the staff at the Davidson Center and the friends of the aqueduct wall for a brilliant summer, and we continue to do programming there in the later part of October. We're hoping to have a photo exhibit of the past and present of the aqueduct walk. The community had a webinar on ERAP. And I'm sure Senator Rivera can speak at length about that. But we had a webinar with NAICA to talk about how to use the ERAP applications to help people that may need assistance with rent. If you know of anyone having problems with their rent or utilities, please get in touch with the office, and we can help. This is a state-run program through federal monies to help people with rent and utilities. The Department of the Aging is our presenter tonight; they will present their new program called My Ride. A Transportation Pilot Program that will be piloting, so the Department for Aging will be presenting on that. And I want to give a brief update. There is the proposed shelter that I'm sure people are aware of coming in at route 2314 Jerome Avenue that's still on track and expected to be opening in January. I asked the DHS if they can update the Housing Committee on that project, I'm waiting to hear back from them. And some of you may remember it was a designated shelter site. There is a new operator that has established. I

contacted the Department of Homeless Services to see if they could also come before the housing community to update.

Voting Items:

December 20 General Board Meeting Minutes 2020

First in Motioned by N. Graham Jr.

Seconded in motion by C. Shorter

- Roll Called: 15 Yes / 5 Abstention, Motion is carried

March 21 General Board Meeting Minutes 2021, approved.

First in Motioned by B. Lawrence

Seconded in motion by N. Graham Jr.

- Roll Called: 17 Yes / 3 Abstention, motion is carried

46th Precinct Community Affairs Officer Aucancela's Report:

Presentation: Department of the Aging

- The Department of Aging pilot program: My Ride by Joseph Jenkins
Reports: My name is Joseph Jenkins; I'll share a brief presentation—a project under the New York State for the aging Office of Public and Private Partnership. On-Demand Transportation Pilot, funded by a federal grant administered by the New York City Department of Transportation. This pilot will run for three years, with a new cohort. Each year, or eight months. Some of the features of the pilots. The big commercial transportation company is an experienced fencer known as CTG and selected via a competitive DFTA process. They will provide door-to-door car service that can be requested by the app or can reach by phone. They provide 24 hours, seven days a week, access to cost service for rides within the five boroughs, Westchester County. There will be over 3000 participants will receive free rides during this pilot within the three

years. To be eligible, you must live in one of the 14 community districts. Bronx Community Board five is one of the districts that will have access to the program. You must be 16 years or older are persons with disabilities; participants will choose through a randomized lottery process. To become a part of that process, you must apply online or by mail. If selected to proof of age, residency and disability will be required. The application window opens on September 30 and will close on Friday, October 8, so it's a four-week window, anybody wanting to mail the application, it must be postmarked by next Friday. A week after the application window closes, the participants selected by a randomized process, will receive invitations to participate in the onboarding process. This process will begin on October 25. Those who go through the onboarding that week will start getting a ride on November 1. You can go to your nearest the library to get connected to the website and apply. And if you need access to a computer, that's a great resource to use. And the way it works is the rider will see the monthly stipend or rides, and it depends on how many rides they take and how long as to how long it will last. You can bring friends caretakers along with you on a ride for no additional cost if the people have capacity. We have wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Public Session

- **Sallie Smith- Resident**
- Reports: Good evening; board members I'm delighted to see all of us back together for another season; some of the issues I have concerns about have been addressed. One of the issues is a lot of dumping is brought to our community and bags and bags put on the sidewalk. I was appalled that they use directly in front of Fountain Spring Baptist Church. They had a pile of dirt so tall that you couldn't even park in front of the church.
- I feel the church is vital as any other building and being put in all that mess right in front of the church is disrespectful to the community and the congregation. I walked this morning a lot where the building is boarded up is horrible. Not only are the spaces where the tree beds, where the workmen are staging, but there are also putting their boards and all the stuff they need for the work they don't clean it up. They need to clean up themselves when they leave in after they took the parking spaces away and made a plant. All the dirt on the east side, where they have already put the land in black trees, or whatever. It started to become a dumping ground. From 165 Street, up to 100 to 160 feet, those mediums manicured from their own to where they've already planted the plants and is nothing but a weed bed with the avenue, it's the same thing, where they put the mediums in that claim, they're going to put plants. They've got what we've told me that is unacceptable. Madison Park Avenue mediums are manicured all the time. This should be the same thing those contractors should not be putting the weeds in there and let the weeds go all the way up, and they became mosquito beds. Also, the Paradise Theater, I know has permit issued work order there was someone is going in and out today. The restaurant barbecues of the street are still drunk on the outside to cook the food for the restaurant. That's unacceptable 2119 Grand Concourse, pull at first roam in front of your

restaurant to purchase on the inside. No place, but our Grand Concourse in the Bronx, which is the Grand Boulevard. Thanks, our community. After half a year needed a certain amount of us, this is terrible. You walk up and down the streets; I walk, some of the places are terrible. Jerome Avenue is awful. They tell them that they will say that you got 30 to 60 bikes in one fat rack. Over 500 bikes of between Jerome Avenue and Burnside Avenue was on Webster Avenue, who's using them.

- **King of Glory, commissioned by the National Institute of Health:**
Peace and blessings to all, and I so appreciate the opportunity. King of Glory and the National Institute of Health have commissioned us to do a project for a whole year to increase the numbers of folks getting COVID tested in CB five. I am reaching out to constituents of the programs and agencies in the area to get permission for a COVID testing van here daily. I'm here tonight to request your support and your assistance. If anybody knows of any place that might be willing to have the van parked there for the day, they usually plan to be there from nine to seven. The only thing they need is the use of a restroom. I feel good that we have a whole year to do it. So, I'm just looking for support around that issue of the COVID test, and they can get the results right away. It does not cost, and I need help to obtain permission to park outside and some of the programs.
- **Lutheran Social Service of New York by Georgia Katsalis:**
Reports: My name is Georgia Katsalis. I work with Lutheran Social Services as a foster parent trainer and recruiter. I do help unaccompanied minors that cross the border again temporary housing. The requirements for the prospective parents are they need to be able to speak Spanish or some dialect from Central or South America. I want to collaborate with you if you are interested. And anyone that has any way of helping Lutheran Social Services out, I do appreciate. And we accept minors, between zero and 14 years of age, and the time of stay for the youth is could, it could be as short as one week, and it could be if eight months we don't know the length of time. It depends based off of different things. If anyone wants to learn more information or collaborate or would enjoy the sharing organization, they feel would be helpful, I would appreciate it if you contacted me at gkatsalis@lss.org. My cell phone number is 917 684-8861. I want to thank everyone here tonight, all the board members. I think you all are great, and I'm Thankful you can hold this meeting tonight and allowing me to present, and if anyone has any questions right now. I'm open to answering them. I work at 831 Eagle Avenue in the Bronx.
- **Roberto Clemente State Park by Francis Rodriguez**
Reports: The gym is under construction on the gym floor through January which means there's no indoor basketball. We still have indoor activities overall for the kids. We do have two outdoor basketball courts, and they are open for activities. We're going to start construction on the interior very soon. The purpose of this is to accommodate the community. We're going to start a

classroom program. We received \$8 million from the Governor and Borough President Ruben Diaz when the young man was killed with the gang violence incident. We received \$8 million for program expenses, so the park have created programs and developed more programming. We're going to have more classroom classes, and programs that will be available in the gym. But the park is open; we have the football fields, basketball fields, and everything else open for everyone to visit outside. We want everyone to know that the park is open. We have a basketball program; we have a table program going here actually program with NYPD-they're ready to program, so they're running the football on Saturdays, as we have soccer, basketball. We're going to have a chance to check our website for that Saturday, October 31. We're going to have outside some of the hobbies that we usually do, and we're going to have an event for Halloween. October 10 wilderness waterfowl inquiry that some of you may know comes with the canoes, they're going to come back Monday, and we're going to be offering free canoe rides to the public. We're going to have the free canoe rides; those are the ones we've been doing for about six years; we've been able to get 1000 kids throughout the last six years, we've been able to bring back 1000 kids on the Harlem River and teach them to live on the Harlem River. We've been able to teach these kids and get them to the waterfront and touch them what waterfront and canoeing are, and I'm grateful to them for that. On Columbus Day, Monday, we're going to offer this to the public; we're helping people come down and join us on October 10; Columbus Day to come down and join us. I'm sorry for the feedback, political, that's quite good yes, I am accepting applications per Park store for us like a park ranger, so if you have a security background, I know someone with security. Eight hours 16 hours, we are accepting applications. I have like four-position right now. Also, please let those people know, I am looking at a security applicant.

Elected Official's Reports

- **Honorable Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson's Office District #16**
- **Representative is Nereida Gomez**
- Email: District16bronx@council.nyc.gov with any questions or concerns.
- Hi, good evening, everyone; this is Nereida Gomez, with councilmember Vanessa Gibson's office. I do have some information for you tonight. I hope you all and that you and your families are all healthy and safe that God's going to be back with you all. Please continue to use our office as a resource. You can reach out at 718-588-7500, which I will put in the chat, along with my direct email. We have a few family-friendly events coming up, including another silent disco and a movie night for October, which I will share the flyers with Ken to distribute. Also, this Friday

from 4 pm to 8 pm, we have a band that night. This event is going to be up in Williamsbridge Oval, we do have a vendor coming with skates, as well as instructors, so if you're like me and don't and don't know how to skate, we'll also have a health fair. So please come out with us. It's supposed to be a perfect time. We're going to have resources, and it'll be fun. I'll share those flyers with Ken Brown. This is to battle food insecurity and encourage folks to utilize the many local farmer's markets we have in the district were doing pop-ups, a few markets in the area, and distributing resources some PPE, and also some health bucks, which are \$2 vouchers that can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Tomorrow morning, from about 11 to 2 pm, we'll be at Mount Eden malls; this is the farmers market right behind the Bronx Care hospital, which is very popular. So, I'll be there; please see me get some healthy bucks to get some fresh fruits and vegetables and support healthy eating. Thank you, I will put most if not all this information on the chat and how to reach me directly. Thanks, everyone.

Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77

- *Representative Sharon Williams*
- *Contact: 718 538 2000*
- I just wanted to share that Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is genuinely looking forward to expanding a Workforce Development Center in her district. And I know that a few have touched base regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. I just wanted to give some information about the W-9 that the homeowners must complete. It's imperative that the homeowners also attach the W9. But insert the W9 information in the ERAP application as well. If not, that's delaying some of the applications for the ERAP program. Also, I know that others have touched base regarding the eviction moratorium, as you know, that extended to January 15. Also just wanted to give a Hello to all the fantastic community board members this evening. Just letting you know that Assemblywoman Joyner has given out over 200 book bags and supplies to our beautiful children and families in the district over the summer. She will be hosting on October 1, and she's going to be hosting a food giveaway. I will be providing that flyer to your amazing Lashawnda or Mr. Brown so that it can be, you know, distributed to the community. And again, just reminding you regarding the ERAP program on the homeowner side, the homeowner's information must be inserted and attached. And finally, for the SCRIE and the DRIE renewals, please be mindful please get that information out to the constituents. It is imperative that they are conscious of their deadlines for their recertifications. Please get in touch with Assemblywoman Joyner's community office. The community office number is 718-538-2000. Again, that's 718-538-2000, and again my name is Sharon. I'm one of the constituent liaisons. For Assemblywoman Latoya, it's always a pleasure to be here at Community Board five meetings.

Honorable Jose Marco Serrano, New York State Senator District #29

- *Representative is June Soto*
- Hello and Good Evening, this is June Soto. I'm the Community Liaison for Senator Serrano's office. We want Community Board Five to know that we are giving out PPE in our office, if anyone would like to or knows an organization that would like to come by and request any of that, please call out office. If you are interested for any event or meeting requests that should be sent over to scheduler.serrano@gmail.com or you can reach out to us at 212-828-5829.

- **Old Business:**

No Report

- **New Business:**

No Report

- *Adjourned at 7: 40 pm.*

The next General Board Meeting will be held on October 27, 2021.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. P. Stewart.

Secretary of Bronx Community Board Five