



COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, *Bronx Borough President*

Chairperson
Angel Caballero

District Manager
Kenneth Brown

General Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2024

Attendance (28/42): Mario Acosta, Chantal Allison-Konteh, Eloise Bennett, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, Julian Cleveland, James Coger, Carrie Cuthbertson, Osiris Guzman, Tisha Hatch, Michele Heath, Stacy Infante, Marlene Jimenez, James Lin, Maribel Maria, Theresa Mims, Robert Nieves, Tierra Pais, Juan Parra, Brenida Parsons, Dilletta Pina, Patricia Rojas, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson

Absent: Bobby Akumah, Yazmin Benitez, Phyllis Bowdwin, Gail Hill, Nanette Matthews

Excused: Nekeisha Afful, Wilfrido Bonilla, Catherine Cudjoe, Annette Dejesus, Lucia Deng, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Benjamin Richardson, Argenis Santiago-Payamps, Carlos Veras

Meeting started: 6:07pm

Quorum: 6:07pm

Chairperson's welcome and report

- Christmas tree lighting ceremony was on December 6
 - Chairman Angel expresses gratitude to Bean Morris Garden, especially Carrie Cuthbertson and Marlene Jimenez
- Toy distribution on 12/19 at the Davidson Community Center, in collaboration with Senior Citizens on the Move, and Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia. First come, first serve, starting at 3 pm
- Upcoming activities at the Family Enrichment Center
 - Child Boutique on Thursday, 12/12 from 11 am – 2pm at 2001A Creston Avenue

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
Telephone (718) 364-2030 * Facsimile (718) 220-8426/1767 * bx05@cb.nyc.gov

Serving these Neighborhoods:
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

- Burnside Jerome Tremont Commercial District association put together a booklet of local business coupons. Booklets are available in the back of the Davidson Center.
- DM is not present, but the report is in the package received by members. Will be present during the next meeting.

Voting Item:

- November General Board meeting minutes
 - Juan motions to accept the minutes with corrections, Dilletta seconds, with corrections
 - Correction: Stacy Infante was excused from the November meeting.
 - The motion passes with a vote of 24 yes, zero no, zero abstentions.

46th NY Police Precinct Report

- Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, 46th Precinct
 - Inspector Scheublin has been participating in many local events over the past few months, including an announcement of the “Every Block Counts” program at Bean Morris Garden. Mayor Adams was in attendance. Insp. Scheublin thanks Carrie and Marlene of Bean Morris Garden.
 - Overview of program: Focuses on residential blocks within two NYPD precincts, including the 46th, known for having the highest number of violent crimes, in particular shootings, over the past five years.
 - Insp. Scheublin emphasizes that the program looks to see what [we] can do as a team to let the city know that the city cares. The blocks identified in the area have had no shootings in 56 days. There were 3 shootings in the same period last year.
 - The next phase is about identifying and providing services
- There is increased police presence on Burnside Avenue and Fordham Road business areas for the holidays
- Cell Phone: 646-306-9701
- Inspector Scheublin introduces Executive Officer Soriano
 - Welcomes members of the community to call with any questions
 - Soriano: 929-921-0350
- Question from community:
 - Concerns about cars illegally parked on Andrews Avenue. A member of the community states that she has reported it to 311 numerous times.
 - Inspector: it may be that it is getting bumped to Sanitation
 - Shenja: Could the comm affairs dept do a swing by (missed location)

- Charles: concerns about the drug use of people experiencing homelessness
- Tisha: On Tiebout- a group is stripping cars of emblems, signs, mirrors, etc. They stole items from her daughter's car. She received video of the incident and was able to confront the perpetrators. But she is concerned that it is continuing.
 - The Inspector asks Tish to get in contact
- Michele: Thanks, the precinct for their service, her van's converters were stolen during the summer. It was stolen in front of Bronx Community College. Precinct recovered.
- Dilletta: Thanks for their service. Sees the improvement in the community. Wished officers a happy holiday.
- Tierra: Wants to bring attention to the murder of a friend, will speak more about it later in the public session.

Public Session

- Ms. Sallie Smith
 - Expressed her excitement at attending today's meeting, as she is approaching 88 years of age. However, she is tired of bringing the same concerns to meetings.
 - Bus stops at either side of the Grand Concourse
 - Believes that streets are becoming local thrift shops, with boxes of junk and the sides of buildings being used as showcases.
- Dr. Tonie McKenzie, MD
 - Works at Walton Family Center
 - Came to speak about INT 299-2024, which targets food waste. It would require the Department of Sanitation and the Department of Consumer Affairs to establish a food donation program where food service establishments could have the civil penalties for eligible violations waived if they agree to donate their excess food.
 - Dr. McKenzie shared a story of a family that came in for yearly check-in and teens expressed that they had a limited diet. Approximately 1.3 million report food insecurity.
 - Under INT 299, food businesses can have citations waved and mitigate fines if they participate in food donation programs. The bill has been stalled for a year.
- Erika Diaz, Community Liaison at Family Enrichment Center
 - FEC will host a Child Boutique tomorrow 11 am - 2pm at their 2001A Creston Avenue Location.

- It will have clothes for newborns up to teens and young adults.
- FEC hosted a coat giveaway earlier this month and will host another later, pending participation from partners
- They will also host an ornament-making activity on 12/17 from 6 pm – 8 pm. RSVP only, please contact 929-703-0485
- Reverend Robert Earl, Director of Career Development at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)
 - The Center's work focuses on helping people enter college and figure out their major and career goals. He is looking to bring this work to the local community
 - Also wants to help people who are under-employed or unemployed with job search, offering training and skills-building
 - BMCC application is due by January 1. Reverend Earl can assist with admissions materials and questions.
 - He will be holding service at the Creston Academy (125 East 181 Street, Bronx, NY 10453) on January 5 at 3 pm:
- Tierra Pais, speaking as a member of the public
 - Speaking on behalf of a friend, Nikki B.
 - Michael Woody was fatally beaten on November 16 in his apartment on Fulton Avenue and died later in the hospital. There is video surveillance of men walking into his apartment on the day he was found beaten.
 - Wants to bring justice by sharing the story and posting on social media. She has copies of the wanted flyer for any interested or who may have information. The flyer has photos of Woody's girlfriend and the two men.
- Ariel Amaya
 - Brought supplemental images for his vision for Crotona Park. The Board Chair recommended that he visit the parks committee to discuss his ideas more in-depth.
- Stephany Garcia, Jerome Avenue Revitalization (JARC) representative
 - The group was officially formed February 2021, but has been working on plans since 2018
 - Plans for the area are created by residents, across different sectors and industries in order to leverage and empower the community.
 - A team of agencies supports small businesses in the corrido taking on a collaborative approach
 - JARC is looking to host an event in February/late January
 - Angel, CB5 Chair also invites people to visit the Economic Development committee meeting for more information

Elected Official's Reports

- Esperanza Diaz, Councilmember Oswald Feliz (District 15)
 - The City of Yes passed last Thursday. This is an exciting time for the city overall
 - The CM will be hosting events during the holiday season, including three toy giveaways throughout the Bronx:
 - Giveaway: Thursday, 12/19 from 4 – 6 pm at Fordham University: flyer in the back
 - Additional Giveaways: 12/23 at Caridad Restaurant, located at 2467 Bathgate Avenue; 1/11/2025 for Three Kings Day at the New York Botanical Garden.
 - Please call the office for more information
 - Address: 573 East Fordham Road/Office Phone: 718-842-8100
 - Esperanza Diaz' Cell: 347-814-3168
- Maria Villalobos, Councilmember Pierina Sanchez (District 14)
 - Maria was promoted to Chief of Staff for the CM
 - She shared updates on several legislative matters:
 - Int 1127 passed last week: Establishes a pilot program to convert existing basement or cellar apartments to habitable dwelling units.
 - Int 1128 passed last week: Amends the City's Building and Fire Codes to allow for ancillary dwelling unit construction.
 - City for All: A modified negotiation package of housing policy Sanchez pushed to improve City of Yes.
 - Int 652: Establishes a pilot program providing free mental health services to children who have been returned to their home following removal.
 - Address: 2065 Morris Avenue / Phone: 347-590-2874
 - For the remainder of the month, there will be no services by providers in the office.
 - Food distribution on 12/13 at Cleopatra Playground at 1751 Anthony Avenue.
- Jack Shaevitz, Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia (District 86)
 - Will be participating in the 12/19 Toy Giveaway at Davidson Center.
 - The office will be closed after 12/23 through the new year
 - The legislative session in Albany starts in January.
 - Address: 2175 Jerome Avenue / Office Phone: 718-933-6388
 - Jack Shaevitz' Cell: 917-414-5323
- (AB) Abou-Bakhr Meite, Assemblymember Landon Dais (District 77)
 - Wants to share some info with residents dealing with landlord or building issues: For heat and hot water issues:
 - Reach out to 311, then forward info on the open case to the office
 - For elevator issues

- Reach out to DOB, then forward info to the office
- Leaks
 - Reach out to 311 and 911, then forward info to the office
- Address: 910 Grand Concourse Suite 1JK / Phone: 718-538-2000
- Lia Guzman, State Senator Gustavo Rivera (District 33)
 - The office hosted a giveaway that distributed about 700 turkeys and vouchers to the community
 - Office is available for any help needed with immigration, Labor, and similar matters
 - The Senator put together a letter with CM Sanchez to the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board about transparency issues with the opioid settlement fund
 - Office will close for the holidays starting 12/16
- Vincent Sepulveda, State Senator Luis Sepulveda (District 32)
 - The office regularly hosts NMIC/NYLAG for legal services, including help with eviction and unemployment.
 - Address: 375 Kelly Street, Suite 203 / Office Phone: 718-991-3161
 - Office will close for the holidays, will reopen January 6
- Joanna Rivas, Congressmember Ritchie Torres (District 15)
 - Introduced the Anesthesia for All Act: Would prohibit health insurers, including Medicaid managed care organizations and other private health plans, from imposing arbitrary time caps on reimbursement for anesthesia services.
 - Rep. Torres wrote to Hochul about passing transparency legislation for state contracts that are exempt from review by the Comptroller.
 - Office: 540 East Fordham Road Suite 2A / Phone: 718-503-9610
- Trevon Blondet, District Attorney Darcel Clark
 - Staff collected 150 coats and jackets for the New York Cares Coat Drive.
 - The office has a Youth Advisory Council to help empower Bronx youth to become advocates for change.
 - Cell: 917-946-3438 / Address: 198 East 161st Street

Old Business

- Beverly: Following up on a situation discussed during the November general board meeting, people experiencing homelessness at Featherbed Lane have been removed.
- Mario: Following up on board member conduct of Benjamin Richardson. Encourages members to review the materials provided by the ad-hoc committee in the packet before the next executive meeting.

- Chef Wilson asked a clarifying question, members emphasized that questions should be asked during executive.