



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 5

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Angel Caballero**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

**Bronx Community Board 5
General Board Meeting Notes
June 25, 2025**

Attendance: Mario Acosta, Bobby Akumah, Chantal Allison-Konteh, Eloise Bennett, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, James Coger, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Lucia Deng, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Osiris Guzman, Tisha Hatch, Marlene Jimenez, James Lin, Maribel Maria, Nanette Matthews, Theresa Mims, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Dilletta Pina, Benjamin Richardson, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused: Nekeisha Afful, Michele Heath, Brenida Parsons, Shenia Rudolph

Absent: Yazmin Benitez, Gail Hill, Argenis Santiago-Payamps,

Meeting start: 6:08 pm

Welcome from Board Chair Angel Caballero

- Reminds the public that there are translation services from English/Spanish available
- Laments to share that Cheryl Westbrook, First Vice Chair, had to step down from the board.

Approval of Minutes

- Mario moves to approve the minutes from the May 28th General Board Meeting, Theresa seconds the motion.
- Roll call and vote
- Vote: 19 Yes, 3 abstentions. The motion passes, and the minutes are approved.

Chairperson's Report

- June 11th District Cabinet Meeting: Didn't have a full board during this meeting. But DM will provide an update on the discussion.

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

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

- Will rearrange today's General Board Meeting agenda to move the vote for including the treasurer on the slate of positions.

Presentation: New York Yankees Community Council Youth Leadership Award Winners

Eloise, Chair for Youth Committee: Presenting the checks on behalf of the Yankee Scholarship to the following award winners:

- ❖ Kayla Dantzler
- ❖ Kayli Dantzler
- ❖ Wildaliza Polanco
- ❖ Taeshan Miller
- ❖ Aminata Konate

They are congratulated for their applications and hard work.

District Manager's Report

- Thanks the community for their patience, commitment.
- The district office's work continues during the board hiatus.
- June 3: First summer preparation virtual call with Con Edison. Although there have been cuts to NOAA, it should not impact Con Ed's predictions. Cooling centers are open. Link to map website: <https://finder.nyc.gov/coolingcenters/>
- June 4: South Bronx JobCorps Career Fair. Although JobCorps funding was cut nationally, litigation is ongoing to undo those cuts and restore funding. Hearing on June 17, the judge issued an injunction, which has been appealed. As of now, Centers are closed, but staff remain on through June.
 - The June Job Fair was held in collaboration with the Mayor's Office. 15 organizations' tabled, but there was emphasis on local employers. About 100 job seekers.
- Ken expresses thanks to the Housing Chair, Nanette Matthews, for her invitation to attend the SHNNY/Supportive Housing Network of New York conference.
- Syringe Buyback Program: Vans parked at eight parks in NYC, including Echo Park. Participants can return used syringes for 20 cents each, up to \$10 a day. Ongoing every Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am – 12 pm
- June 27: Clean up at Echo Park
- Reminder: Every library is a cooling center. Francis Martin closed for repairs through July 19th.

Elections for Executive Board Officers

- Chair of the Nominating Committee, Chef Geneva Wilson, and members James Coger and Robert Nieves.
- The positions up for election are:
 - Chairperson
 - 1st Vice Chairperson
 - 2nd Vice Chairperson
 - Secretary

- Sargent at Arms
- The members running for the positions are:
 - Sargent at Arms: Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez
 - Read from her letter of intent- She is a retired USN Combat Veteran with 20 years of service. Since her return to the community, she has been dedicated to serving and making a difference. She joined CB5 in 2019, when she initially became chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and worked to bring resources to vets and to create partnerships with local entities.
 - 2nd Vice Chairperson: Juan Parra
 - Juan: He's here to do the best for the community. He is looking forward to making changes in the next session. Please find his biography in the folder.
 - 1st Vice Chairperson: Erachie Brown and Osiris Guzman
 - Erachie: Became chair of Cultural Affairs committee last year. This year, she has served as chair of the Parks committee. Her decision to join was motivated by a desire to help the community. She is very passionate. Felt mentored by Cheryl.
 - Osiris: Removes himself from the running for the position during the time of the meeting.
 - Chairperson: Angel Caballero and Osiris Guzman
 - Osiris: Submits his candidacy on the floor. He has lived in the community for 25 years. Feels that things within the board are outdated. This board has authority, but we need to start acting on it. He can help do this by bringing new ideas. This is bigger than a chairperson position. Wants others to believe in a new chapter.
 - Angel: Running for his second term. We must hold ourselves accountable to the people. He ran initially on a platform of adhering to the bylaws. He works within the community and has seen numerous changes occur. He's been in the community for over 50 years, develops programs for youth and seniors. It has been a big challenge. But we must continue to work.

Results of the Election:

With 27 members present-

- Roxana: Elected with 27 votes.
- Juan: Elected with 27 votes.
- Erachie: Elected with 17 votes, 10 no decision votes.
- Osiris: Elected with 14 votes, 11 votes for Angel, 2 no decision votes.

Voting Item: Election of the Treasurer position

- Angel: Since it was voted on during a committee meeting, it must be brought to the full board to decide whether the position will be voted on during the next session.

- DM Ken: It is not whether the position will remain in the bylaws. The decision is whether we want to have an election for the position in the next season.
- Juan: asked a clarifying question, which was addressed in the remarks above by DM.
- Benjamin: Referenced the May 14th Governance meeting minutes. Believes that the position should be included tonight.
- Juan moves to vote to bring back the position during the next season, Dilletta seconds.
- Vote: 21 yes, 6 abstentions. The motion passes, and the position will be brought back for voting during the next season.

NYPD 46th Precinct Report

- Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, 46th Precinct:
 - Clergy Council
 - Precinct Council elections were recently held.
 - Speaking about quality-of-life enforcement:
 - Summonses are the main tool used. Increased 79% YTD, a third in the last 3 weeks. Most in response to 311 calls.
 - 46th precinct's 311 response time has decreased well below an hour since Scheublin's start with the precinct.
 - They don't go straight to enforcement. They understand that you can't "summon: your way out of issues/violence.
 - Q Team is coming soon. It is being piloted across the city.
 - Special projects Lieutenant Sergio De la Mota – responds to 311 calls. During the summer, there is a shift in the types of calls: Loud parties, open hydrants, and late-night music. He implores people to understand that they are the important players in these types of improvements to quality of life.
 - Phone: 646-276-2821
 - Catherine: Ryer and 181st to 182nd: Many late parties, issues with double parking. What is being done?
 - Inspector: Cops posted until 2-3 AM. They are addressing the late parties, drinking
 - Beverly: Loud noise can be heard on Undercliff from Monday to Sunday until 5 AM. Seems to be coming from the park across the river, but sounds like it is coming from the backyard.
 - Inspector: Will reach out to 34th Precinct Commanding Officer
 - Additional comments: Pop-up parties appear on Facebook at Sedgwick Avenue. When reported, 311 says it's a non-emergency. 1000s of people show up.
 - Inspector: Most of the area in the 44th precinct. But they are collaborating.
 - Theresa: Issues with late party until daybreak.
 - Inspector: encourages her to call him via cell.
 - Osiris: What approaches do they take to avoid escalation?

- Inspector: Described how these issues develop (some people don't have backyards, some don't have air conditioning) but these interactions between police and the community start with a conversation/warning.
- Dilletta: Encourages people to ask these questions at the Council meetings. There, you can speak to the officers who patrol the area. Next council meeting is Sept 16th.
- Charles: How can we get the Transit Division involved at 174/175th street, at Tremont? There is a lot of open drug use occurring in the train stations.
 - Inspector: Wants the commander of the Transit Division to attend the next board meeting. Will try to connect with Charles during the summer.
- Nanette: The District Manager's report mentions an initiative to increase life expectancy in NYC. One of the targets is opioid drug overdoses. Did the department receive funds from the Opioid Settlement Fund, and if so/how will it be operationalized?
 - Inspector: Can find out and follow up.
- Benjamin: A shooting happened when the children were returning from a trip. School at Tremont/Anthony. School has 3-5K, they still need protection. Doors are electronic. He is the parent leader at the school.
 - Officers are there from 12:30 PM to about 2 AM. Also has ppl at Echo Park, at Clay. They often flood the area.
 - Benjamin: doesn't believe 2 people are enough coverage for the school.
- Osiris: What are your recommendations for engaging more with one another to make the community safer?
 - Inspector: decreasing violent crime, QOL, get to know NCOs, and engage at meetings like this.
- New community affairs officer: Kennedy is no longer in the role.
 - It is a long hiring process
- Cell Phone: 646-306-9701

Public Session

- Dilletta Pina, resident
 - Here as a representative for the DYCD Community Needs Assessment. Gives you the power to decide how money is used in the community. Great way to get more involved in the community.
 - Link: <http://arcg.is/10zazj3>
- Raheem Buksh, resident
 - Congratulations to the newly appointed officials. Damage was done to his private home by a developer constructing next door. Has a list of damages. The developer that caused the damage has done very minimal corrections. He is now trying to go after the insurance company.
- Kisha Candanedo

- Friends of Echo Park founding member. Friends of Echo Park is sponsored by Partnership for Parks and City Parks Foundation. Meet every 4th Thursday of the month, 6 pm
- They will be hosting a clean-up on Friday, June 27th 11 am – 3 pm.
- Sallie Smith, resident
 - Back to speak about similar issues as before: The bus stops at Grand Concourse and Burnside. The bus stop was removed after the bus line was revamped. Bus drivers often stop in the middle of the street or right by the planters on the Grand Concourse, which are dangerous to navigate. Echo Park bathrooms.
- Mario Henriquez, South Bronx JobCorps Center
 - Voicing concerns regarding the funding cuts to AmeriCorps and JobCorps at the Federal Level. Advocating for the program and for his fellow students. Students rely on the program for housing, skills, and job training. The resumption of services will be complicated. Advocacy requested: <https://www.change.org/p/save-job-corps-nation-wide>

Elected Officials' Reports

- Emmanuel Martinez, Mayor Eric Adams
 - Thanks and acknowledges Angel for his service. Congratulations to all new officers.
 - Block by Block Initiative: “Every Block Counts”: Looks at blocks that have historically seen high levels of shooting incidents and crime. These blocks are provided with intensive support and resources.
 - Affordable and supportive housing opening: La Central Housing at 626 Bergen Avenue in South Bronx.
 - Cell (receives texts): 646-406-3346. Email: emmartinez@cityhall.nyc.gov
- Jacqueline Calderon, Borough President Vanessa Gibson
 - Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza at Orchard Beach on June 26 from 5:30 – 9:30 pm. Register on Eventbrite.
 - Bronx Summer Concert Series: First Saturday of July and every Sunday after.
- Lia Guzman Genao, State Senator Gustavo Rivera (District 33)
 - Blood Drive at Fordham University
 - Immigration and Housing Clinic monthly
 - July 10 12 pm: Senior Health Fair and Luncheon at Lehman College Music Building.
 - Call to reserve a seat: 718-933-2034
- Trevon Blondet, District Attorney Darcel Clark
 - Connecting with stakeholders, NYPD, on an initiative called The Hotspot. Cannot share too many details.
 - Phone: 917-946-4338. Email: blondett@bronxda.nyc.gov
- Gabriella Santana, Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia (District 86)

- Secured \$60 million in funding for the district. Eight bills passed during the session, including a bill that seeks to limit the sale of Xylazine, a sedative for animals, that is being used recreationally.
- Free clinics with NMIC
- Phone: 718-933-6909

Committee Reports

- Municipal Services, Lucia Deng
 - Met on Monday, June 2nd
 - MTA came in to discuss ADA reconstruction. This will be a long project. MTA will return in September with a more detailed plan.
 - DOT was supposed to present the Jerome Capital Project.
 - Implores members and the public to attend these meetings
- Housing Committee, Nanette Matthews
 - Had to cancel the last two meetings, most recently on June 18th. She was sick and tired, both literally and with issues holding back the board. Asks members to not just attend, but to bring critical thinking skills.
 - Asks that people bring their heart and soul.
- Parks Committee, Erachie Brown
 - June 14: Tour of Parks in the CB5 area. Going to investigate a few other parks/green spaces. Issues that arose include the need for tree pruning, additional landscaping, and playground refurbishment.
 - Specifics for each park are available in the District Manager's report under "14 June"

Old Business

- Construction will begin at the Davidson Center. This will likely impact where future CB meetings can take place. Chairperson Angel will speak to the new Board Chair Osiris regarding certain logistics.

New Business

- None.

Meeting end: 8:40 PM

The next General Board Meeting will be held on September 24th, 2025.