



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa Gibson., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Osiris Guzman**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

General Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: September 24, 2025

Start time: 6:20 pm

Quorum: 6:21

Attendance: Mario Acosta, Nekeisha Afful, Eloise Bennett, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, James Coger, Carrie Cuthbertson, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Osiris Guzman, Tisha Hatch, James Lin, Nanette Mathews, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Sharline Parker, Norma Perez, Dilletta Pina, Shenja Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Chef Geneva Wilson.

Excused: Bobby Akumah, Michelle Heath, Theresa Mims, Marlene Jimenez, Raidiris Dominguez, Benjamin Richardson, Chantal Alison-Konteh, Lucia Deng.

Absent: Yazmin Benetiz, Catherine Cudjoe, Gail Hill, Argenis Santiago-Payamps, Mariama Touray.

Welcome from Chairperson, Osiris Guzman

Chair called the General Board Meeting of Bronx Community Board 5 to order at PS 279.

Thanked Principal Jean and PS 279 for hosting and for supporting collaboration with the school and its students.

Welcomed board members, community partners, residents, agency representatives, and elected officials.

Recognized everyone's commitment to the community and emphasized working together to move it forward.

Proceeded to the Chairperson's Report.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Osiris Guzman reported on ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with elected officials, community-based organizations, and the 46th Precinct, emphasizing that collaboration among these partners is key to advancing community goals.

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During the board's summer break, CB5 remained active by participating in several community events, including the back-to-school giveaway and National Night Out at Cedar Playground. The board also attended the ribbon cutting for Jeanie Jerome Playground, a \$4.3 million capital investment, now open to the public.

The Chair introduced three new board members and recognized the appointment of the youngest member in this year's application process, highlighting the value of youth involvement in shaping the future of the district.

All board members were provided with copies of the Bronx CB5 Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Section 2800 of the City Charter, and a Conflict-of-Interest disclosure sheet. Members were reminded to create official CB5 email accounts for board business to ensure FOIL compliance and maintain separation from personal emails.

District Manager's Report:

- The new Community Board chair and District Manager met with the Commanding Officer of the 46th precinct to discuss quality of life concerns. 400 cars are towed per year within the precinct.
- NYPD initiative: Q-Teams. These teams are to address 311/quality of life concerns that are not 911 emergencies. They will focus on smoke shops, vehicle towing, and homeless encampments.
- National Night Out Against Crime. Annual community event organized locally by the 46th police precinct council. CB 5 was able to use a table and offered flyers and pamphlets to the community. District Manager and the Community Coordinator crewed the table and engaged with attendees at the event.
- Sedgwick Houses Family Day. Tabling event. Interacted with families and residents of Sedgwick houses.
- Bronx Community College City Agency Resource Fair. CB 5 had a table and offered flyers and pamphlets to the students. District Manager crewed the table and engaged with attendees at the event. Contacts made with agencies for potential presentations at appropriate committees of the Community Board.
- Back to School Community Health and Wellness event at Roscoe Brown Plaza, Aqueduct Walk. CB 5 had a table and offered flyers and pamphlets to the community. District Manager and Community Coordinator crewed the table and engaged with attendees at the event.

- Fire Department of New York, Get Alarmed NYC: Partnering Event. FDNY and the American Red Cross are partnering to install fire and carbon monoxide detectors. Bronx Community Board 5 is a target for outreach due to the significant number of fires in the district. Outreach events will be used to get venues to register households to receive alarms. October 4th is targeted as a date to make a 'push' to install alarms throughout Community Board 5.
- Neighborhood Stabilization Team walk-through. The mayor's office hosted a walk-through of selected areas of the District with Community Based Organizations, some City agencies and Community Board Chair and District Manager, etc. Quality of Life concerns were identified. Commitment from the Mayor's office to address these concerns. Some of the concerns are unlicensed car washes, parking and street vendors, illicit uses in Echo Park and concerns related to the fire which damaged the businesses on Burnside Avenue in March.
- Note: Reconstruction of the Burnside Avenue stop of the #4 train should begin on September 29th. There are no immediate disruptions to subway service expected.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Osiris Guzman presented the minutes from the June 2025 General Board Meeting for review. There were no corrections by the board.

The June 2025 General Board Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Appointments

Chairperson **Osiris Guzman** announced the appointment of committee chair assignments for Bronx Community Board 5. Each committee chair introduced themselves to the public and shared what they aim to contribute through their committees. The Chair emphasized that the committee structure allows members to focus on key issues and encourages active participation and collaboration.

The following **thirteen (13) standing committees Chairs**:

1. Housing – Chair: Osiris Guzman
2. Municipal Services Committee – Chair: James Lin

3. Parks and Recreation Committee – Chair: Erachie Brown
4. Youth Committee – Chair: Dilletta Pina
5. Land Use Committee – Chair: Beverly Smith
6. Health and Human Services Committee – Chair Geneva Wilson
7. Economic Development Committee – Chair: Charles Shorter
8. Education Committee – Chair: James Coger
9. Veterans Committee – Chair: Juan Parra
10. Immigration Committee – Chair: Mario Acosta
11. Cultural Affairs Committee – Chair: Robert Nieves
12. Jerome Avenue Oversight – Chair: Benjamin Richardson
13. Governance Committee- Chair: Lucia Deng

Appointment of the Nominating Committee

Chairperson **Osiris Guzman** announced the formation of the **Nominating Committee** in accordance with the Bronx Community Board 5 Bylaws. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the nomination process for board officer Secretary and Treasurer elections and ensure a fair and transparent procedure.

The Chair appointed the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee:

1. James Coger (Chair)
2. Norma Perez
3. Geneva Wilson
4. Robert Nieves
5. Dilletta Pina

Presentation – FDNY / American Red Cross “Get Alarmed” Program

Representatives from the **FDNY** and the **American Red Cross** presented the “**Get Alarmed**” program to Bronx Community Board 5. The program offers **free smoke alarms and installation** to residents and promotes fire safety awareness.

Chairperson **Osiris Guzmán** thanked both organizations for their partnership and efforts to keep the community safe.

Public Session:

- Diletta Pina, resident: The Department of Youth and Community Development is conducting a community needs survey. Those that are eleven years or older should fill out the community survey from DYCD.
- Sallie Smith, resident: Train refurbishing will have an impact on bus service. This will impact shopping on Burnside Avenue. Need bus stop restored at Burnside and Grand Concourse. Also, Echo Park is improving.
- Chef Wilson, resident: CRN services. Community Resilience Network. Group to improve community/emergency preparedness. Helps to train community about emergencies. Annual meetings, it will be in November for emergency preparedness. CRN provides Ready NY training. CRN received a certificate of completion from New York City Emergency Management.
- Gerald Alvarez. PW school of arts. 16-adult training in arts. To create portfolios to preserve Bronx history. 2nd year. Need support.
- Beverly Smith, resident. Must apply for citizenship now. Changing test to become a citizen, effective October 14th. If not enrolled by October 14th, must then take a new test (2025). Must get 6 of 12 questions right under current test. This is being underreported. Must complete ED 400 form.

Elected Official Report

- Mayor's Office: Yesterday, walk-through with city agencies for quality-of-life issues. 350 chrome books to CBOs. 9/19 at the 48th precinct, 4,000 guns removed. Need contact information from Board Members to keep all informed.
- Jacqueline Calderon, Bronx Borough President. Welcome to new Board members. The Borough President has allocated \$4 million in FY 2026 for education and environmental projects. The Tour de Bronx will be on October 5th. Sign up. Tomorrow is the Bronx Renaissance/Bronx Fashion Show. October 3rd, Job Fair.
- Gabriella Santana, Director of Constituent Services for Yudelka Tapia, Assembly member. Senior luncheon yesterday at BCC for Seniors. Yesterday and last week of October housing help in office. Last month back to school 1,000 back packs distributed.
- Vincent Sepulveda. State Senator Sepulveda. Back to school over 1,000 back packs distributed. 300 Bronx Zoo tickets. October 25th healthy Lifestyle event at Common Point.
- Rashel Munoz, Congress Member Ritchie Torres. New representative from the Congress man. Government shut down on September 30th. Affordable Care Act will expire at the end

of the year. Democrats are fighting to expand medical coverage. DACA and Dreamers are being detained. Rep. Torres has co-signed a letter to the effect that such detainees be afforded legal rights. Back to school events over the summer.

- Trevon Blondett, Bronx DA's office. Interfaith directory. To enroll clergy. Youth Council last day to sign up. 150 now signed up. September 26th last day to enroll. Advisory group to DA. Re-entry fair is scheduled for September 30th, 10-2PM. The DMV has moved to the Bronx Terminal Market. There are 600 registrants for the 5K running marathon. There will be a gun-buy back event on November 22nd.

Old Business:

No Old Business was brought forth.

New Business:

No New Business was brought forth.

Next Meeting will be on October 22, 2025.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:57