



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

**Bronx Community Board 5 General Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 10th, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Phyllis. Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, James Coger, Osiris Guzman, Michelle Heath, James Lin, Nanette Matthews, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Dilletta Pina, Benjamin Richardson, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Chef Wilson.

**Excused:** Mario Acosta, Nekeisha Afful, Bobby Akumah, Yazmin Benitez, Eloise Bennett, Catherine Cudjoe, Roxana Gonzalez-Jiminez, Gail Hill, Marlene Jimenez, Theresa Mims.

**Absent:** Lucia Deng, Raidiris Dominguez, Tisha hatch, Sharline Parker, Argenis Santiago-Payamps, Mariama Touray.

**Meeting start time: 6:20pm**

**Call to Order**

- Chair Osiris Guzman called the December General Board meeting to order at 6:20pm.
- Quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, and the Chair stated that the board business could not be conducted.
- Quorum was later confirmed through the sign in sheet and a roll call was done prior to voting at 6:24pm.

**Chairperson's Report**

- The chair reported on accomplishments the board has had in the first half of the board's session, including issuing two letters of support, adopting a committee membership plan, and building strong relationships with agencies and elected officials.
- The Chair stated priorities moving into 2026 which is a clearer handling of the budget process and agendas tied to outcomes.

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

**District Manager's Report:** The District Manager's report is in the Board member's packets. Some highlights are: On November 26<sup>th</sup> BioBus and the District Manager held a virtual meeting to discuss the potential of their opening a program-site in the District. This is a program to teach the natural sciences using community locations. On December 4<sup>th</sup> DM crewed at table a the Sedgwick New York Public Library career fair. Community Based Organizations were present. Library patrons were engaged and told about eh Board and some signed up to be on the email list.

### **Presentation: New York Parliamentarians**

A registered parliamentarian, Diana Duncan, presented on Robert's Rules of Order, effective meeting procedures and motion process.

### **Committee Membership Plan**

The Chair announced that the committee membership plan is finalized and mentioned that committee Chairs are responsible for member engagement.

### **Approval of November Meeting Minutes**

Quorum was present, the Chair called for correction to the prior minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

### **Voting Item: Removal of 2 Board Members (these are 2 voting items)**

The Chair cited the bylaws for the process in removal of members with three consecutive unexcused absences and stated the office sent the required notice.

Quorum was present and a roll call was made to verify.

### **Removal of Yazmin Benetiz**

A motion to remove Yazmin Benitez was made by Benjamin Richardson

**Vote Result**

All in favor **5**

All opposed **10**

Abstention **1**

The motion did not carry, and Yazmin Benitez remained a board member.

Removal of Mariama Touray

A motion to remove Mariama Touray was made by James Lin and second

**Vote Result**

All In favor **12**

All Opposed **4**

The motion was carried and the member was removed.

## Public Session

**Sally Smith** - Making a request to the board regarding the removal of a bus stop near Grand Concourse and Burnside ave.

**James Cogger**- sharing information about the CUNY Fatherhood Academy for young fathers (18 to 30)

**Beverly Smith** - Support for street renaming of members of CB5 who have history in the community that must not be forgotten.

## Elected Official Report

- **Jacqueline Calderon, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson**
  - Toy give away was announced for veterans for December 13th.
  
- **Esperanza Diaz, Councilmember Oswald Feliz**
  - Update on over 3000 turkey given out by the councilmember for the month of November.
  - There's a toy drive happening on December 18th at Fordham University and another drive happening the 19th at 2467 Bathgate avenue.
  - The councilmember introduced legislation in order to have labeling and warning signs at restaurant chains with over 1800 milligrams of sodium.

- **Jack Shaevitz, Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia**
  - Announced toy distribution at Davidson Community Center on December 17th.
  - Assemblymember passed a bill that would mandate cameras converge in all prisons and jails. The bill went to the governor, and she has nine days to sign it.
  - Hosting a housing clinic in collaboration with NIMIC and the Mayor's Office for one shot deals, HRA, and legal assistance.
  
- **Lia Guzman, Senator Gustavo Rivera**
  - The office will be closing from December 15th to 19th.
  - Connecting with street vendors in the district on Know Your Rights to protect them against ICE raids.
  
- **Ron Jordan, Congressman Ritchie Torres**
  - Mentioned that if anyone has any issues with Immigration, social security, and section 8, you can reach out to the office for further assistance.
  
- **Trevon Blondet, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark**
  - Update on the buyback program happening on December 22nd at St. Luke Episcopal Church, between 10am to 4pm.
  - The first 100 people will get gift cards, iPad, ps5 , Xbox and other devices.
  - The office received a 3 million grant for Fordham hotspot and St. Mary's. Looking for proposals for the youth.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Geneva Wilson, Health and Human Service**
  - **Collected emails at the last meeting and is expected to have NYC Cares at the next meeting.**
  - **Bronx Neighborhood action and Essen Healthcare is expected to present at the committee to further discuss the services they provided.**
  
- **Juan Parra, Veterans Affairs committee.**
  - **Discussion of Veterans benefits for both veterans and their dependents. Also discussed was Veterans Affairs' grants for veterans.**
  
- **James Coger, Education**
  - **At the next meeting on January 26th, Job corp is expected to present.**
  
- **Charles Shorter, Economic Development**
  - **At the December 8th meeting, North West Bronx Clergy Coalition presented on the community benefit agreement for the Kingsbridge Armory.**
  - **The board wanted further answers on how these agreements benefit our community.**
  
- **Dilletta Pina, Youth Service**
  - **In November the committee had Miguel Alvarez from the Pw school of Arts talk about his experience and how art helped him throughout his life.**
  - **The program is available to all individuals from the community.**

- **At the next meeting, the committee invited DCWP to discuss its resources for the youth.**
  
- **Erachie Brown, Parks & Recreation Committee**
  - **Working on a tour date for University Woods and Half Nelson park.**
  - **Look for community members to participate in the meetings to be able to advocate for parks in CB5**
- **Osiris Guzman, Housing Committee**
  - **A presentation on 1770 Jerome Ave redevelopment. It is a 100% senior housing/ supportive housing. In June, S:US will come back to the committee to request board support.**
  
- **Beverly Smith, Land Use**
  - **Davidson Community Center did a presentation for the development of the elevator on the second floor.**
  - **The next meeting will take place in February.**

## **Old Business**

A board member raised concerns regarding the opioid crisis, opioid settlement funding and the need for board action.

The Chair acknowledged the issue and directed the recommendation to the health and Human Service committee.

## **New Business**

The Chair stated that the board needs a social media pipeline and stronger marketing efforts to increase community participation.

The board would seek clarification by the Borough President's office on whether non board members may vote at the committee level.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.