



**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**

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

**Community Board Five**

**Virtual Meeting**

- **Community Board Five Board Members**
- **Attendees:** E.Acosta, Dr.M.Brown, T.Bushby, A.Caballero, J.Curiel, A.DeJesus, P.Dominguez, M.Estrella, A.Hernandez, B.Lawrence, E.Morris, Dr.B.Omotosho, J.Parra, F.Ramos, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, P.Stewart, and C.Westbrook.
- **Absent/Excused**
- B.Akumah, S.Bah, P.Blanco, C.Camera, H,Esteban, R.Gonzalez, N.Graham.Jr., M.Heath, G.Medina, T.Mims, B.Moore, R.Owusu, D.Perry, L.Reyes, M.Rosado, C.Rosario, C.Westbrook, R.Whetstone. and N.Graham.Jr.
- **Welcome:**
  - Opening Prayer by Angel Caballero (Board Member)
- **Quorum: 7:15 pm**
- **Approval of Minutes:**
  - February General Board Meeting 2021, approved.
  - First in Motioned by Laura Reyes. Seconded in motion by Belinda Lawrence.
  - Roll Called: 17 Y / 1 Abstention.

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

- **Chairperson's Report Dr. Bola Omotosho:**
- **Second Vice-Chair Angel Cabarello:**
  - **Proceedings:**
- **District Managers by Ken Brown Report:**
- Good evening, everyone. I want to highlight a couple of things. On November 30, I discussed with a bank to bring a branch to reoccupy or come into the district, it's still early in the conversation, but at least they haven't said no. In early 2021, they will be launching a small business platform so that there can be an easier way to make online applications for loans for small businesses. On December 1, I and our esteemed community coordinator Lashawna Dawson, and our esteemed CUNY resident. Sally Smith works at Echo Triangle, and we gave out approximately 1050 facemasks on December 1. The Davidson Center was accepted as the official fiscal sponsor of the Jerome Avenue revitalization collaborative. The Jerome Avenue rezoning is having an Employment and Economic Development network. Rezoning now can access monies will eventually be hired as a coordinator so that economic development along the Jerome Avenue corridor can be comprehensively, coherently, and precisely so that the community can benefit from the results. The MTA, the Afford arrived program, is currently not collecting cash fares for safety concerns. If you want to apply for access, the ride can only be done by telephone, and the phone number for that is 877-337-2017. There will be no 46 precinct Council Meeting in December. The snow plan has been activated for those of you that haven't noticed, it's snowing, and it'll be a real storm tonight through Thursday. You can follow the way our plows are by entering <https://plownyc.cityofnewyork.us/plownyc/> or for power outages call: ConEd. Outages should be reported at 718-707-7771. I want to say Happy Holidays. The Jerome Avenue revitalization collaborative is an effort of community-based organizations; a city Councilperson gives Gibson and Councilperson Cabrera's office; CB4 and CB5. We come in result of the Jerome Avenue rezoning to make sure that economic development that happens, because of the rezoning, benefits the community and is not and doesn't become the sort of typical gentrification now, where the community votes for it. There are several working groups that the collaborative is composed of as the steering committee, of which committee boards for five and I believe Davidson are members there's a total of 15. Members of the steering committee where we sort of map out the Strategy Group. There's a workforce development committee that talks specifically about the current and projected labor force. Need you to know what kind of training we must make our local workforce more competitive BCC, of course, is an integral part of that. Let's see if there will be an outreach and communications working group that you know is vital to getting out the word and organizing the candy except for this effort. Besides forever, I think about three or four years now. And we intend to have a look launch come next month. Important is collaborating and advocating for better access to financial resources, efforts, and concerns regarding the departure of Amalgamated Bank. The drama of new collaborative and upsells helped organize a press conference in September; in front of the branch, we've been putting pressure on Amalgamated Bank to make sure that they put investments in the community; Friday, respond to the letter of

our requests, legal is looking at over, so we're going to be meeting talking about the next steps.

**New York Police Department 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct by Inspector Seminara and Officer Kennedy's Reports:**

**Voting Item:**

- **Letter of Support for the New York City Department of City Planning's Proposal Waterfront Text Amendment**
- Good evening, Dr. Bola. Good evening, everyone from Community Board Five. Good to see you all. I know we have limited time again quickly. My name is Sean Brady. I'm the Deputy Director for our Bronx office at the Department of city planning. Also, here with Fernando Ortiz, who is in our Bronx office as well. In the text amendment, that's what it is; what's in front of you today is an update on our zoning for coastal flood resiliency, really something that's been about eight years in the making and a combination of a lot we've learned since Hurricane Sandy. What is presented is a set of recommendations that is a city-wide zoning text amendment. So, it was referred out to all community boards five on October 19 and at the same time to the president's office. We are asking for recommendations; we wanted to take some time to explain it quickly, so I'm going to give a little bit of background on some of the regulatory context. And then Fernanda will talk about how it fits into board five; just a little bit, I know we're all familiar. The context of this work with really Hurricane Sandy, and while the Bronx fared better because of timing. We all know that parts of the Bronx, especially in the East Bronx in the South Bronx, really did see some significant damage, and you know that what we've learned since that time is, what were the texts and kind of form the reader that we're presenting today, we're talking about a piece of this which is the zoning from coming from city planning to make sure that we can have. And people can build and construct in a resilient way, but this is part of a more significant effort. And really, this multi-tier approach that's everything from strengthening our coastal defenses to infrastructure to proactively engaging in emergency planning, in the event of the next storm or the next emergency it's all part of a larger initiative, and we're talking about a small piece of that today. In 2013, we released our first flood text, and we wanted to get something quickly and in place; it was part of an emergency. The text amendment set to

expire after adopting the new flood insurance rate maps, so we're presenting today to make those rules permanent. But really, adding on to them with everything we learned since that time. We've also looked at things like resilient industry, resilient retail. And we've had several conversations like these technical workshops, public meetings, and all that feedback has fed into the recommendations we're talking about. So, I think Fernando will speak a bit of, you know, wearing boards and IV supplies and generally some of the recommendations. This is a quick overview so we can answer any questions that come up. Good evening. Yes, as you can see here on this map. This shows the process flood risk that we're looking at Community Board five, the blue highlighted shows what is called the 1% annual chance floodplain or the 100%, the 100-year storm, and the green is this light green color is where the kind of floodplain will be extended to with the zoning amendment. And so, we'll take a closer look at Community Board five as you can see, it's along the Harlem River, here Currently, there aren't many buildings along the coastline. About six about eight buildings, mostly different Park towers. This would allow for this coastal area of the community to be protected or be able to easier and better adapt more resilient strategies to avoid flooding. The overview of the zoning text amendment will be focused on these four categories. The first one is to encourage resiliency throughout the current and future flood plains, support the long-term resilient design of all building types, allow for adaptation over time through retrofits, and facilitate future recovery by reducing regulatory obstacles. So, I'm quickly going through a few slides showing how this could be applicable within the board file. Again, extending the floodplain line from the light blue that we saw on the previous map to the light green so that some areas will covering this zoning text amendment. As I mentioned, Community Board Five, the West portion of this district, has pretended the floodplain. It will allow any mechanical equipment or supportive spaces to elevate, or anything moved because of flooding to facilitate that. It will allow for any flood protection measures to be installed or put on buildings. Again, it will also allow for power systems to be relocated or for any backup energy that needs to come in case because of a storm, it will help facilitate those processes, and it will help with disaster recovery, in the case of another Sandy or any other kind of coastal natural disaster that we might face in the future. This was referred out to the community boards. On October 19 for 60 days. It is a non-EU live-action, so we only request a recommendation from all 59 community boards—any questions.

- First in Motioned by Angel Caballero. Seconded in motion by Belinda Lawrence. 17 Yea, 0 Nah, and 1 abstention.

- Letter of Support: Montefiore Hospital System and United Health Plan fee stabilization.
- Thank you, Dr. Bola, for passing along the information that I've shared with the board. So, I believe it was last week when the Health Committee meeting met. I shared some

information with the Health Committee; no current negotiations ever taking place between the mountains analysis and United Healthcare, of course, is one of the nation's largest insurance companies, and we're in the process of redefining our contracts that take place between hospitals and health insurance companies there. It's not an unusual process. It's expected that happens every time the hospitals and insurance companies need to agree on a new contract built for a limited period, and that contract is set to expire and begin to negotiate a new contract when united set to expire at the end of this year, so in just a couple of weeks **on December 31**. For most of the insurance products that united provides. There are some select other insurance products that you noted provides where our contract ones with them **until March 1 and March 31**. Most of our patients covered by United; their coverage will be in-network with us until more **until December 31**, unless we reach an agreement for an extension. And the issue we find ourselves faced with right now is that we've got an impasse in these negotiations. United is placing us in a position requiring us, who makes the reimbursement rates, that they currently provide us, and we can't agree to that. We have 60,000 patients for Continental United throughout our system. And if you can't agree to terms where united is providing us with a reasonable reimbursement rate, that makes sense. We receive from other insurance companies that are on par with what our peers, our peer institutions in the area, received, will not provide the level of service that we're used to delivering. Those 60,000 patients run the risk of not continuing their care at Montefiore if they're unable to afford the additional out-of-pocket expenses that will inevitably be placed upon them should unite not agreed to provide reasonable reimbursement rates. So that's, you know, the issue that we find ourselves with right now in a year where hospitals and Mark appear here in the Bronx; we were slammed horribly due to the pandemic the Bronx was the epicenter of the pandemic. The first wave of the pandemic that we find ourselves in is March to June. I'm at our peak amount of your health system. We had over 2000; that was precisely 2015 patients, COVID patients who were at our hospital. One day, we take care of 1000s of COVID-positive patients over that time and sent many back homes. To be able to recover and return to total health with their families. As a result, we know we find ourselves in an adamant financial position like so many organizations across the country. And right now, we want to make sure that we will continue to provide service to our patients and that no service is interrupted. For any of our patients, remarkably, those 60,000 united. So, this letter is imported you're asking is going to be for a year. Not per year, the letter of the support is to basically urge united to agree to the reasonable to some reasonable reimbursement rates that we're requiring, and we won't know necessarily the terms or the duration of the contract that we're currently in negotiation for on our last contract negotiations with United that lasted for three years. So, we went through a similar process with them. Three years ago, I imagined this next contract.

- What exactly would be like a reasonable rate?
- The reimbursement varies from institution to institution. They pay the reimbursement rate for NYU in Manhattan; NYU is different from what they pay us in the Bronx. How did I know that? Because he did my research. And same UnitedHealthcare did cancel. They decided not to go ahead and negotiate for the community service that NYU lagoon offered in Manhattan. When they decided to call their services, that was out, and it is just that they tried to play hardball with RCA in the Bronx, which we should not allow. On a

personal note, it's something that impacts my family as well. And I asked a question for making that point, Dr. Bola. And I'm sorry I'll get to that question in just a moment. I want to make one more real quick point. I want everyone to understand that all our 16,000 patients whom these contract negotiations could potentially impact have been notified by Montefiore that notification took place. I'd say approximately three weeks ago when everybody was notified of the contract negotiations that were happening. What could happen if we don't reach an agreement, and what options do they have available to them to consider, either. Maybe personally coverage with another insurance provider, or if they have the financial ability and want to remain with United and want to stay part of your patients, pay additional costs out of pocket. So, everyone whom this could potentially impact, they are already aware of the situation.

- What insurance company do you guys do business with within the Bronx, and how many patients do you guys' cover? We accept—pretty much every insurance company, except Nicolas. I mean, in terms of the number of agents, the last attempt to qualify the number. Hopefully not even covering what you are going to talk about when it comes to benefit and brand. I couldn't hear everything you said. So, in other words, healthcare through the guy you're going into contract. They don't even call one-third of the total patient here in the Bronx. And the other question I had was this presented to the committee and what they decided that they recommend or not recommend. So, yes, I did share this information with the committee. We had quite a lengthy and in-depth discussion about it. And I'll defer to the committee chair to share with you what the committee decided to address.
  - First in Motioned by Belinda Lawrence. Seconded in motion by Laura Reyes. 13 Yea, 2 Nay, and 3 abstains, 1 Recuse

- **Presentation concerning the termination of the Federal eviction Moratorium.**

- Bronx Works Homebase *by Haile Rivera* and Bianca Cornelius and Teanika Chamberlain.

Hours: 9am to 5pm, 630 Jackson Avenue 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Bronx NY 10455 or

1130 Grand Concourse Bronx NY

Bronx Works locations' as follows:10451,10452,10454,10455,10456

Website: <https://www.1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/hpmebase-locations.page>

Bianca Cornelius, MPH, NDTR, CLC Program Coordinator BronxWorks,  
Snap-Ed Direct, (646)393-4000 ext. 2765

<https://sites.google.com/view/bw-snap-ed/home>

NAICA 718 538 3344 Extension: 100, 117, or 500 Or text (631)7906255.

Hi everybody, this is Haile Rivera from Homebased. First and foremost, blessings to everybody and make sure everybody's safe, and Councilwoman Vanessa gets in for all her passion. Not only for her district but everybody on sites like myself, so Councilwoman Vanessa, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I can speak for everybody how blessed we are to have such an elected official. And that's the fact that we do every day. So, in that sense, I like to speak for the USA and the house as well. We get referrals from brochures and vice versa, based on where folks are. Individuals' residents live. I'm not sure it's indicative did, but it's good for everybody to not wait for the last minute something that we are seeing happening a lot with these tenants that are behind on the rent is that they're waiting to get a court notice to show up at the offices you know our offices are here do not wait it makes us, it makes the job a lot easier, a lot harder for us, and it makes your case, a lot more complicated. Thankfully we got NYCHA; they're accommodating and other partners, but we're trying to tell people not to wait for that court document to get to you right the notice. We want to make sure that the community board and everybody here gets the word out; folks out here are the Help is there, but it gets a lot more difficult if we wait for the last minute. And unfortunately, I know many things are happening around our daily lives; we'll need to make sure that folks spread the word. I always say you never know whom you're helping right. I'll be your case. Sometimes it may be yourself, and you know, I've been bumping into the beam. Those of you that know me have been in this community for 13 to 17 years. I got my mask on, and some recognize me, and others don't. But I bump into many friends in the rent to media profile you think to live the good news. You know, the reality is that you'd be surprised. We've gone through tough times, and it's not easy for us as individuals to say, you know I owe five, six, to seven months of rent of \$10,000. So, we're here to help you guys have the resources. It is going to be okay. Reach out to us sooner rather than later. Many of us have social media, just a simple post on your Facebook or Instagram and you need Help you behind your rent reach out to me meaning yourself, and then you will put us in contact with those individuals. You never know who's behind and whom you're helping. So, and I know that wishing everybody a happy holiday. Those who have lost loved ones. As always say keep the faith.

- Good evening. I'm with Bronx Work. I'm with the snap of Education Department. So, I just wanted to share some of the information here, offering workshops and working with supermarkets in the area. So, I'll drop that information in the chat box so that you can contact us. But if you guys are aware of any store owners who are willing to participate in

- the program they are trying to make for a living, please spread your words or encourage them. These are the opportunity for the community and help them with their business in their daily lives. So, if anyone is interested in participating, again, I would drop that information in the chat box from me about any nutritional workshops is interested as well.
- My name is Tamika Chamberlain. Good evening; I'm the program director from Bronx Work's home base. We do have three programs in Bronx works, mostly smoke transplants home base to and community access. We are in the process of a second moratorium that ends **on December 31**. And starting January 1, clients can begin to be can. We help with rental arrears pay rental, and we assist with advocating for the client connected them to legal services. We have a legal service; we have lawyers within our program. We also have another program called Project parachute that assists undocumented clients with paint onto the rears or paying Con Edison bills, according to the financial assistance they may need. We also advocate for the client and find assists will find in the house. So, a lot of the aid we provide is financial resources to pay rental arrears and avoid eviction as much as possible. And I have flown us for the fasten project parachute program that I can email out to everyone in detail precisely what the services provide, and the post that Bronx works can assist we have specific zip codes that we help. Regarding the services, again, it's financial resources, so we provide financial assistance with no motive white addictions, we also assist with furniture. I'm sorry I didn't mention that we provide furniture assistance; they see bills, and the identification Partnership Program helps clients undocumented with pay rental arrears. Please note that any client working within BronxWorks or connected to BronxWorks' program should work with the BronxWorks Project Parachute/Fasten program. Detailed below is a brief synopsis of the program and its services. The contact person for referrals is Juandy Paredes [jparedes@bronxworks.org](mailto:jparedes@bronxworks.org) or (646)556-5633. Fasten is a program offered, through the Project Parachute Initiative to help vulnerable tenants stay in their homes in the wake of the Covid crisis. Fasten connects individuals to services and financial resources, including rental arrears assistance, purchasing furniture, as well as assistance with paying their Con Edison bill. The program assists clients who are undocumented and not eligible for public Assistance.
  - Good evening, everyone. If you any questions about how to answer a rent demand to 14 days' notice from your landlord, please contact us at call the Bronx Housing Court directly at 718 466 – 3000.
  - If you or constituent or client has any questions about how to answer a rent demand or 14 days' notice form your landlord, please contact us at call the Bronx housing court directly at 718 466 3000.

## Public Session



- **Sallie Smith – Resident**

I want to wish you a Happy Holiday Day. Thank you so much for the service you provide for us from the Community Board. And we're hoping that you will do well. And when you give up your time and volunteer.

- **New York City Public Library by Jacob Craig**

- In the library, we've gone virtual, so we have many virtual programs. If you go on our website <https://www.nypl.org/events>, click on events to find out. Click on events to find out all our programs. Also, we launched a new app. So, you can get your library card online too. It is accessible with Android or Apple. That's all, thank you very much.

## **Elected Official's Reports**

- **Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor**

- *The Representative is Miguel Rondon*

- I will make some quick announcements; first and foremost, Hello everyone. My name is Miguel, the Director for the Mayor's office of Community Affairs unit. I just wanted to mention a couple of things I think the most obvious if we look outside of our windows is that we have a snowstorm, a nor'easter coming our way into certain parts of the Bronx. I don't think it is necessarily bad, but in certain parts of the Bronx it's likely to see some flooding. We are expecting anywhere from eight to 12 inches of snow. We had a call today with elected officials we had a call today with different agencies. The city is proud to handle the snowstorm. However, it, you know, it's still challenging. It's going to be very difficult to get to make sure everything is clean all the time. A limited number of sanitation workers and plows. But we are there is a route there are established ways to make sure that the main streets are clean, and then that the arteries get cleaned as well for homeowners. If any seniors are homeowners who have issues, or anybody who cannot plow their sidewalks, feel free to call me, and I am happy to get some assistance. Also, I just wanted to let folks know; we have a shortage in our blood supply. We are used to as New York City, having seven days' worth of blood supply. We currently only have three days' worth of supply, now, which is low. And so, I am partnering up with New York Blood Center to identify spaces where we can have blood drives, and we will have, we are having blood drives in December and continue throughout the Bronx in January and the months moving forward. And I also wanted to tell everybody happy holidays. I know that it's going to be a problematic holiday because of COVID. We and the mayor, recommend that you continue to follow social distancing, wear a mask, don't travel outside of the, you know, outside of the city, out of your homes, try to have very small intimate get-togethers. Nope,

nobody from the outside, just folks who live next to you. It's the best way to celebrate this year that way. Next year we can continue to memorialize, with everybody still with us. The last thing I wanted to talk about was the vaccine; there is a vaccine on the first person who took the vaccines I got two days ago, in Queens. The mayor visited Elmhurst hospital today. The nursing home staff, as well as nursing home patients, are the first round. There are many vaccines; however, it's not going to be enough for the entire city, all at one stop. It's sort of in waves, so the first wave is our heroes, our central workers working in the medical field, really fighting COVID on our path. And our vulnerable populations as well. Anybody has any questions; I'm happy to take them. And I wish everybody a Happy Holidays and Stay Safe.

- **Honorable Jumaine William, Acting Public Advocate**
- **The Representative is *not available***

- **Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President**
- *The Representative is Alexis Ruiz*

- **Honorable Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson's Office District #16 (Done)**
- Hi Dr. Bola, good evening, everyone; Community Board Five; thank you so much for the chance to speak tonight. Thank you to our district manager Ken Brown, all the executive members. It's good to see all of you virtually to the Elected Officials and staff community groups residents every one of you. Thank you so much. I hope you are healthy and well and safe during this time of COVID-19 and now that the snowstorm is outside. I hope everyone is safe and certainly reminded that as we end this year in another couple of weeks out, we are looking forward to a new year; 2021 promises to be a year of hope and opportunity. We are looking forward. We've lost many people in our community to the Covid 19 pandemics, and that their death should never be in vain. I've lost constituents, I've lost personal friends, and it's been a painful time for all of us. I do not lose sight of the fact that so many families are facing several challenges. We've seen soaring unemployment, we've seen record levels of food insecurity, longer lines at food pantries and soup kitchens, we've seen many people living in unstable housing, and so many people have fallen on hard times, so I'm glad you had. I'm glad talks about the workaround supporting families facing eviction that has fallen behind in their work is proceeding . I am one of the prime sponsors of the universal right to counsel that we have currently in law; we have two bills before the committee that I'm working with Councilmember Mark Levine on to expand the right to board, so it covers more zip codes than what it does today because we believe that since June, 30,000 evictions are pending before housing court in New York City. We know many of those evictions are in the Bronx, northern Manhattan, and parts of Brooklyn. That is our district. Those are our people that have fallen behind in lost income and lost revenue, and

they are rent-burdened, then these bills will help. The effort and advocacy right now are in harmony with the state legislature, with the members of the State Senate at the state assembly.

There is an effort by many housing advocates to cancel rent to make sure that we can withdraw all the rent due. Essentially the moratorium that expires at the end of the month, even if they, there is a delay, into the new year, we're just delaying the inevitable, so that people who are nine and ten months behind in rent, it's going to take a lot for those families to catch up, especially if they're still not working. And even if they just started working, it's going to take quite some time. And so, we're working at the City Council level to do whatever we can to support efforts around eviction prevention, home base and all the other programs that are at Bronx works, and many others are already being provided today. So COVID-19, testing sites that are up and running. At the same time, many of them closed early today because of a snowstorm. They are accessible for residents to get tested for COVID. I know that the vaccine is here in New York State in New York City, but we want to make sure people are still getting tested as the city rolls out the distribution of the vaccine to various communities; to first responders, essential workers in nursing homes and other places. We want to make sure everyone gets tested.

Get tested and get tested—most of our public hospitals like Lincoln, some of the Gotham sites are available. We have been actively going into an H + H site in our district and CB four; it has rapid testing, so we go every Tuesday to get tested, but you can go anywhere Urgent Care end, there are several places you can call 311 community board and elected officials We will be happy to share that list with you. Food distributions are ongoing. We continue to give out full grocery items and canned goods. We gave out 2200 turkeys, and we also were able to get about 1100 food boxes for Thanksgiving. And now, with the season of Christmas here, we know that those families continue to be in need. So, we've been working with organizations on the ground like City Harvest and Food Bank. We have several distributions coming up in the district, and outside of the community, so we can share that with you. Would you please reach out to Maria Gomez from my office? Her information is in the chat. We will get you all the emails so that you can get all the emails we send out, week after week with all the various information, and we have a number of toy distributions coming up that we're working with different organizations. We're working with shelter providers for families because we know that, although, you know, times of challenge are here. It is the season of Christmas that we want to bring smiles to our children's faces. Many of our parents can't afford to get their children the very best they want to. So, we all must do our part. So, we've had toy drives going on in our district and the concourse area and Claremont and Montefiore, so we have several toy distributions coming up starting Friday, Saturday. We've been doing much work as the co-chair of the Women's Caucus around maternal and infant mortality and maternal mortality. Many of you know that black and brown women are more likely to die during childbirth than their white counterparts. She died earlier this year at a Bronx hospital while she was giving birth to her child. And then in Brooklyn, we lost another woman as she gave birth to her child as well. The numbers are genuine, and we want to prevent any preventable deaths of mothers and women giving birth. We've been

working very closely on Pay poverty; it's a very personal issue to me. We have a huge economic gap when you talk about black and brown city workers. Municipal workers, compared to their counterparts, are not getting paid equally for equal work. We've been pushing equal pay for equal work for African American women, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asian American women, and we will continue to do that. Earlier this month, the City Council passed two resolutions supporting state legislation to ban something that's been very archaic that many of you may have heard: it's the criminal procedure law 240.37. It's known as the walking wild trans ban, which disproportionately impacts the LGBTQ community and transgender men and women. So, we've been pushing, and we're hopeful that Senator Portman and Assembly member Paulin will support these bills and get them passed in the state next year. So, we're going to share that information with all of you. I joined the senator to stop over there on a Saturday. We testified at the MTA New York City transit hearing on Monday about the potential fare increases because of the billion-dollar deficit that the MTA is facing because of a huge reduction in ridership. We're hoping that a stimulus plan comes from the federal government. Thanks to the new administration coming into the White House but absent of that the MTA is looking to raise fares in 2021, so we all spoke in opposition because we know that our transit riders, our community workers, our responders, and essential workers that work every day need to get around and so we need to be mindful that we should not balance the deficit on their backs. We're working very closely with Northwest Bronx on the community land trust. We were on a town hall a few weeks ago about how we can build economic wealth in communities of color, economic power so that tenants can have ownership of their apartments and buildings when we take some of the city property that has been lying dormant so that we will be working on that with other elected officials in the Bronx. And the final thing I'll say is it's the holiday season; please know that our office is here to help you and your constituents and your clients in any way we can. While the office is physically closed, we continue to work remotely every day; reach out to us. Let us know how we can be of support, and I remind all of you that we've been through a lot. We lost Betty Campbell Adams, the owner of Lloyds carry cake, last Friday on Broadway in Riverdale as she was good friends with many of us. So many of you knew Betty when she took over 13 years after her husband, Lloyd Adams, died. We're going to do everything possible to keep low aids, open thriving in every way possible to keep the memory alive, so I asked all of you to buy for her family during the holidays when you've lost a loved one, you lose a parent or a child. The holidays are very hard, and I know that many families out there are mourning the loss of a loved one, so we pray for them. And I pray for all of you, and I look forward to the remainder of this year, closing us out, and I look forward to a successful 2001 happy holiday season, please. My staff and I will see you next. May God bless you. Happy Holidays. Thank you so much. Thank you.

- **Honorable Ritchie Torres, Council Member District #15**
- *Representative is Joseph McManus (Not Available)*
- *Contact: 718-842-8100, Tuesday -Friday (10am-3pm) by appointments.*

- **Honorable Fernando Cabrera, Council Member District #14**  
*Representative Russell Cheek not available.*
  
- **Honorable Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District #86**
  - *Representative is Steven Ochoa the Community Liaison (not available)*
  - *Contact: 718-933-6909/Ochoa. [Camachos@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Camachos@nyassembly.gov)*
  
- **Honorable, Michael Blake, Assembly Member District #79**
  - *Representative is not available*
  
- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**
  - *Representative is Krissy Bautista/Abdul not available*
  - *My email is Williams @NYAssembly.gov.*
  
- **Honorable State Senator Gustavo Rivera District #33**  
*Representative of Oriana Shulevitz Rosado*

I also wanted to give you some of our COVID updates, as I'm sure many people have said and will keep saying, you know, please continue to social distance. I'm just going to drop right now, a link in the chat. First, testing sites near you. Check if there have been any changes in their schedule because some of them are shutting down. In New York City, test and tracing core are working hard to identify positive people. So, if you get a call from a number that starts with 212-540 or another number, 212-242, there is a very high likelihood that that is test and trace is reaching out. I'm going to drop some information on the test and tracing guidelines just so if you want to find that information, you can. And then, of course, Senator Rivera would like to say Happy Holidays to everybody. We know that this has been a challenging time. And I know that many folks want to spend their time with their loved ones, but we want to be careful. We encourage everyone to maintain social distancing guidelines. We're closer to the vaccine and to be safe. And then I'm going to mention I know that it has been mentioned several times already about the eviction moratorium; Senator Rivera has been fighting hard in Albany to extend the eviction moratorium and include a rent moratorium that is similar to the mortgage assistance. Unfortunately, those are the first homeowners with the mortgage system here in New York City. Assistance, we also want to add that if you have any issues in terms of evictions or are behind on rent, please reach out to our office right now for safety reasons for health reasons. Our office is closed physically, but we are still taking calls, and we are still answering questions over the phone and via email. The last thing I will say as well is that we will be closing for the holidays. I'm

so happy for me; it's just so you know we're going to be closing December 19, until January 4, there's an emergency. Not includes any eviction notice. You can still call the office, and I'm just going to drop more information on the chat on that now, a link in the conversation. First, testing sites near you. Make sure to check snow if there have been any schedule changes just because some of them are shutting down. And then, of course, Senator Rivera would like to say Happy Holidays to everybody. We know that this has been a challenging time. And I know that many folks want to spend their time with their loved ones, but we want to be careful. We want to encourage everyone to maintain social distancing guidelines. You know we're closer to the vaccine, and to be safe, I'm going to drop the travel advisory information in the Chat box.

Senator Rivera has called for an extended Eviction Moratorium and a rent moratorium, unfortunately as of right now the resumption of residential eviction proceedings, subject to state and federal restrictions, began on Monday October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone you know is at risk of eviction, please feel free to contact our office at 718-933-2034 or email [grivera@nysenate.gov](mailto:grivera@nysenate.gov) and we will assist you.

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

- *Representative is Terrell Brook*
- I hope everybody's doing well this evening; the senator has recently participated in a forum hosted by Urban teachers on how to support New York City's immigrant community, which is a platform that is available to be viewed on the senator's Twitter. And in New York is currently at 5982 patient illnesses statewide. 1050 patients are in the ICU. The intubated statewide positivity rate is 5point two. There were 128 COVID deaths in New York State yesterday. Two days ago, in Manhattan the positive rate is at 2.6%. We want to remind everyone to continue following the social distancing guidelines, especially with the holidays coming up, and the senator has been reappointed as chair of the majority conference by senate leader Andrew Stewart. And if any organizations or individuals, be matched. I also like working to provide rent relief and addiction prevention, like the Senate's bill. If anyone needs PPE, please send me an email at [Tbrock@nysenate.gov](mailto:Tbrock@nysenate.gov). Thank you.

- **Honorable Jose E. Serrano, Member of Congress District #15**

- *Representative is Anthony R. Jordan not available (Not Available)*

- **Honorable Adriano Espailat, Member of Congress District #13**

- *Representative is Maximo Javier, is not available. (Not Available)*

- **Honorable Scott Stringer NYC Comptroller**

- *Representative is Victor Martinez not available. (Not Available)*

- **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney**

- *Representative is Eric Sawyers. Not Available*
- *Contact: 718-561-9253, [sawyerse@bronxda.nyc.gov](mailto:sawyerse@bronxda.nyc.gov)*

- **Committee Reports.**

- **Housing: Dr. Bola (Chairperson):**

- There were two presentations; One of them was from DHS, Department of Homeless Services concerning number two Mount Hope PL, where they intend to put a family shelter. They showed up, along with a service provider, with the completion of the meeting. So, we asked them to come back to our next committee meeting, which will be **on January 19, 2021**. And at that time, we'll present it to the General Board. I made it clear to the Department of Homeless Services that representation to the committee does not translate to an approval or a complete notification of the general report. So, they expressed understanding about that. So, they'll be coming before the public board in January. And the reason why I did stay that business it's because it's essential to our community in general, but they meet always on the fourth Wednesday of the month. So, barely a week after, they come in to notify us on the board, and we already give them a couple of questions on which they will do their work. And the second thing we need, some data from yesterday is that we have a nightcap on the plan. Before we send out the schedule, I had a conversation with the DHS Commissioner in the Bronx, that Naica, to give us an update on the shelter that is coming up on Jerome, and that date will be set aside when they will bring you all the staff members, meaning the Commissioners in charge of a project, so they can come back and give us an update that will also be in January. However, it will be on a particular date, which we're going to combine with them because we want to hear from them exactly what's going on. And that is the report.

- **Jerome Avenue Oversight:** No Report

- **Land Use:** No Report

- **Parks and Recreation: Co-Chair Pooi Stewart**

The last meeting, we have had for the Parks committee meeting is inviting Mr. Clinton Johnson and Carlos Acosta for this meeting. They are not available to attend our meetings because of short notice. We were talking about; we would like the parks department to provide us with the capital projects in our Community Board Five. The parks committee has many questions for the aqueduct walk committee, because of the West Tremont Avenue problems with the West Burnside Avenue, and the overpass or bridge connects to Aqueduct Avenue. Thank you, Dr. Bola.

- **Economic Development: Chairman Angel Caballero**
- No Report.
  
- **Health and Human Services: Chairperson Annette DeJesus**
- The meeting stated was held on December 3, 2020. The meeting began at 6:10 pm. We welcomed and explained to the Board the situation with the Health and Human Services meetings. The committee could see how I was having technical problems speaking and the video was a problem. We talked about the Covid 19 numbers and how to protect our families and ourselves. I explained how the numbers are rising and the precautions that need to be taken. I also spoke about this as the 2nd wave, and the 3rd wave will be at Christmas. And yes, also let them know that the first shipment of the shots was coming around December 15, 2020. The first ones to get the vaccine were health, essential workers, and elders, at nursing homes. We had a presentation from Jason Caraballo, Community Relations Manager at Montefiore. He asked for a letter of support, asking that United Health Insurance not take out their funding. If United Health Insurance removes its financing, it will affect many patients that attend Montefiore.
  
- **Education: Chairperson Jaqua Curiel**
- We'll be working with the public library to make sure that they come to the committee to update all the services they provide. We're also going to be getting applications for the Yankees scholarship. So, we want everyone in the community to participate. And if you know any youth it is an opportunity for them to apply for this scholarship and this grant.
  
- **Youth: Chairman is Anthony Hernandez**
- We did have the youths come into David Community Center for 2019 to 2020 Yankees Youth Leadership. We recognize them there. From what I learned; we usually will do this on the field at Yankee Stadium. I'm hoping that we can get both groups together in the following year when we do the next award ceremony. The subsequent youth meeting will be **on January 6, 2021.**
  
- **Cultural Affairs: Chairwoman Denise Perry**
- An event is happening on Sunday. It's with Andre Leon Talley; he is the editor at large for Vogue magazine. And it's an event you don't have to pay and you don't have to be seen on screen. And some of the girls from the Bronx will be from Davidson Center, and Millennium will be performing; you'll get the link when you sign in, then don't worry, they're not going to be sending you emails and anything it's so that they can take how many people are going to be on the web. On Sunday, join us as this is going to be fun. There's a recipe for salmon croquettes; there's a recipe for Andre Leon Talley's favorite drink. It should be enjoyable, and you get to see some incredible dances, not because they work with me, I have a great staff that trains these girls. However, I think it'd be very proud to see these young women, and the event is the invitation to send out to maybe 5000 women from the entire eastern seaboard of links, and you can google links. I think it'd be happy, so that's a cultural affair again just trying to bring volt to the Bronx, and Andre will entertain you for an hour, if you google him, he's six-eight, weighing probably 8000 pounds, but he's just fabulous he worked with animals, and I think you'll have



much fun. And if he sees you, He will critique what you have on, so pray the camera doesn't open to you because you'll be like, why do you have on those. So please join us and see the girls again; please stay well, everyone, and I bless everyone. Thank you, Dr. Bola.

- **Immigration Committee: Chairperson Pooi Stewart**

- The report is mainly on DACA. So, Miss Toyin came in to give us information about the organization, DSI international, that serves or helps the immigrants in our community. I already gave the minutes to Mr. Ken, and he will email all the board members. Also, the second presenter that came into our immigration committee meeting is to restart. He is the member engagement for New York City at the New York immigration coalition. And what is that for the primary goal is to improve the lives in the New York City and he has she has a program called the public charge. If you need more information, please look through the minutes as well. I provided her email and her phone number. The current DACA and I believe that you guys are interested to know more about that, and the presenter was Giancarlo's Franco, he came in, and he talked about, he's the, he's the project manager working very closely with the staff attorneys at a nod my hand and Coalition for immigrants' rights. Thank you. If you are interested in a new application for DACA, you can look through my minutes as well; I provided all the names and is on the phone.

- **Veterans Committee: Co-Chair Juan Parra**

- **Municipal Services: Chairman is Nero Graham Jr.**

- No report.

- **Ad Hoc Community Outreach: Chairman Charles Shorter**

- No Report.

- **Governing Committee: Chairperson is Belinda Lawrence**

So as a quick recap from the previous meetings, we had the committee meeting, we voted on whether we should postpone the nomination and the election until after the emergency slash pandemic. This is a recommendation in the city charter, so we bought it and went through that auction. The other suggestion for changes to the bylaws is that we should have the election for a board officer every two years; those recommendations were sent to the board for the office, they okay then we send in the sections and the articles where those amendments should be incorporated. When everything has been completed and it has been physically inserted into the bylaws, amended versions will be created. We will have a good look committee meeting; we will inform the committee about it, and then we will take it to the general board as far as telling everybody is concerned. And we will also notify you when that physical copy will be read. Ready for dissemination. That will be it for now.

- **Executive:**
- We also had an executive meeting. That's how we generated this Agenda for tonight. And I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Shorter for being our representative on the board. That was agreed upon at the Executive Meeting for him to be on the Bronx Wastes Management Board. So, I've been asked to present a candidate from each board. Charles Shorter is our Community Board Five representative. And I believe he asked us for one alternate candidate, and I think Dr. Brown volunteered also.
  
- **Old Business:**
- Old business is we're going through the holiday season; COVID-19 cover your face. Maintain facial coverings and social distancing and if you're not feeling well, please stay at home.
  
- **New Business:** No Report
  
- *Adjourned at 9:02 pm.*

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

***Prepared and submitted by Ms. P. Stewart.***

***Secretary of Bronx Community Board Five***