



**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**

***February 26, 2020 Bronx Community Board 5 General Board meeting minutes.***

➤ **Board Members:**

❖ **Presents:**

E.Acosta, P.Blanco, T.Bushby H.Esteban, R.Gonzalez N.Graham,Jr., K.Jabouin, B.Lawrence, K.Lewis, G.Medina, T.Mims, B.Moore, Dr.B.Omotosho, J.Parra, D.Perry, F.Ramos-Guareno M. Rodgers,S.Rudolph, P.Stewart, C.Westbrook, R.Whetstone,L.Reyes.

❖ **Absents:**

B.Akumah, Dr.M.Brown. ,A.Caballero J.Curiel ,A.DeJesus, M.Heath, D.Perez, J.Perez ,R.Owusu, C.Rosario

❖ **Excused:**

F.Amato D.Maldonado, S.Markland-Suwareh M.Rosado, and C.Shorter,

○ **Welcome**

❖ **Opening Prayer**

Board member of Nero Graham Jr., said the opening prayer.

❖ **Quorum Present:** 6:32pm

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

- January 2020 meeting minutes were amended and approved by the Board Members.
- Motioned by Nero Graham Jr. and seconded by Cheryl Westbrook at 6:36pm.

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

○ **Dr. Bola Omotosho Chairperson Report:**

❖ **Proceedings:**

- ✓ Greetings to all Board Members, residents and other officers.
- ✓ The Executive meeting is held each month to discuss voting items, committee meeting minutes (up to-date), agendas, and conflicts of interest.
- ✓ The definitions, explanations, conflicts of interest are comprised of all officers of the Board who shall serve and be deemed voting members of the Executive Meeting.
- ✓ Voting items needed to run more efficiently and clearly.
- ✓ The purpose of voting items are: a majority of the voting members present, whether of a committee or of the full board shall be necessary for the adoption of a measure of resolution.
- ✓ The Chairperson of each committee shall hold monthly meetings and create agenda except during July and August.
- ✓ The Executive Committee may select other meeting dates, which shall be approved by the Board not the Chairman.
- ✓ The agenda for such meetings can be shall draw by the Executive Committee.
- ✓ On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Roxana Gonzalez was presented with an award. Awarded by the Bronx Borough President hosting the State of the Borough.
- ✓ The General Board Meeting Minutes have to be sent electronically to the Community Board 5 office. Then the office has to post it online as a draft for all Board members.

○ **District Manager's Report:**

- ✓ Greetings to all Board Members, residents and others.
- ✓ Mentioned friends of the Aqueduct Walk monthly meeting every first Thursday of the month. This group of people has done a tremendous event: sandwiches and coats were distributed for free.
  - If you are interested of joining or supporting this, please come to the meeting at 2167 University Avenue, University Heights Presbyterian Church, Bronx NY 10468. Or you can contact Chef G. Wilson -929-280-5255 or email at [aqueductwalk@lists.pfpcatalyst.org](mailto:aqueductwalk@lists.pfpcatalyst.org)
- ✓ Mentioned cellphone safety. It is an attractive target for thieves due to their high resale value.
- ✓ iPhones or iCloud can be activated with this important feature on all of your iOS devices. Please email or call me at the office to request more details.
- ✓ Android Devices do not have this feature to assist in the recovery in the event of loss or theft.
- ✓ The CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak Covid-19. The Health Organization website is available in which you can find information and guidance regarding the current outbreak of coronavirus.

- **Voting Items:**

- ✓ Letter of Support for the Burnside, Jerome, Tremont Merchant Association for the continuation of the Neighborhood 360 grant has been voted by the Board. The vote was as follows:  
20 for Y / 2 for A. The letter of support was granted.
- ✓ Comments on Agency Responses to Community Board Requests were granted by Board Members at this General Board Meeting. 20 for Y / 2 for A.

- **46<sup>th</sup> Precinct**

- ❖ **Lieutenant Rodriguez,**

- ❖ **P.O. Fiol and P.O. Maria are for Community Affairs**

- ❖ **P.O. Osmanovic is for Crime Prevention**

- Welcome to all Board Members and locally residents.
  - Homicides and robberies are increased this month.
    - Robberies targeted cellphones, bikes, cars unattended with the ignition running and left behind electronic devices and these thefts are happening in broad daylight and late night.
    - Our Precinct helps those who need to register their devices, VIN etching on your car windows or screens from Monday to Friday at 10:00am to 6:00pm.
    - Burglary happens to the elderly people going into their buildings.
  - Officer Maxwell and the neighborhoods coordination officers of the residential sector will be dealing with quality of life issues in the neighborhood. Everyone in the neighborhood is welcome to come tomorrow, February 27, 2020 at 7:00pm at 1960 University Avenue in the Holy Spirit Church.
  - If you received any mail asking for money or identification, please do not provide any confidential information to scammers. If you have any scamming concerns, please contact the precinct and we will help you to file a report.
- ❖ Raised questions by the residents:
    - Webster Avenue and Grand Concourse Avenue needs more patrolling officers because of the safety for the people whose works and come home late at night. Crimes happened very often in the night.

- **Presentations**

- **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney Office**  
**Chief Assistant Bronx District Attorney (Kerry Chicon)**

- ✓ Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark signaled her support for progressive, statewide criminal justice reform. The charges to the current system are inevitable.
- ✓ By providing insight on how to protect our victims, witnesses and the community.
- ✓ Legislation will ensure comprehensive discovery before plea deals are made.
- ✓ The defendants have all the information needed to prepare their cases.

- ✓ The discovery bill is perhaps the most controversial component of pending legislation.
- ✓ Will end cash bail in most cases.
- ✓ Ensures speedy trials.
- ✓ The new laws will ensure fairness in the criminal justice system for all Bronxites and New Yorkers.
- ✓ A number of important legislative initiatives are taking place for serious of criminal justice reform..
- ✓ The Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark wants to give her thoughts on the State's new bail reform law.
  
- ✓ There is a positive reaction from the public while speaking about safety and fairness without mass incarceration.
  
- ✓ Most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies, cash bail is no longer permitted.
- ✓ Judges must release people charged with those crimes with no cash bail.
- ✓ For those charged with the most serious crimes, including almost all violent felonies, bail remains.
- ✓ Nonviolent felonies, judges will retain the option to set cash bail.
- ✓ DA Clark's office has been ahead on bail reform.

#### ➤ **Public Session**

##### ○ **Sallie Smith (Resident)**

- ✓ Greeting to all residents and the community Board Members.
- ✓ Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Africans in this month.
- ✓ There are Black Inventors who made products for our convenience such as baby buggy, auto fishing device, blood plasma bag, curtain rod, curtain rod support, elevator, fire escape ladder, fire extinguisher, guitar, hair brush, key chain. Lawn Sprinkler, Stethoscope, and the Phone Transmitter.

##### ○ **Community Health Program by Barbara Hart**

- ✓ Greetings to all Board Members and residents.
- ✓ This program presents an excellent opportunity for the students in the college itself, parents, siblings and friends to train to work as a Community Health Worker in the Healthcare field.
- ✓ Meets the training requirements for NYS CRPA certification
- ✓ Is a FREE program and should be taken advantage of.
- ✓ To join there are a few requirements which must be met. For example, have an annual income under \$30K, have a High School Diploma, be at least 18 years or older, be eligible to work in the U.S., and have passion and desire to guide and help those in recovery.
- ✓ Please feel free to ask for more information at [faye.wine@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:faye.wine@bcc.cuny.edu) or call 718-933-4135 and leave your first name and last name, include your number in the voicemail.

##### ○ **Brag Program by Jeremy Molino**

- ✓ We are the program that is against Gun Violence.
- ✓ We help keep New York City the safest big city in the U.S.

- ✓ In these communities rates of violence are higher than NYC.
- ✓ BRAG Program uses the Cure Violence evidence based anti-violence model.
- ✓ We also mobilize community residents and organizations through shooting responses and community events to raise awareness about violence.
- ✓ Our BRAG Team will work together to cure Violence and bring down crime and make peace a lifestyle.

➤ ***Elected Official's Report***

❖ ***Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Representative is absent***

❖ ***Honorable Jumaine Williams, Acting Public Advocate  
Representative is absent***

❖ ***Honorable Ruben Diaz, JR., Bronx Borough President  
Representative is Tom Lucania***

- Greetings to all the Board Members and public.
- I would like to clarify with Dr. Bola about the reappointment applications that are due on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, who were the outstanding folks that are qualified. Ken Brown, Lashawnda Dodson, Alva Rodriguez, and I tried to reach out to update the status of these applications.
- Members who have not completed the Sexual Harassment Training can contact the Borough Office to make an appointment or Ken Brown's Office to schedule the training.
- The Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. presents Dominican Heritage Celebration which will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2020 between the hours of 5:30pm to 9:00pm at Grand Slam Banquet in the Borough.
- The Bronx LGBTQ + Career Fair, please join Third Avenue Business Improvement District, Bronx Borough President Office at Hostos College, if you need more details please contact the Borough Office.
- There will be a Community Discussion on Current High School Diploma Measures and feedback on High School Graduation Requirements. Please join for one or two stakeholder meetings in the Bronx. Please call the Borough Office for more details or Ken Brown 's Office.
- There will be thousands of grocery boxes a week, to be delivered to New Yorkers in Need on March 24, 2020 from Fresh Direct, in partnership with all five of New York City boroughs.

○ ***Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member District #16 Representatives are Nereida Gomez and Francisca Percila.***

❖ Participatory Budgeting

- ❖ Ms. Nereida Gomez and Francesca are speaking on behalf of Vanessa L, Gibson, Council Member Office with regard to this participatory budgeting.
- ✓ Greetings to all the Board Members and residents.
- ✓ Black History Month Celebration will be held at Bronx Community College.
- ✓ For more details please feel free contact us at 718-588-7500
- ✓ Our location is 1377 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452
- ✓ \$1M is going to participatory budgeting funding for this cycle year.
- ✓ The purpose of this funding is to see change of our district or welcome ideas from any participant in the district.
- ✓ We welcome all delegates, facilitators, and poll workers who do the real work of democracy as much as possible.
- ✓ Through participatory budgeting, community members decide how to spend \$1M of the public budget in participating Council Districts.
- ✓ For example, if an idea has been submitted, the next step is giving it to community volunteers, which are called Budget Delegates. Budget Delegates work in the district to turn ideas into real proposals for a ballot. After the ballot there will be input from city agencies. These proposals will be up for a community-wide vote in the next season.
- ✓ There is a criteria which must be met
- ✓ A project. Must last for 5 years.
- ✓ So far, we have 13 ideas that have been submitted to our office.
- ✓ For example from last cycle, The Public Library in the Bronx. Public Library requested for good resources for the children.
- ✓ For more details, please reach out to our office,  
1377 Jerome Avenue, Bronx NY 10452  
Phone: 718-588-7500.

○ **Honorable Ritchie Torres, Council Member District #15**

**Representative is Joseph McMawus**

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- Our office provides free services to help the community. You can call this number at 718 842 8100 to make an appointment or you can visit our main District Office at 573 East Fordham Road Bronx NY 10458.
- If you need help please reach me at 646-656-0853

○ **Honorable Fernando Cabrera, Council Member District #14**

**Representative is absent.**

○ **Honorable Victor M. Pitchardo, Assembly Member District #86**

**Representative is Heidi Salazar**

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- Please come to visit our office at 2175C Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10453 or you can reach me at 718 – 933 – 6909 Our Office hours are from 10am to 6:00pm. If you need help with rent protections, filing taxes, and immigration, to housing issues, or

any types of harassment, please call for more information and we can help you from there. You can reach out after hours.

- Every Tuesday and Thursday, the TSU Specialist comes to our office, please call us and make an appointment.
- If you need help with immigration or citizenship, you can reach us at our office. Please make an appointment.
- Those who needs access for the Grants or Non-Profit Organizations, you reach out to your District Manager (CB5).

- **Honorable Michael Blake, Assembly Member District #79**  
***Representative is absent***

- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**  
***Representative is absent***

- **Honorable Gustavo Rivera, NY State Senator District #33**  
***Representative is absent.***

- **Honorable Jose Marco Serrano, NY State Senator District #29**  
***Representative is Terrell Brock***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- This month we have:
  - NYC Tenant Support
  - The Legal Aid Society
  - United States Census 2020
- We are celebrating the Black History Month in February; please call for our office for the dates, time, and location.
- For NYC Women's Small Business, please call our office at 212 828 5829, or you can visit us at 1916 Park Avenue Suite 202, New York NY 10037.
- For more information please call our office at 212-828-5829 or email us at [Serrano@nysenate.gov](mailto:Serrano@nysenate.gov)
- On February 13, 2020, Senator Serrano passed a bill requiring Cultural Competency Training for Medical Professionals. The reasons of pass this bill because of combating the Opioid Crisis in the Bronx; such as heroin, abuse, or addiction.
- We are giving out free bags here because of the ban of plastic bags in the city.

- **Honorable Jose E. Serrano, Member of Congress District #15**  
***Representative is Hatou Camara***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- Our office is located at 1231 Lafayette Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Bronx NY 10464 or you can call us at 718 620 0084.
- If you have any trouble accessing Federal Agencies, our office is open for you to get more details so we can help you with immigration or social security, please contact us. You need to make an appointment with us.



- If you need help with any issues with harassment, housing, landlords or tenants, please call us for appointments. We are here for you.
- Our Congressman will be hosting an Arts Competition, High School Students can make submissions to our office. Prizes will be awarded. There are requirements to apply for this competition. The last submission of artwork is April 15, 2020. Please call our office for more details.
- We also offering for free help filling taxes in our office until April 15, 2020. Please call our office for more details. Please call for an appointment.
- Congressman Serrano thinks that it is important to recognize that the vast majority of immigrants are merely coming here in search of a better life for themselves and their families. If you need more details about immigration, please contact us in our office at 718-620-0084.

- **Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress District #13**
- **Representative is absent.**

- **Honorable Scott Stringer – NYC Comptroller**
- Representative is Khalil Niamg**

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- I just got into this job in 2 weeks.
- If you are facing any issues, we are here to help you out with public services .
- Please reach out to us at [kniamg@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:kniamg@comptroller.nyc.gov) or call our office at 212-669-3916

## ➤ **Committee Reports**

### ❖ **Ms. Cheryl Westbrook, Chairperson of Youth Committee**

- The Youth Committee meeting was held with a meeting with the Bell Organization, which include Digital Literacy Summer Loss STEM Opportunities, and mentorship for children from underprivileged communities.

### ❖ **Mr. Nero Graham, Jr., Chairperson of Services Committee**

- We reached out to the Chase Bank on West Burnside Avenue to discuss about their convenience for the community. We are still trying to reach out to them and to find out what is happening.
- We are also trying to reach out the Post Office's Management at 10453 and 10457 to discuss why there are not many counters open to serve the community residents. Most of the residents were not satisfied with their services.
- NYC Department of Transportation has a plan for Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project to install a bicycle lane. The goal is to accelerate the growth of safe cycling by providing a system of bicycle routes that traverse and connect all five boroughs. Need more information, please reach out to Ken Brown at 718 – 364 – 2030
- There is a Dollar Store on Grand Concourse; some of the community residents were confused as to why only one register is opened to serve the community in the area. We have brought the comments to the Merchant Association to discuss this matter.
- MTA Capital Plans, we tried to get some updates on the Elevator on Jerome Avenue.



- All are welcome to join the meeting for next month on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 6:00pm and discuss how to build and make the community productive.

❖ **Thomas Bushy is a Board Member of Community Board 5** has attended a MTA meeting in the Bronx. The meeting was about the Bronx Bus Network Redesign Final Proposal Town Hall.

- The MTA has gathered all available bus service data and analyzed demographics for the Bronx and published the existing conditions report and developed the Draft Plan.
- The Goals are: all-day frequent network, bus stop balancing, enhanced connectivity, expanded bus priority and improved user experience.
- For example, Bx11 existing route has 15 busses and has now been reduced. In addition, this is happening to Bx4 and Bx4A. However, Bx25 and Bx26 are combined to give the community residents more rides.
- Bx29 is a City Island Bus and it will be running more frequently for this new Network Redesign Plan.
- We as community residents can dispute this regular bus service. The congress would like to hear our voices. If you need more details, please reach out to Ken Brown our District Manager at 718 - 364 -2030.

❖ **Belinda Lawrence Chairperson of Immigration.**

- There will be a next meeting held on March 12, 2020, 6:00 pm at the Davidson Community Center.

❖ **Pooi Stewart presented on behalf of Economic Committee**

- The BJT requested a Letter of Support from Community Board 5. This Letter is to support the neighborhood 360 Economic Development Program, merchant Organizing, holiday light, and BJT Commercial marketing.
- The next meeting will be held in March, 2020. For more details, please reach out to Ken Brown at 718 – 364 – 2030.

➤ **Mike Parkinson, City Planning, Bronx Representative.**

The Neighborhood Studies Manager at NYC Department of City Planning.

- If you need more details or resources in the city's land in the Bronx, please feel free to contact me at: mparkinson@planning.nyc.gov.

➤ **Old Business:** None

➤ **New Business:**

- Community Residents would like to have a translator from English to Spanish at the General Board Meeting. The Community Board Chairperson will discuss this with elected officials. We have many resources from our office that you can visit to ask questions. Our Community Board 5 office is located at **2155 university Avenue Bronx NY 10453** or you can reach out to our **District Manager, Ken Brown** at 718-364-2030.

- **The Summer Youth Employment Program** is hiring from age 16 – 24 years old. You can submit the applications online. This is a paid summer experiences for youth. For more details please reach out to 1800-246-4646 or 646-343-6800.

➤ **Announcements:** None

➤ **Meeting is adjourned**

- At 8:34 PM

*Prepared and Submitted by*

*Ms. Stewart*

*Secretary of Community Board 5*