

**COMMUNITY BOARD #5****Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President****Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho****District Manager
Kenneth Brown*****General Board Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2019***

Vice Chairperson Angel Caballero opened the meeting at 6:17 pm. Nero Graham, Jr. said the opening prayer. Chairperson Bola Omotosho was absent due to a family emergency. Due to the absence of the Chairperson the approval of minutes and Chairperson's report were tabled for the following month. The solicitation of committee membership will be discussed at the October Executive Committee meeting.

District Manager's Report:

Kenneth Brown, District Manager highlighted the following items in the District manager's report for June-September, 2019:

- Then budget supplement from the City Council to the District Office was used for office services, office supplies, and printing supplies.
- On June 27th, Career Fair in Bronx Community College was presented by the District Manager about job opportunities and civic engagement.
- On July 8th, July 17, and August 5th the Aqueduct Walk Group met. Community stakeholders, Partnerships for Parks staff and Parks' Department staff met to discuss community activation of Aqueduct Walk. A fitness walk and tree planting maintenance and a mural were determined to be activities that should be brought to the park. Also, a walking clinic was proposed as an activity for the park. There was discussion as to how people captured memories and the history of the "walk" should be exhibited.
- The District Office is open for all the Board members to take training for Sexual Harassment Prevention: What to know about

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

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Unlawful and Inappropriate Behaviors in the Workplace. It is also announced that this is a mandatory training session that must be completed by all community board members by December 13, 2019. The information is enclosed in the packet.

- Mr. Brown announced FDNY open house on Saturday, October 5th and Sunday, October 6th between 11am t to 3 pm to visit or stop by the Neighborhood Firehouse or EMS Station.
- Mr. Brown mentioned there are 13 committees for Bronx Community Board 5 members to participate in.

Public Session:

- **Samuel Anash (Sedgwick Library)** Welcomed board and community members to the New York Public Library's 'Back to School Week.' On September 18-21 they will be giving out free supplies to the kids to succeed in the school year. Join their 'Back to school week' and discover millions of books, exciting programs, computer access, education resources, and more. Kids and Teens can check out 2 books and get a free back to school prize. Community members can apply for a new library card for free.
- **Sallie Smith (Resident)** welcomed board and community members. She said that the new "Jump Bikes" in the area have been removed. Mr. Brown (District Manager) said that according to the Department of Transportation (DOT), this pilot program has ended in July and now it will roll CitiBikes into our community. The representative from Councilperson Cabrera's office said that "Jump Bike" is highly successful in our community. However there is no further notice of any specific dates when the CitiBikes will be rolling into our community (approximately 2 years was his estimation).
- **Frances Rodriguez (Roberto Clemente State Park)** welcomed board members and children (6 to 12 years old) in our community and invited the public to join "Free Community Soccer". Application are still being accepted. There will be more programs (Basketball, Volleyball, Fitness and much more) opening, and schedules for October 2019 Recreation are enclosed in the packet. Children who are interested to join volleyball, basketball, gymnastics, are also available in our free programs. Senior Programs are open. There will be more lighting installed around the Roberto Clemente State Park. In the mid or late October there will be construction for more lights to be built around the steps for the community or

public to get access to Roberto Clemente State Park. There are more details enclosed in the packet.

- **Shlomit Levy (Bronx Community Solutions)** welcomed the board and community members. She introduced that this is a non-profit program which applies a problem-solving approach to non-violent cases in this community. It also provides judges with alternatives to jail and fines. Keith (Manager) helps out the housing programs. This non-profit program also provides removing graffiti and controlled substances services. This center also recognize in reducing the use of incarceration and forging new responses to minor offending. This program is committed to engaging communities and harnessing the power of the justice system to address local problems and improve public safety.
- **David Beller (US Census Representative)** announced that there are a few organizations that have recently come to visit the 46th Precinct to introduce free, non-profit programs to build local jobs, develop more business in this area and recruit (hiring African American and Spanish speakers in the Bronx back in June. US Census Part-Time (Entry- Level) jobs are available. For more details please call Community Board 5 office.
- **Carmen Figueroa (Resident)** stated that drug activity has been taking place in many areas. She said that she sees needles are everywhere in the street. University Avenue location is not properly secure by NYPD, criminals are located at the place while the NYPD officers are not active there. Weed smokers were everywhere around University Avenue. The quality of life in this community is horrifying. We need a solution on how to stop crime in our community.
- **Nancy Benignus (WEPA Coalition)** is an organization to help the youth and improve youth quality of life issues. Especially the youth with behavioral health needs do best when loved ones are active partners in their care, local and state systems of care must be culturally and linguistically competent and respectful of the person with behavioral health needs and their loved ones. Recovery is possible. The mission of this organization (Oasis) is to care for loved ones with behavioral health needs, we connect, support and empower Bronx community families and advocate to improve systems that impact individuals with behavioral health challenges.
- **Judith Eisenberg (Bronx Community College)** Introduced the “WorkForce development & Continuing Education” program is preparing students to be a Pharmacy Technician. For those who are interested to become a Pharmacy

Technician, here is a chance and it is located at 2155 University Avenue Philosophy Hall Room 14, 718-289-5170. The course runs from 10/03/2019 to 01/14/2019. It is held from 6pm to 9pm, for 35 sessions. The classes are on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The registration fees is \$20.00. For more details please look at the Community Board 5 packet.

- **Michael Beltzer (Ranked Choice Voting NYC)** The introduction of ranked-choice voting allows a voter to rank candidates running for office in order of preference. If no one gets a majority, the worst performing candidate is eliminated and their votes are redistributed. That process would continue until someone gets more than 50 percent of the vote. In the Bronx voters can vote on the ballot measure November 5. It will be on the back of the ballot. If it passes, ranked-choice voting would start in 2021.
- **Jaleel Anthony (P.A.L.)** introduced the after-school program for all children in the community or the public. Children who attend quality after-school programs achieve academic success and have better socialization skills than children who spend time after school with supervision of the adult. Donations of any devices are welcome to escalate the process of children learning. Some Board Members recommended outside programs that are giving away items to support children learning. General Board Meeting packet has information enclosed.
- **Isha Taylor (C.E.C. District 10)** introduced the best learning for math and ELA are with their parents and teachers. District 10 has the largest number of students in NYC. IEP students were not receiving proper services in the school. Some of the students are not reading at their level. We need many parents involved to improve their Math and ELA. The Department of Education has spent 25 billion dollars, in addition to 3 million dollars on resources. However, not many public schools are not receiving good resources to support education opportunities for students of all ages and grade levels. She encouraged parents to advocate for the students' academic programs that meet all the needs of students while promoting each student to excel to the best of his or her ability. Please call the Community Board 5 office for more details for upcoming dates.

NYPD 46th Precinct:

- **Deputy Inspector (Inspector Richard Brea)** reported that crime is up. Crimes such as burglary and homicide are extremely high in the area. Residents were requesting that more cameras be installed in the area of University Avenue to protect the citizens. He encouraged that we work together to solve and reduce crimes. Richard Brea needs citizens to modify people's behavior, to improve communication to help build the most solid behavior possible. In addition, more can be discussed at the Precinct Community Council meeting regarding more safety issues.

Elected Official's Reports:

- ❖ **Honorable Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District #86**
 - **Representative Carolina Valenzuela**
 - Ms. Valenzuela spoke about drugs, crimes that cause great negatives. In many years past, illegal substances and alcohol are the direct cause of more human death and destruction than all other illicit substances combined and yet, remains readily available for legal purchase, including at this locations. At this point, societies have learned the lessons of history; nevertheless insist that government authoritarian action in the form of a heavy hand on drugs usage to support the societies for not selling products in high demand among the citizenry. We need more organizations made up of individuals who have worked in Law Enforcement which are being created to inform the public that drugs can harm to Americans in our society.
 - In Community Board 6 was given away school supplies to the community which worth \$25 each. Senior Citizens health has been so successful. To get more details, please feel free to contact Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District #86.
- ❖ **Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President**
 - **Representative Tom Lucania**
 - Welcome to all the New Board members in Board 5. As a reminder, Sexual Harassment Prevention Training is a mandatory training session that must be completed by all

community board members by December 13, 2019. If any questions please contact Community Board 5 office or the Borough President's Office for more details.

- There is an event coming up for all Board Members to attend, please pay close attention to your emails.
- Learn how to save a Life !, Opioid overdose crisis public, Education and Responder Training, this event in effect on Thursday, October 26, 2019 from 4 to 6 pm at 234 East 149th street, 1st floor Auditorium Bronx NY 10453. More details please contact The Bronx Borough President's Office.
- Mr. Lucania announced with regards to Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget Process is currently accepting Letters of Intent for Fiscal Year 2021. To be considered for Capital Funding, please submit Letter of Intent by Deadline: January 20, 2020 or visit <http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/budget> for further information.

❖ **Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member District #16**

➤ **Representative Stacy Strong**

- Welcome and Congratulations to all the new Board members for this year.
- Ms. Strong mentioned; Jerome Avenue Public Health Taskforce Public Forum is on Thursday, October 24th, Registration and networking at 5:30pm; Event from 6pm to 8pm, for more details please contact the Community Board 5 Office.
- In addition, on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month from 10am to 5pm, staff from the NYC Department of Small Business Services will be on-site to provide more information for those looking to start or grow a business.
- The New York City Council passed the FY20 Budget for the City of New York, equaling \$92.8B. This budget includes significant investments in schools, parks, libraries, reserves, and the 2020 Census.
- Ms. Strong announced to Community Board 5 and the public that the Neighborhood Assemblies over the past month still in the process of submitting the idea on how to spend \$1 million in the community.

❖ **Honorable Fernando Cabrera, Council member District #14**

➤ **Representative Greg Faulkner**

- Reported on zoning tools to speed up ADA accessibility in the New York City subway. Building on a proposal in the “Let’s go” report for the State of the City address this year, New York City Council.
- Mentioned the office provides many free programs/services to accommodate the community to have access to family lawyers or immigration lawyers. We received \$16.6 million of this year’s budget to fund and expand the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project, which is a program designed to provide free legal representation to eligible, detained immigrants facing deportation.
- Any Community member or member of the public can make an effort to protect the neighborhood by reporting suspicious activities and crimes to the Police Department. Learn how you can make yourself and your community safer, be alert, look for someone screaming or shouting for help, a stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child. Briefly describe the suspect’s sex and race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, scars, or accent. A community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the efforts to establish a “Watch”.
- If any of you in the public that need help in anything please contact Fernando Cabrera, Council member District #14 or Community Board 5 Office.

❖ **Honorable La Toya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**

➤ **Representative Sharon Williams**

- Welcoming to all New Board member and the public who attended this meeting.
- Mentioned the Summer reading in 40 days out of the Summer Month; children read 50 - 60 hours or more over the summer. We have 3 schools involved which are PS(Public School) 11, PS(Public School) 199 and PS (Public School) 4 in addition giving free gift cards and backpacks.

- Mentioned about the Free Smoke Detector to all Senior Citizens. More details please contact Community Board 5 Office.
- Mentioned about Employment Newsletters to all children who are interested to find jobs such as UPS is opened to all public. More details please contact the Community Board 5 Office.

❖ **Honorable Gustavo Rivera, NY State Senator District #33**

➤ **Representative Hennessy Reyes**

- If you have any concerns related to immigration, please contact our office at 718 - 933 - 2034 or email at Grivera@NYsenate.com. We would like to hear about your concern in our community.
- For all people who do not sign a Rental Lease Agreement, please contact our office for more details to protect yourself because of the changes law for all landlords. Some of the landlords are not in compliance with the new laws. This benefits you as a tenant to be protected or understand the New Lease Agreement Laws of this year. Please contact our office or Community Board 5 Office for more details.

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

➤ **Representative Hatou Camara**

- If you need any information on how to apply or any help with regards to IRS, Immigration, Post Office, or any legal advice, please contact the office of Congress District #15 or Community Board 5 Office.
- Congress Serrano's Statement on Leader Pelosi's opening of Impeachment Inquiry was explained. He supports Leader Pelosi's formal impeachment Inquiry of President Trump in light of Director Mueller's investigation and his testimony before Congress. The recent reports regarding President Trump's attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate Joe Biden by threatening to withhold critical foreign aid only confirm that he will stop at nothing for political and personal gain. This is a serious issue. No one in this country should be above the law,

particularly when it comes and the integrity of our democracy, our Constitution, and our national security. It is time for Congress to step up and act on its duty to hold the President accountable. This is the right decision and I fully support Speaker Pelosi in taking this step forward on impeachment. Need more details please contact our office or Community Board 5's Office.

❖ **Honorable Jose Marco Serrano, NY State Senator District #29**

➤ **Representative Terrell Brook**

- All New Board members and the community attending this meeting were welcomed. We are giving out free backpacks for “Back to School”. If you have any questions or concerns please reach us at our office or the Community Board 5 Office.

❖ **Honorable Scott Stringer - NYC Comptroller**

➤ **Representative Victor Martinez**

- The Mayor's Office of Human Rights and other organizations will have a forum to discuss concerns about the community issues and NYC Comptroller will be attending. The location is in Longwood Avenue in the Bronx.
- Criminal Justice System; NYC Criminal Supreme Court spent 20 million dollars on buildings, incarcerations and other service fees. For more details please contact Scott Stringer - NYC Comptroller Office or Community Board 5 Office.

❖ **Committee's Reports**

- No Reports

❖ **Old Business**

- None

- ❖ **New Business**
 - None

- ❖ **Announcements**
 - None

- ❖ **Meeting is adjourned**
 - 8:30 PM.

Prepared and Submitted by

- ❑ *Ms. Pooi Stewart*
Volunteer Secretary of Community Board 5