



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**

Bronx Community Board 5 January 22, 2020 minutes

➤ **Board Members:**

➤ **Present:**

E. Acosta, B.Akumah, T. Bushby A. Caballero ,A. Dejesus, R .Gonzalez N. Graham, Jr.
K. Lewis, D. Maldonado, G.Medina, T. Mims, Dr. B. Omotosho, R. Owusu, J. Parra, D.
Perez, F. Ramos, Guareno, M. Rosado, S. Rudolph, C. Shorter, P.Stewart,
C.Westbrook, R. Whetstone.

➤ **Absent:**

P. Blanco, J. Curiel, H. Esteban, B. Lawrence, J. Perez, D. Perry, and C. Rosado

➤ **Excused absence:**

M. Rodgers, M. Heath, Dr. M. Brown, K. Jabouin, F. Amato, B. Moore, and L.
Reyes.

➤ **Welcome**

❖ **Opening Prayer:**

Board Member of Nero Graham. Jr. said the opening prayer.

➤ **Quorum present: 6: 32pm**

➤ **Approval Of Minutes**

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

- Last month (December 2019) meeting minutes were amended and approved by the Board Members.
- Motioned by Nero Graham Jr. and seconded by Cheryl and Third by Dr. Bola Omotosho (6:35pm) to accept the minutes.

➤ **46th Precinct - NYPD Inspector (Richard Brea)**

- Welcoming to all Board members / Community members including the residents.
- Homicides and robberies have increased this month.
- All drivers beware, please do not leave your car unlocked or unattended.

➤ **Chief Assistant Bronx District Attorney (Kerry Chicon)**

- Number of important legislature initiatives are taking place concerning criminal justice. The Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark will give her thoughts on the state's new bail reform law.
- There is 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 while waiting for a trial.
- 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.
- Clark's office has been ahead of bail reform.

➤ **Chairperson's Report**

- **Proceedings:**
 - Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman, Dr. Bola Omotosho.
 - Attendance must be enclosed along with the minutes every month.
 - The Borough President will take into consideration the reappointment of appointing a board member to represent our CB5.
 - Leave of absence, please read the by-law.
 - Sexual Harassment Training Dateline was December 13 2019. The new date is February 7, 2020 for taking Sexual harassment training or else there may be no reappointment of a board member.
 - Recommendation for one Board Member to represent our CB5 to the Borough Open House. (Voting is in action).
 - There was a groundbreaking for affordable and supportive housing development in the Bronx on January 16, 2020
 - Procurement process – We have been increase from \$5k to 20K (not exceeding) on employees in our office including to vendors. If CB5 exceeded the amount of 20K, we will be receiving a violation.
 - CB5 has written a Letter of Support to Housing Development in the Bronx last Thursday.

➤ District Manager's Report (Kenneth Brown)

❖ *Kenneth Brown, District Manager highlighted the following items in the report (Report Enclosed):*

- Welcome to all the community members and residents.
- Ground Breaking for Affordable and supportive Housing Development in the Bronx on January 16, 2020 that Dr. Bola has joined.
- December 18, 2019, Executive Community Board Meeting Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative; one of the commitment of this rezoning was to have the network built by community Board 4, 5, 7, and other organizations. The Networks are to build or create more jobs in our community.
- One of the commitments that was requested was to make this a permanent responsibility of the District Manager.
- Determination is up to the Board of Economic, District Manager and other Board Members to make a decision on the business in our CB5 Business District.
- February 20, the door opened at 6pm to 8pm located in the Museum of Art – the MTA will have a final public forum on the Bronx Bus Redesign.
- Partnerships for Parks' Catalyst and Friends of Aqueduct Walk meeting will be every First Thursday of the month at 2167 University Avenue (University Heights Presbyterian Church) Bronx NY 10468.

➤ Voting Items:

- **Darinka Maldonado (Board Member):** On December 2019, Well Life Network's innovative Housing Programs and Support Services, located throughout NYC and Long Island, offer supportive environments to more than 2,000 people with mental illness and formerly homeless individuals. Well Life Network is proposing to develop a 51-unit residence at 163 Bush Street Bronx NY and is asking for a Letter of Support. It is up to all the Board Members. She is in favor of 100 percent for supportive units. Need more details please look at the General Board Meeting Packet.
- **Roxana Gonzales (CB5 Board Member)** was nominated by CB5 board member to go to Borough President to receive the reward.
- **The Vice President of Public Affair for the work of the Athletes'** is inquiring about a Letter of Support from CB5. This organization has been in existence for 40 years in New York State.
- **Crystal John is a Vice President of Behavior Health Services of Well Life Network.** She has been in this agency for 32 years. They are very successful supporting individuals in the 5 boroughs of NYC. The first building is at East 163 streets / Grand Concourse and the next is in Brooklyn and has been in for 10 years and it has been very successful. We are asking for a Letter of Support from CB5.
 - **The Building located at East 165 Street that is covered by 42 Precinct.** There is a nearby Mental Hospital which provides services for people with mental illness.

➤ **Voting Item Question:**

- Thomasina Bushy asked about Well Life Network's innovative Housing Programs nearby has a senior housing?

➤ **Motion**

- ❖ 163 Bush Street Bronx NY
 - Voters from Board Members
 - 20 for Y / 2 for A

➤ **Presentations:**

- ❖ Mayor's Office 2020 Census Team – Jeremiah Cedeno
 - The US Census is very important because it is a survey of everything we need. We should all participate in 2020.
 - We are usually lacking surveys or counts which will impact the Data from the decennial Census, which is used for a variety of purposes.
 - On March 12, it will go out to all residencies. You have choices of doing it online or filling out the form.
 - It must be received by April.
 - The purpose of this Census:
 - Distribution of more than a billion dollars annually in federal funds to tribal, state and local governments.
 - Redistricting of state legislative districts.
 - Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
 - Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.
 - Assisting federal, tribal, state, and local governments in planning and implementing programs, services, and emergency response.
 - Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, and children.
- ❖ **Questions and Answers:**
 - Darinka Maldonado (Board Member): What about an individual who does not have or is unable to show their citizenship?
 - Answer: Due to Federal restrictions we are unable to release confidential information to Community Board, State Agency, or Davidson Center.
 - Are there qualifications to meet the census requirements?
 - Answer: All the submissions in the application are confidential.
 - What about those who are committed crimes?

- Resident: Do you have to be citizen to get hired?
- Thomasina Bushy (Board Member): There are numerous homeless people in my neighborhood; do those people count in the census?
- Answer: Yes it does.

- Sallie Smith (Resident) - Darinka Maldonado (Board Member) is a Chair Committee for the Housing and she has done tremendous work in this Community.

➤ **Public Session**

- ❖ Sallie Smith (Resident):
 - Welcomed to all the Board Members and the community.
 - Sallie said Darinka Maldonado (Board Member) is a Chair Committee for Housing; she has done a tremendous work in this Community.

- ❖ Pierina Sanchez (Former of CB5)
 - I work for Mayor De Blasio Office as a Senior Advisor for Housing Development.
 - I am here to support the 2020 Plans on Jerome Rezoning with CB5. If you need more details, please reach out to me at my office.

➤ **Elected Official's Report**

❖ ***Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor Representative is Katrina Asante***

- Greetings to all the Board members and community.
- I am the new Bronx Borough Director of the Mayor's Office.
- We are replying to all needs.
- We also replying to all the elected officials to support the community.
- We are making sure the elected officials attend all the General Board meetings to give support or hear some of the community members' voices.
- My email is Kasante@cityhall.nyc.gov or call me at the office 2127886732 or Work No. 3479557714.
- Our Bronx Borough Office covers Bronx Community Boards 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12.

❖ ***Honorable Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate Representative is Brian Polanco***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- I was born and raised in Parkchester - Bronx.
- I am the Public Advocate representative for most of the communities in the Bronx.

- If you need help, please reach me at bpolanco@advocate.nyc.gov or 12126697250
- You can also reach me at Gethelp@advocate.nyc.gov
- We have workshops on Criminal Justice, Education, Cash Bails and much more.
- New Bills such as from Office of the Parking Summons Advocate is to independently assist unrepresented and underrepresented members of the public with parking.
- Camera violation issues.
- Complaints that cannot be resolved through normal Department of Finance channels.
- The office acts as an intermediary between the public and DOF units.
- Other agencies are involved in parking summons, adjudication process; informs the public about parking laws, rules, and regulations.
- Department of Finance policies and procedures.
- Identifies reports.
- Recommends solutions to systemic problems.
- Issues related to the parking summons adjudication process.
- There is a NYC Department of City Planning training for Bronx Communitary Board Members to take place this coming
 - Monday, January 27, 2020
 - 6:30pm to 9:00 pm
 - 463 East 149th Street 2nd Floor Bronx NY 10455.

❖ ***Honorable Vanessa L, Gibson, Council Member District #16 Representative is Vanessa L Gibson / Nereida Gomez***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- We cover CB5, the Westside and Morris Heights.
- Any of the residents that need any help on housing, landlord- tenant issues, please reach out to any of the members in our office.
- District Attorney Office, Bail reform has recently passed at the State and is now Law.
- The new budget Season at New York City starts July 1st for the Fiscal Year 2021.
- New Budget Year Process of Expanding Funding Dateline is on February 18, 2020 – Online Applications – any members can be apply.
- Those interested applying for funding for the new season; this is the time to apply.
- Additional assistance is available from our office, which is hosting two Workshops on how to process FY21 requests at 6pm.
- The office is located at: 1377 Jerome Avenue Bronx NY (Corner of West 170th and Plaza Drive)
- January 27 (6pm) and January 31 at 12pm
- City Council website is also available for this application or Mayor's Office website.
- Governor Cuomo issued the Executive Budget of the State Of New York, April 1, 2020
- The budget from the City Council and State affords the hiring of Social workers for Public School focused on students in temporarily housing (District 9 and District 10).

- Program Fair-Fare pushed (Reduced MetroCard) by Council, income eligible for low-income citizens. For more details please go to Councilmember Vanessa L Gibson website.
- Homeless individuals are need of affordable housing
- CitiBike has installed in CB1 and the CB2, CB3, CB4, and CB5 will be next.....
- Express Buses already in the Bronx.
- Surveillance cameras installed and cover CB4 and CB5.
- Free legal Assistance is available from January 31 at 10am to 3pm (call the office and must signed up) in February and March, thought the 27th.
- March 15 at 3pm
- Puerto Rico Earthquake Relief Drive in Vanessa L Gibson office please donates at this location.
- Update of step streets: within the next two months there should be the official ribbon cutting. There is 8 million dollars of funding by the Mayor's Office and State.
- We are in a crisis of hitting children and adult on the streets, please drive safe.
- Rezoning has changed this community, for example 10 stories can be converted to 15 instead.

❖ ***Honorable Ritchie Torres, Council Member District #15
Representative is Nanette Alvarado***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- We are offering free tax fillings to all residents in the Bronx.
- Please make an appointment by calling 718 842 8100 from February 5th 2020, 2pm to 5pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- Councilperson Torres will be voting for a bill for restaurant goes for cashless.
- The Councilman also needs help from the community to help out the Puerto Rico Earthquake victims.
- If you need help please reach me at 646-656-0853

❖ ***Honorable Fernando Cabrera, Council Member District #14
Representative is Russell Cheek***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- This bill is to dismiss a violation enforced by the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission pertaining to a defective vehicle lights so long as two conditions are met.
- Puerto Rico Earthquake Donations will be accepted in our office.
- If you have any questions, please reach me at 347-586-6453 or email me at Rcheek1040@gmail.com

❖ ***Honorable Victor M. Pitchardo, Assembly Member District #86
Representative is Carolina Valenzuela***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.

- Those who are interested in Grant Information Sessions, we have the information about it and also the non-profit organizations.
- To apply, please reach out to our office, we can email you individually.
- Those who needs access for the Grants or Non-Profit Organizations, you reach out to your District Manager (CB5). Every Thursday, the TSU Specialist come to our office located at 265 East 184 street, 1892 Andrew Avenue Bronx NY
- Immigration- Help with Citizenship processing also available at our location is on January 31, 2020. Need to sign up.
- Our office located at 2175C Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10453
718 933 6909

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

❖ ***Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77
Representative is Sharon Williams***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- Apply for jobs in the library at 910 Grand Concourse Suite 1JK
- Care Givers Form Event, partner with Grandparents around the world will be at Bronx Museum – from 10am to 12 pm
 - Refreshments will be served.
- 1040 Grand Concourse Bronx NY.
- If you have landlord or tenant issues, please contact our office, we will gladly resolve suitable issues.
- We have lawyers to resolve community matters.
- We have TSU Lawyer on the side to help most tenants or landlord issues.
- Immigration issues immigration agents coming to our office
- Our community Office is located Suite 1JK 910 Grand Concourse Bronx NY
 - Tel: 718- 538-2000

❖ ***Honorable Gustavo Rivera, NY State Senator District #33
Representative is Hennessy Reyes***

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- Go online and register NYS Senator District 33 to follow up the Senate Bills.
- Legislative Sessions are posted online at this site.
- Currently, the Senator Gustavo Rivera is focusing on alcoholism and substance abuse committee, combat heroin and opioid addiction, heroin and opioid addiction task force and Naloxone training.
- Need help with any Health Insurance please stop by our office.
- We are celebrating the Black History Month, please call our office for more details.
- If you have any questions of the bills or laws please feel free to reach to me at 718 933 2034.

- You can reach me at reyes@nysenate.org
- Our office located at 2432, 506 Grand Concourse Bronx NY 10458

❖ **Honorable Jose Marco Serrano, NY State Senator District #29**
Representative is Jose-Ramon Perez-Lopez

- Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
- Next Tuesday, we have an event for people who are interested in how to apply NYC Health Plan. Please come to this location on January 28, 2020 at NYC Library 1701 University Avenue Bronx NY. We will help you to fill out the application for you.
- It is important that currently we are in US census counts. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.
- If you have comments with the landlords or tenants, please feel free to reach out to us as well. We will gladly support you with this matter.
- We also provide legal services to all community in our office with appointments. We have "The Legal Aid Society" to help you out at our office.
- For more information please call out office at 212-828-5829.

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

- Greetings to all the Board Members and the community
- Our office located at 1231 Lafayette Avenue, 4th Floor Bronx NY 10474. You can reach out to us at 718 620 0084.
- Our Congressman is focusing on Immigration. If you need help with immigration issues, please reach out to us at our office, by appointments.
- You can register at our website.
<https://serrano.house.gov/contact/newsletter>
- If you have any issues with IRS, Housing, Federal Agency, Internships, please reach out to us from 9:00am to 12:00pm at our office.
- Our office is accepting donations for the People of Puerto Rico Earthquake.
- Census Bureau is hiring people for the 2020 census.

❖ **Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress District #13**
Representative is Maximo Javier

- Greetings to all the Board Members and the residents.
- Our office located at 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue Bronx NY. The number is 646 740 3632
- Our Congressman of Adriano Espaillat is focusing on Immigration, new bills and laws. Please register at our site or you can reach out to us.
- There is an event will be held at IS 242 in the Bronx located 4600 Broadway. If you need exactly the date and time to feel free to call the office.
- Any of you who are interest of joining the Force especially the High school students, please feel free to call our office. Last year in 2019, we have 15

high school students are in the force. We are looking for more students to join the force of this year. We can help you to fill out the applications.

❖ **Honorable Scott Stringer – NYC Comptroller**
Representative is absent

❖ **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney**
Representative is absent

➤ **Committee's Reports**

- Please mail in all the Agenda/Minutes to the CB5 Office.
- Please release all the names of attendance.
- Please be cleared with all the reports of each of your Committee meetings.
- Darinka Maldonado said for the developers can reach out to the Municipal Committee chairperson. The
- Robert Whetstone made an announcement for the Parks Committee would like the residents to attend meeting on January 29, 2020, the location is Babove Early Learning Center to discuss about the plan of 1801 Davidson Avenue Bronx NY. Please call the CB5 office to ask for more details.
- Cheryl Westbrook made an announcement for the next Youth Committee meeting is on Wednesday February 5th 2020 located Davidson Community Center at 6:00pm.
- For the Letter of Support will be available next General Board Meeting in February 2020.
- Thank you for all the 5 individuals that received the scholars from Yankees and congratulations.
- With regards to any of the internships, please be aware of the all the requirements and the process of how to be qualified.

➤ **Old Business**

- None

➤ **New Business**

- None

➤ **Announcements**

- None

➤ **Meeting is adjourned at 8:44pm.**

Prepared and Submitted by

Ms. P. Stewart

Secretary of Community Board 5