



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**

January 27, 2021

Community Board Five

General Board Meeting Minutes

- Community Board Five Board Members
- Presents: E.Acosta, B.Akumah, S.Bah,P.Blanco, Dr.M. Brown, J.Curiel, A. DeJesus, R.Gonzalez-Jimenez, N. Graham, Jr.,A. Hernandez,B.Lawrence,G.Medina,J.Parra,L. Reyes,M.Rosado,S.Rudolph,C.Shorter,P.Stewart,C.Westbrook,E.Morris,C.Camera,F. Ramos-Guareno.

- Absent/Excused
- Dr. B. Omotosho,T.Mims, A.Caballero,and D.Perry.

- Agenda
 - Welcome
 - Belinda Lawrence; I would like to start by saying welcome and thank you to everyone present at this meeting, and special guest, and please welcome Nero Graham Jr for the opening prayer.

- Opening Prayer by Nero Graham Jr.

- Quorum:

- Second Vice- Chairperson’s Report Belinda Lawrence:
 - Proceedings:
 - The next item that we have on the agenda is the approval of the minutes. The December meeting minutes are not available as yet. It will be available for the February meeting. We have not been able to post any of the meeting minutes on

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the website. We've been having some technical glitches or difficulties, so be on the lookout.

- Those minutes will post online as soon as we're able to. We are now moving on to the chairperson's report as I would like to assume that most of us here have heard about Dr. Bola mother's loss.
- At this time, you know we would like to express our deepest sympathy to Dr. Bola and his family. Some of us have had the pleasure of meeting her and knowing her. And from what I can understand, when you meet her, you will get a chance to see the reflection of Dr. Bola's character in her.
- So, we wish the family well, during this time of grief, remember her, you know, in their fondest thoughts, and we will continue to pray for comfort for him and his family. At this time, I'd ask that we take a moment of silence just for a minute to remember Dr. Bola and his family at this time.
- Ken Brown sent out the report by email today. Are there any particular items that you'd like to highlight at this time?
- We get into the area where we're going to be asking for elected officials' reports. We had a presentation scheduled from council member Fernando Cabrera.
- He's not able to join us at the meeting tonight, but their representative from their office is here, Russell Creek, will give us a regular update, or do you have anything from what Councilman intended to present tonight?
- Yolanni; from the Merchants Association meeting, we had some questions for Councilman Cabrera; we will have a separate conversation about that being as he could not join us at the meeting tonight.

● **District Managers by Ken Brown Report:**

- Let me go over the rent eviction moratorium is effectively extended through the end of March; in the district managers report, I have the contact information if you need to make an application for relief through that. If you do receive a summons to go to the court, you must present a positive defense that you have lost income between April and July of 2020.
- This should then protect you from any potential proceedings. If you want to make an application for rent relief. You can call the call center at the state MCR. The number is 833-499-0381. And we have a representative from NICA on the call tonight. She just sent me a flyer about their eviction prevention services, which will go out to the community.
- I want to highlight one of the activities that happens consistently in the district is the Friends of the Aqueduct Walk. That is a community group involved in the community ownership and management of Aqueduct walk; they meet every first Thursday of the month. The mission is to bring the community into activation and stewardship of Aqueduct Walk. Right now, the endeavor is to call the community for anyone with any old photographs or contemporary photographs of the walk that will make into a public display.
- So, if anyone would like to submit any pictures for that, would be welcome. There are flyers that we circulate periodically about that and we'll send that out again tomorrow. Hopefully, every week we send out these statistics about the COVID cases in the district. We try to send that out every Wednesday.
- Regarding our efforts with Amalgamated Bank and banking in the community in particular; in general, we're still as far as everyone knows we're on course to have the

Chase branch reopen on Burnside Avenue in March. They continue to stand by that commitment as people see the other side of Jerome Avenue's unit has closed for over a year now. There was flooding, initially, I think that's about it then.

- Community Board 5 and the Test and Trace agency to give facemasks away between the two locations, they gave out approximately 7000 face masks, so that continues to be a concern for the community, of course. Let's see, and I think everything else is in the District Manager's report.

- **New York Police Department 46th Precinct Report by Officer Kennedy**

- The last shooting we had was on December 26. Unfortunately, we have a rise in auto thefts due to people in their cars running into the store for like a minute; they think that when they come back the cars have been broken into.
- **Question:** Is there any update on the bank robbery at TD Bank on Fordham Road that happened? What about two-three weeks ago?
Answer: There is no update.

- **Voting Items:** None.

- **Presentation by councilmember Fernando Cabrera on Government Operations as it pertains to community Boards.**

- Representative is Russell Creek.
- Good Evening: I'm here to represent the Councilman to speak on his regular updates related to the district. I know that he will be back to talk about budget issues. I'll be just going through general information related to the district.
- He will be speaking on budget issues; I just wanted to update one of the resolutions that he proposed to the City Council resolution calling on Governor Cuomo to see making it its own independent decision of eligibility for the vaccine distribution in the five boroughs.
- The governor abruptly changed the course to allow USC to begin administering the COVID-19 vaccine to group one b, including first- responders, grocery workers, and people aged 65 or older.
- In addition to one, it became necessary to dispose of unused units reserved for individuals.
- The resolution will grant the city to determine when they will allow the next election to be guaranteed and vaccines and data on demand for this conversation that you guys were having access to unused vaccines.
- That was the most pertinent part of our talking points as it relates to our district, other than budget issues which the councilmen will speak upon himself. Thank you.

- **Presentation by Morris Heights Health Center on Covid-19 updates and status of new Urgent Care Center.**

- Good evening, everyone. My name is Pamela Williams, and I'm the site Director at Morris Heights Health Center. Also, Miss Nikki's, new Chief Business Officer. We will be updating you on some of the new urgent care center and COVID 19 related concerns tonight. Morris Heights is currently opening up an urgent care center which will be located at One West Burnside Avenue.

- I just opened up an Urgent Care extension clinic that will be called Omega Help. The center will provide diagnostic treatment services for patients with acute and minor traumas that are not life-threatening. Urgent Care is a healthcare provider for any patient who walked in without an appointment to address critical issues that are not life-threatening.
- These are also for patients who cannot get an appointment with their primary care physician.
- The Morris Heights Health Center hired them to go out with a vision to be the community's healthcare choice by providing patients quality of life while optimizing their healthcare experience, which is the true meaning of managed Care. One of the extension components for us is using a whole health approach to reduce the emergency room acute admissions. So, as we started developing this, thinking about what our mission is.
- Omega Health Care Clinic will improve access to the community for patients. We can treat illnesses more quickly in a more efficient and cost effective way.
- Our goal is to improve the community's health, one patient at a time. When we focus on this new clinic, it will focus on the patient experience. So, we will offer kiosk registration, telemedicine health services, also assistance with insurances.
- One of the things that we focus on is continuity of Care. I can go into an in-depth explanation about Omega Health; patients walk-in in at omega help door, the patient's providers will receive Care, although this patient is not ours.
- If they're not our patients, they will receive a summary of the visit; within 24 hours, they will receive a call from our provider and access a wellness check to ensure everything is okay. Patients who do not have a provider will be offered services at their location at their home location of PCP providers, so if a patient comes to us, or Burnside and they live in St Anne's or Morris, or Metro section, we will offer a primary care provider at that location.
- Our goal, again, is to improve community health.
- In addition to that, all new patients and established patients will be scheduled for follow-up appointments. We will ensure that that patient has everything they need, such as pharmacies. Patients follow up with the provider, who will know what's going on.
- Lastly, the services that will be provided are, allergies, allergic reaction, chest pain, cold fluid symptoms in eye affections, GYN complaints, lacerations, burns, stomach flu, sinus infections, sore throat STD training, STD screening, and UTI screening.
- Again, will be located at One West Burnside on the corner, you can take the number four train to Burnside, you can take the 42 which will drop you a couple of feet away from the site, which will be open Monday through Saturday from 12 pm to 8 pm.
- I just wanted to add one of the things that we would be doing as we tried to do at one of our sites, it's excellent customer service. We want to treat the patients and our community members and, in the Bronx, just as if they were walking in on Fifth Avenue. We want it to be excellent here—excellent customer service.
- You would see if any of you ever went to visit or refer anyone. I hope to get back from as reviews like "wow" knew that that's all gold.
- I wanted to add that I also wanted to reiterate that we're not here to take any of the community doctors' patients, and many times, they're not open, and patients end up going into the ER, and we all know that that's so many reasons that are not a good thing.
- So, we would see those patients, and as Pam said, we would then forward summaries to adopters, if the patient does not have primary care.
- One of the things we would be doing would be giving them choices of primary care doctors closest to their home.

- We don't want them episodically coming in just getting to come into Urgent Care just for that treatment because if you think of it as you all know, Bronx County always has placed last in health outcomes, and we're not going to get to number one or closer to number one by just having all patients go into urgent care and backout, we need them to have, you know, a connection to a primary care provider. And that's one of our goals, that's one of our main goals.
- **Question:** Thank you. I'm glad to hear that your Omega Help would like to improve customer service because that is a niche that needs to be filled and enhanced when it comes to the clinics in our local areas. Some of the stuff you've mentioned is pretty standardized, apart from being a better customer service and connecting people who come into urgent care with PCP that is a lot closer to them. What makes your organizations, you know what sets it apart from other clinic and healthcare providers in community board five, and the general primary care clinics?
- **Answer:** Those are the two main things that we've put on our strategic agenda; to pay very close attention to customer service and connecting back to primary care, but as I think of it, it's also excellent quality care.
- As you know, we're one of the few health centers right now that we opened up for vaccinations.
- You may know that I have helped Ken Brown make a few referrals to get vaccinations, and right now, we're about to start providing vaccinations as we receive our vaccine.
- One of the things that our CEO is big on is, once again, fixing the appointments, on the whole, when, you look forward or as you look into Morris Heights.
- One of the things you would see is preventive care, we're big on preventative care, right, and many people go like, wow, your health care center, and want to prevent it.
- Sure, you know, and yeah, we want to prevent people from getting in from being diabetic hypertension; many of these things are, you know, one of the lifestyle habits and stuff like that. One of the centers we're about to open which you will hear about down the road, so I don't want to get into the defensive here, an area where we're talking about exercise, teaching them how to eat healthily and we'll be growing on the. So, it's one of those very easy ways of showing how long you are just not keeping a patient sick but trying to get them healthy and stay healthy.

Cheryl Westbrook (Board Member): Thank you Morris Health Center, because for the West Bronx, now becomes our health line so urgent care center that we were using before you guys open on University Avenue in the Bronx.

Pamela (Morris Heights): We're always looking to improve, and the plan is to open it up **around February 22**. So, you'll hear more from us about that. In addition to that, we're also doing COVID testing; we're doing COVID testing. So, it would be best if you got COVID testing you can walk into Walton Avenue. You can walk into Walton to get tested. You don't need an appointment. And you also can ask your provider about COVID testing.

- Morris Heights is doing a healthy blood drive, at 69 West Brunside. It will be on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, from nine to three pm, so please come out and support us.

Pablo (Board Member): I'm currently looking at the City of New York on a map of COVID cases. And our area has been hard hit so has Kingsbridge and University Heights. They have many issues, but I'm looking down towards my land. I would say past 96th Street; the cases are getting lower and certain parts of Queens. I just, trying to make sense of that and it is an income issue and it is the quality of service. Is it the fact that there's more City Meds in these regions, or is it an income issue, or they're related?

Answer: So, without getting very clinical but just thinking of the social determinants of health. As I said, one of the things that Morris Heights wanted to do was to treat an entire person and provide preventive care. That's a loaded question because a lot of it has to do with just quality of life; as you know, you may not earn as much, but in Bronx Heights the outcomes are some of the worst in the Bronx. So, it's an unfortunate trend that we see continuing.

Resource: Morris Heights, we use Moderna for the vaccine.

Pablo (Board Member): That's good to know because Moderna's CEO stated that we're going to have the virus for the next two years, and this is coming from the CEO. This is something that I want the community to consider when taking the vaccine.

Belinda Lawrence (Vice-Chair CB5): So, probably would you say that the community and the health sector need to do more grassroots work as far as educating the public about the importance of taking the vaccine.

Pablo (Board Member): Some people are offending by the vaccine because of the after-effects or the side effects. There are reports of people getting sick when some people take the vaccine. The vaccine split into two doses, two weeks apart from each other. We had brought it on January 6, and he just died on Friday.

Belinda Lawrence (Vice-Chair CB5): And this was from an allergy reaction?

Pablo (Board Member): It just so happens he took the vaccine. Not feeling comfortable thinking about saying like the African American community because we know about the syphilis experiment. All these other medical issues that the black American community has with the pharmaceutical industry, so many people do not feel comfortable taking the vaccine.

Belinda Lawrence (Vice-Chair CB5): Well, here's a quick question for you. Now, seeing as one of the causes of death from people who have taken the vaccine and you know has the disease, is for the clinics, or the health facilities, asking questions as to what these individuals do every you know anyone who takes the vaccine in general, what type of information or what kind of ingredients, they're, you know, allergic to that way you can safe guard, you know, when giving them the vaccine.

Morris Heights Health: It's 28 days apart that you have to take it, not two weeks, and the Pfizer, it's 21 days that you have to take it, not two weeks. I also wanted to say thanks. Thankfully I don't know of any deaths that occurred after the vaccine. I took the vaccine as a healthcare provider. And I'm happy that I'm still here. I know many of my co-workers have trepidation; I believe that I have family members concerned about it. Also, I know that. One of the things I hear from you though, Pablo, is that we need to try to educate our community members more about the safety of the vaccine. And to answer your question.

Sallie Smith (Resident): I have many allergies. I have chronic illnesses, and I have no side effects. I have never taken the vaccine. They did. I took it at Union Community Center at 188 street. And it's been over two weeks already. I'll go back on the 14 for my second inoculation, and I have not had any side effects. I did ask questions, and I was sitting there 15 minutes after the vaccination. And I urge everybody to take it. I know that there are many myths about various vaccinations and all those kinds of things, but it's better to take the vaccination and be alive.

Ernest Acosta (CB5 Board member): Do you have leftovers that somebody could wait until the end of the night, and you give out whatever you have available?

Morris Heights Health: We have that, but we have a waiting list. And once you're on the waiting list, we asked you if you're interested in being called in at the last minute. Suppose there's a vaccine available, so that's how that gets out, so yes, and we only use the Moderna, not Pfizer. I would like to send that information to Ken tomorrow, along with the email address and telephone number that you may send us an email, and you'll be on the vaccination waitlist, and then we would also ask if you're willing to be on that waiting list, they are the priority if there are any vaccines. Thank you so much.

Beverly Smith (CB5 resident): I spoke to your office today, and I talked to Axel Flores. First of all, I was on the phone for half an hour with a young lady by Chris, and she wouldn't give me the last word. So I asked for the supervisor, and got Axel Morris, and he told me he could only be on the

phone for 10 minutes. He said there's like a four-hour wait on the telephone. They don't have a waiting list. They stopped the waiting list, he told me to call back. You have to fill out all your information, name, address, date of birth, and everything. Then you hold on the phone. I held on for half an hour.

Morris Heights Health: I'm sorry, I could give you my telephone number, and you could contact me directly.

Beverly (CB5 Board resident): My whole situation with Morris Height's on the phone today was as a senior was horrible.

Morris Heights Health: I appreciate your feedback. I'm so sorry to hear that obviously because I am saying that one of the things that we're big on is customer service, and I'm very disheartened to listen of this report. Just because everyone else is on the line, if you want to take my direct cell phone number, you could give me a call, or would you like to provide me with that information now. So, let me apologize on behalf of Morris Heights because we don't allow it. I will speak to the supervisor. Anyone else has any concerns?

Question: If someone doesn't have an appointment, can they go on the waiting list?

Morris Heights Health: In order to get an appointment, you have to be on the waiting list because we're going in order of receipt.

Question: Carlos Torres asked, are the PCR test's administered, Ms. Williams.

Morris Heights Health: By PCR, we don't have the rapid test. That's a good question. But we always have a list of resources. So that's something I could see if we have and send to Ken Brown.

• Public Session

- **Sallie Smith is a resident of CB5**
- Good evening board members and the community. I noticed that one of the new things that they're doing about the permits is the new permits that are supposed to be given out, and presently, we do have much traffic on the sidewalk.
- My concern is about the bicycles. One of the dangers is that the stores can use more space for them to put their merchandise on site. That leaves little way for pedestrians, especially when you have bicycles that are on the sidewalk.
- And we have people that have wheelchairs and our shopping cart walkers and all of these and they struggle. We need to make sure that we have space for the pedestrians to walk.
- And I was on the call at noon for the disabilities from NYPD today, and there was much information dissemination. That is very helpful, I won't go into that this evening. I will take up some of that, and the precise amounts of money they need. Thank you so much.

- **Eric Desuza – Community Construction Liaison**
- Good evening everybody. My name is Cesar, and I am the community construction liaison for the project 207 Street bridge, a job with the DOT.
- They are repainting the 207 Street bridge, also known as the University Heights or University Street, or Bridges.
- I'm here to serve the community. Any questions they have about the project that's going on or any impacts it has on them they
- contact me. I'll try to help them as best I can.
- You can reach out to me at 207bridgepaint@gmail.com or 551-449 -0198

- **Ms. Beverly Smith (Resident):**
- I have one issue, important for Community Board Five and Community Boards Seven for the new traffic study that they did on University Avenue, whether they call it the Washington Bridge, the 183 Street Bridge, where the bus went down on the Cross Bronx, a traffic study needs to look at this again.
- Again, it's an accident waiting to happen, and I said that to I think Vanessa Gibson's office, and sure enough, three days later, the bus went over. There's a lot going on at that intersection, but they've cut up that location so wrong and put these big Liberty bells up. And along with the traffic study, it makes it hard for pedestrians.
- That's one of the traffic issues. The second is the vehicles parking in the entire board over the crosswalks, not the pavement markings. That way, the police department or the traffic department can be redirected to reduce any inconvenience.
- The DOT did not correctly mark the pavement marks on the ground for people to park and cross the streets. Summons should be issued because of that.
- That way, the police department or the traffic department could issue a summons. On the cut curb, the blind and those with walkers and wheelchairs cannot come off that curb because they're parking diagonally across a pedestrian ramp.
- **Municipal Chairperson (Nero Graham Jr.):**
- I was speaking with my partner, Mr. Moore, you are correct. Beverly, I hear you loud and clear. And I will be reaching out to Ken and others for DOT and see what we can do. I know the engineers, the way they had it. They didn't have our input because that design is terrible. Okay. You're not the only one complaining about it.

Elected Official's Reports

- **Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor**
- **The Representative is Katrina Asante not available.**

- **Honorable Jumaine William, Acting Public Advocate**
- **The Representative is Terrence William**
- Good evening, I don't want to hold you too long, but the Public Advocate had a bill, heard on Friday on racial disparity.
- The bill would report for specific land use applications of a minimum number of adjacent blocks for floor area. The report must include, but is not limited to an analysis of demographic, social, economic, and housing conditions and trends and an identification of potential measures that may address any identified disparities or displacement risk.

- I put my email in the chat if anyone has any further questions or concerns or wants to know more about our office. Once again, Happy New Year to community board 5. Thank you.

- **Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President**
- **The Representative is Ish Gonzalez**
- **Contact: igonzalez@bronxbp.nyc.gov**

- Good evening. Everyone, this is Ish Gonzalez, from the Bronx borough president's office. I hope everyone is doing well.
- I have two quick announcements, just a reminder to current board members that reappointment applications are due back to our office **by February 5**; you can feel free to email them to us. Please get it to us **before February**.
- Please make sure you drop that application in the mail. But we do need the original content.
- Secondly, for new applicants, those applications are due back to our office. **On February 5** same thing you can scan a copy over to us, but please make sure to drop that in the mail because we do need the original document for the meeting attendance form on the new applications normally; we need to have the applications sent to the district manager or the board chair to sign off.
- These meetings will be virtual. We have the attendance forms; Ken Brown or Dr. Bola from the board five office does have the attendance, so the person, the applicant, can sign off and say which meeting they attended and then send that over to us, so they don't have anyone running around after Ken's or Dr. Bola for signature. If you have any questions about that, you can always feel free to reach out to me. I'll leave my email address and my phone number in the chat. Aside from that, everyone; please continue to stay safe.

- **Honorable Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson, District #16**
- **Also, the representative is Nereida Gomez**
 - Good evening, everyone. Thank you, sister. Belinda, god bless you and good evening, Ken Brown, and Lashawnda, all of the committee members for five executive team and to the members and elected officials everyone gathered; I appreciate the chance to talk to all of you tonight.
 - It's always great to be with you and share an update on what we're doing in the City Council.
 - For many of you, this is my first-time seeing you guys at the start of the Year. Happy New Year to everyone; I pray that this year is better than 2020. We faced many challenges in the last year, and I want to thank all of you at CB five, your district manager, your board chair, Dr. Bola. I lift him in prayer.
 - You all have been out there on the ground every single day. I also want to shout out the work of the JARC. The Jerome Avenue revitalization collaborative, thank you for what you have been doing. We've been working very closely together on that your neighborhood rezoning terms and conditions, and we are not going to rest until we get every dollar that we negotiated in that neighborhood plan.

- As a representative of District 16, the pandemic of Covid-19 we have faced has been challenging for all of us.
- The Bronx has the highest death rate due to COVID in New York City out of all five boroughs; we have the highest where right now at a little over 7% positivity rate. And so, we have to get a handle on this. It's great that the vaccination is here, but we need to ensure an equitable distribution of the vaccine in communities that COVID has hit the hardest. That's our community. So, now the city and state have been working together.
- There are several vaccine sites, whether its North Central Bronx, Jacoby hospital, or Morris heights have been doing much work in providing the vaccine. Urban Health VIP in my area, saying that Dr. Bell just got to trademark all of our MHC sites as they will be providing COVID-19 testing. They're also now doing the vaccine, but you know there's a shortage of the vaccine from the federal government. So, we are waiting anxiously on another delivery.
- I believe the mayor talked about that today because we are in the negotiation phase of securing Yankee Stadium as a mass distribution site for the vaccine. So that's going to be a game-changer in terms of the reach at Yankee Stadium but the Grand Concourse area, specifically for Bronx residents, although we can't turn anyone away, having that pop right into our neighborhood is going to be a game-changer.
- But while we wait for the vaccine, I encourage everyone to please continue to get tested; we get tested every week.
- We want to make sure that we're doing our part to help stop the spread. Besides legislation that we've been working on at the Council. Council Member Gibson was the prime sponsor of the universal rights council legislation that passed back in 2017; we are now looking to expand that legislation to cover all eligible zip codes because we realized that there are 1000s of cases that are pending in housing court, waiting for the moratorium to lift in the next few months, so we can be prepared.
- If you stay ready, you don't have to get prepared. As one of my union leaders likes to say, we can have tenants represented in housing court with a lawyer.
- There's also a bill at the Council that is getting passed tomorrow; it's related to street vendors before the forty-six precinct officer Kennedy, the inspector everyone has been talking a lot about them. And then the accident. Along Burnside along Fordham road. I know it's been a nightmare.
- It is a saturation; many vendors are unlicensed. This bill will bring light to an industry that has been unlicensed for 40 years since the 1980s; there's not been an increase in food permit applications by the Department of Health. There will be a phasing-in at the office of street vendor enforcement as it is created, the big chambers of commerce, small businesses are going to be included on this advisory board, and enforcement is now going from NYPD to the Department of Consumer Affairs. So, I urge CB five and six, organize a meeting with the Department of Consumer Protection.
- I talked about the rollout and implementation; this is not going to happen overnight. It's a process, but the bill will propel us to move forward in a direction that creates boundaries.
- As our small businesses, our immigrant own, so are our vendors. They're immigrants struggling to survive, there is room for everybody, but we're trying to get a handle to provide real enforcement and create a balance so that everyone can stay.

- You guys can travel and shopping; you don't have to worry about disrupting your sidewalks as you see now, so that has been a significant problem. I want to remind all of you that not for profits that are in our community, that the budget process for the FYI 22 fiscal year has started this month,
- local Council members their discretionary money.
- The application is online. So, if you are interested, if you applied last year, you have to use it again this year; we're going to be having a workshop to walk you through applying for discretionary funding, the capital funding council members. So please reach out to us.
- My chief of staff, Justin Cortez, will help you with whatever you need. We want to make sure that you are not forgotten about. I am also now the new chair of the Committee on Oversight and Investigations, the committee that works closely with the Department of investigation. I'm no longer the chair of the Subcommittee on capital, I was able to get a new committee with the departure of Ritchie Torres, as our new Congress member, for New York 15, so I'm grateful for that Honor.
- I'm still a member of the budget and the B and C team that puts together the speaker's budget, and I'm also the co-chair of the Women's Caucus, so I have much responsibility, a lot on my plate. Nonetheless, always ready and available to help the residents and families of CB five. I've been on many of the weekly meetings with Jerome merchants and Amalgamated Bank.
- I have tried to be visible and my staff also, so whatever you guys need, please let us know. We have a couple of events coming up on rank choice voting and doing our health townhall.
- We're also preparing for some of the tools that we usually have during Black History and Dominican heritage women's history, so we'll be back next month. And finally, the last thing I'll say is, I appreciate this opportunity, CB five; you are my family. I live in CB five, and although I represent other community boards, it's been a pleasure working with you.
- This is my final year in the city council, and I like to bang, so I'm going to make sure that this budget is reflective of what you care about our social workers, educators housing seniors, and veterans, and you, we are going to try our best in the middle of a global pandemic to make this a budget that works for all of us.
- I, thank you, Happy New Year, many blessings to you.
- We'll leave our info in the chat. Should you need us for anything, please reach out. We're more than happy to help.
- **Question:** Now, you know the negotiation is going on right now about the next delivery of the vaccine. Is there an estimated time roundabout of when we, you know, you guys anticipate getting it?
- **Answer:** I think it'd be a matter of a couple of days. Today, the mayor made an announcement, I have to get briefed on this by his staff tonight, but it should be coming very soon. However, the challenge is a lot of the appointments last week were delayed until this week and next week so that if the vaccine come; if it's this week or subsequent weeks, outstanding appointments will be delayed before we get to new clients. We have a list that we can share with you all the because I've heard concerns about the hotline. Being on too long, and when they do get an appointment. And I understand that we're trying our best to keep something locally so that you don't have to travel, so stay tuned; we should be getting the vaccine supply.
- **Pablo's Question (Board member):** Everyone knows I'm from the Garifuna community, and there have been 400 people who have died in our community, which is

very disturbing for such a small community. From what is going on with Pfizer and the Moderna, there's a new strain of COVID. Will the new vaccine be able to protect persons that vaccinated against the new strain coming in?

- **Answer:** That's an excellent question because I know the strain has hit. The United States and I also know that there was a case of a gentleman who went to the UK, who lives in New York City, brought it back, so I am aware of that. And I will have to find out.

- **Honorable Ritchie Torres, Council Member District #15**
- **Representative is Joseph McManus**
- **Contact: 718-842-8100, Tuesday -Friday (10am-3pm) by appointments.**

- Good Evening, my name is Joseph McManus.
- I'm going to be the constituent outreach person of our office, which is open Monday through Friday nine to five, no walk-ins though, because we only take appointments, 718-503-9616.
- I did put all this information in the chat, and you can send me your emails? I'll send you the contact information. And I'll email you back; Congress would like to know like what everyone thinks.

- **Honorable Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District #86**
- **Representative is Steven Ochoa the Community Liaison**

- **Contact: 718-933-6909/Ochoa.** Camachos@nyassembly.gov
- Good Evening to all the Board Members and Elected Officials.
- I am new liaison to Community Board Five. My name is Steven Ochoa.
- The Assembly Member was recently appointed the chairman of the Standing Committee of banks with the purpose to assist this community to have more financial institutions, banks, and building opportunities. Along with that, tomorrow with Senator James Sanders we are hosting a town hall on public banking for the district, and this will be tomorrow at 6:00 pm on Facebook Live.
- I can also share the flyer. I'd love to give out my contact information.
- And then, finally, the assembly passed legislation, including bill number, A-3207 called the COVID-19, emergency protect our businesses Act, which extends the critical eviction and foreclosure protection for small companies statewide **until May 1.**
- And, bill number, A-2001, which excludes unemployment targeting COVID-19, is used to calculate an employer experience rate used to assess employers' unemployment charges. With that said, I will leave my contact information over here in the chat; and if you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Thank you.

- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**
- **Representative is Abdoul Balde.**
- Hi everyone and Good Evening,
- My name is Abdoul Balde, and I am new to Community Board Five.
- I am one of the new office members, so I, will be attending these meetings.
- From now on, our office is running remotely, assisting the community.
- We have an event coming up this Friday we're doing giveaway coats.
- We partnered with New York retails and terminal markets. The event is at The Bronx Terminal this Friday from 10 am to 1 pm.
- So, you know, everyone is welcome to, you know, stop by to get some, you know, clothes. So, if you need more information, you can reach out to us at 718-538-2000.
- And I will put my email address in the chat so for more information to reach out to me. Thank you so much.
- You can reach out to me at baldea@nyassembly.gov or 718-538-2000.

- **Honorable State Senator Gustavo Rivera District #33**
- **Representative of Oriana Shulevitz Rosado is not available**

- You can reach out to me at osrosado@nysenate.gov or 718-933-2034.
- Hello, it's good to hear from Morris Heights Health Center. I have quite a few updates today, so be patient with me, so I have a lot of information and two handouts, and I'll be sure to copy some of the links that I'll be talking about in the chat.
- Session updates, the senator will continue his role as the chair of the New York State Senate Health Committee; he's also going to be serving on several committees on finance, mental health, Alcoholism, and Substance Abuse, Housing, and higher education.
- We started the 2021 session. In December, passed was the Covid-19 emergency eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act, quite a mouthful, the legislation will ensure that any pending eviction proceedings which commence within 30 days of this legislation will be stayed for at least 60 days if you've suffered from any financial hardship due to COVID. You may take these 60 days to submit a hardship declaration form. The tenants can submit this form to a landlord or to the court to withhold an eviction proceeding **until May 1, 2021**.
- For questions about the legislation or the hardship declaration form, you can contact our office. And don't worry, I'm going to put that information in the chat once again. In terms of housing updates, New York State has reopened the COVID rent relief extension program's applications. If you have already applied to this program, you do not need to reapply, the deadline for this new application is February 1, so it's fast approaching. If you need any assistance with this application, again, please contact the office.
- From 10 to 6 pm, we do have our phones, and we are taking cases. In terms of COVID update the State has announced that the state may proceed into phase one via vaccinations. And this means that there are many eligibility changes. Any questions about whether you're acceptable, you can go to the [COVID vaccine.gov](https://www.covidvaccine.gov) page, and I will again drop that link.
- If you have questions on that as well, we are going to be hosting a webinar on February 4 on Thursday evening.
- Let's get Immunized New York campaign with health experts, community members, and, we were talking before about some fears in the community about the vaccine. There are questions

about the vaccine. So, we're going to have panelists on, we're going to have Senator Rivera as well, talking with these experts, learning how the COVID vaccine works.

- If you are interested, or if you have any questions about the vaccine, how it works, and its distribution, you know any fears, especially if you hear concerns, from your friends and family members. Please join us. You can either email my colleague in San Francisco or link here to watch it on Senator Rivera's Facebook page. Once again, if you have any questions on any of the things I just talked about, feel free to call the office or email me, and that information is in the chat. Thank you

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

- **Representative is Terrell Brook**

- This month, the Senate passed bill s 899 that prohibits unnecessary applications of the date dangerous herbicide glyphosate on state property and prohibits state applications that may result in direct human exposure; the bill expected to pass the New York State Assembly.
- It will become law, after being signed by Governor Cuomo, New York State took a big step and cutting back unnecessary herbicide usage, make it a commitment to New York is super red unknown or unwanted exposure to toxic chemicals.
- Let's continue examining our practices and evaluating the risks versus rewards when using problematic products. Senator Serrano thanks Governor Cuomo, and his leadership and finalizing this legislation, Assembly member Rosa bill for her leadership in the assembly.
- Thanks to the Environmental conservation committee chair, Todd Kaminsky, for his efforts, gaining passage through the State Senate and our environment departments.
- And, and this month. Senator Serrano and his colleagues in the State Senate voted to pass a bill, SB five to eight, amending Article One of the Bill of Rights of the New York State Constitution.
- A new section establishing the environmental bill of rights, and a new proposed tax..
- Each person shall have a right to clean air and water and a healthful environment; Senator Serrano is a co-sponsor of the legislation, which Senator Robert Jackson is the sponsor, the bill is expected to pass the New York State Assembly, which ended November 21, the people of New York have the opportunity to vote for the constitutional amendment by a referendum.
- The Senator is proud that the state has taken steps to join others in ensuring a fundamental right to health and to a healthy environment in our state constitution.
- No one is confined to a life of hypertension or other health maladies simply because of the block they were born on.
- The resolution, going to the voters in November, will help ensure that environmental protocols protecting public health and that overburdened communities receive equal protection under our state constitution. As always, our staff continues to provide constituent services by phone and by appointment. Everything from help with unemployment claims to housing issues and beyond. You can reach us at 212-828-5829. and at Serrano at NY Senate. gov. And if you'd like to reach out to me personally, you can contact me at Brock@senate.gov.

- **Committee Reports.**

- **Education Committee's Report:**

- I am Chair of the education committee. Our next meeting will be on February third.
- We are welcoming everyone on the call. Please come, agenda will go out shortly, but education is so important, especially with everything that's going on with the pandemic that is affecting our youth is affecting even people applying to college and high school. The Education committee is going to be held at the same time as health and human services as well as the Youth committees. So, it starts at 6: 00 pm and all are welcome.
- Thank you so much.

- **Municipal Committee and Veterans Committee:**

- And I'm Nero, the chair of Municipal Services, next meeting will be February the 12th, and we start at six o'clock, with the Veterans Committee.

- **Ad Hoc Community Outreach Committee:**

- My name is Charles Shorter to report on the community outreach and engagement Ad Hoc committee meeting. We had our first meeting on Wednesday, January 6. An Ad Hoc Committee is really and thankful for Miss Westbrook, in particular, in helping us to flesh out what the committee is going to be. We're looking at ways to engage community partners and communities and stakeholders, particularly in the south and west of Jerome Avenue. We will have a joint meeting. The next one will be February 3, and we would love your participation and how we can flesh out the Ad Hoc committee and make it a productive committee. Thank you.

- **Immigration Committee:**

- My name is Pooi Stewart, and this is about the immigration committee meetings; our next immigration committee meeting will be **on February 11**. The last, and this coming meeting we will talk about DACA Reforms. If any one of you in this general board meeting are interested in knowing more about DACA who know wants to learn more about other immigration matters, please come to the meeting next month, on February, 11th.

- **Parks and Recreation Committee:**

- The parks community meeting will be held next month as well on the 23rd. On Tuesday, so yesterday we had a park meeting, and at the meeting we're talking about more information about the aqueduct walk, Eco triangle, talking about when the construction will be starting. But do we have Belinda? Do we have Council person Vanessa Gibson's online?
- **Question:** Hi Nereida, Good evening to you. When do you think you'd be able to answer these questions for me? It's about the budget. It's about the approval for the construction of the Morton playground. When would that be?

- **Answer:** Is this an allocation made? Is it already made? If so, I would have to connect with our budget director; unfortunately, I'm not the budget person in our office, so I will follow up with him and update you on when that project is supposed to start. We do know that many projects have been pushed back. So, as soon as we get that update. I'll make sure you all know. All right, thank you.

- **Governing Committee:**
- The governing committee we have no further reports at this time. We're still waiting for some feedback from the borough president's office regarding the amendments to the bylaws. As soon as we get any feedback or any other responses, you will be updated accordingly—any other committee reports.

- **Our Special Guest:**
- **U.S. Senate Democratic Leadership chair, Charles Ellis Schumer**
- **Belinda Lawrence:** Our special guest is here. Majority Leader for the Senate, Charles Schumer, thank you for joining us this evening, and a Happy New Year.
- **Senator Schumer:** Thank you. Same to you. And how about I couldn't see who talked because I got all these boxes to show up. Who said hello; who just spoke? Yes, hi, Belinda. Okay. And I'm glad to be here, and if it's okay with you, Belinda, I'll speak for about 10 to 12 minutes, let you know what's doing, answer questions, and have a little discussion; how's that? Great, thank you. So, thank you very much, and I want to thank our board chair, Dr. Omotosho. Is he here?
- **Belinda Lawrence:** He's not with us today. Unfortunately, he lost his mother, So he is with his family at this time.
- **Senator Schumer:** I'm sorry and Kenneth Brown?
- **Ken Brown:** Good evening, Senator. It's a pleasure to make your virtual acquaintance.
- **Senator Schumer:** Thank you. Likewise, and thank you, I first want to thank all of the board. I'm a community person; I started as a tenant organizer, a very long time ago when I was 22 years old in the assembly.
- And I know what community boards are like, and you represent a significant community district five in the Bronx.
- I know your district a little because you know I ride my bike all over the city. And I sometimes ride up from Brooklyn to you. I go to Tolantine parish in your district.
- No, but I go through your community to get there. Because the Bronx Northwest coalition occasionally has met there.
- I know your neighborhood pretty well. And I know how important it is, it's one of those neighborhoods where people are climbing the ladder trying to live a decent life of dignity, and I appreciate that you look out for all the people in your community board. When you're a board member, you know when good things happen when bad things happen.
- People always complain when good things happen; guess what, nobody says thank you. So, I want to say a big thank you to every board member here who works so hard to represent community board five, so you are great.
- And let me say a couple of things here. First, I'll tell you a little bit about everyone who wants to know where I was on January 6. January 6 for me was, there was a novel by Charles Dickens that he calls the time he was living in the best of times and the worst of times, January 6 for me was the best of times and the worst of times, why was it the best of times because January 5 was the election in Georgia.

- I was very eager to see those two senators when in fact, I recruited one of them, Raphael Warnock. He was the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church Martin Luther King's pulpit, but do you know he served a little bit in New York. He was an associate pastor at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, and I knew him a little bit in recruiting him.
- At 4 am, I learned that the two had one. I'm going to become the majority leader, isn't that great? I went to bed at about 4:30 am. I woke up at 7:30 am, got in my car and drove down to DC. And before I could even get my first speech, it was as Majority Leader; I'm on the Senate floor. A police officer wearing a bulletproof vest and a big submachine gun across his waist grabs me by the collar. Senator, you're in danger. Let's get out of here.
- It was within 30 feet of these terrorists. He's insurrection insurrectionists, these white supremacists, these bigots, these racists 30 feet. So that was my day. Unbelievable from the worst from the best to the worst. And I'm going to make sure that the law enforcement goes after them gets a lengthy prison sentence.
- And not only because they deserve it for what they did, but to deter anybody else from doing it. And one way your board could be helpful is for anyone on here on the board could be helpful.
- So, the FBI has a little website. And they have the pictures of 750 of these people whom they have pictures of them in the building but don't know who they are many cases.
- So, they've asked me to tell all the citizens, go on, go on the website. And if you recognize someone, send it to the FBI. You may say, how the heck am I going to know someone who was in that building. You might say so when I saw him; I worked with him 30 years ago and then moved to Indiana. Who knows,
- It was a terrible time. Now, 2008, and 2020 were terrible years—one of the worst years we've had. But God worked in beautiful and mysterious ways and ended up not so bad. The worst year we had because we had the worst health care crisis in 100 years; every one of us knows people who passed away from COVID, who've gotten very ill from COVID; horrible.
- And then it became the worst economic crisis that we've had in 75 years since the Great Depression, people losing their jobs, people losing their unemployment, their employment benefits, people get kicked out of their houses unable to feed themselves or their children.
- And the third thing that happened are the racial problems in America were ripped wide open by the horrible deaths of George Floyd Ahmed Aubry and Fiona Taylor, terrible year, but guess what God works in mysterious ways; three terrible things ended up in the year we had three good things at the end. First, we got rid of Donald Trump.
- Good riddance. He was a danger to our democracy. He was the worst president I think we've ever had. You know what? I feel that I feel right about he left New York; he can; he's in Florida. Good riddance. We don't want to hear Donald Trump. Stay out of New York. Second, they developed a vaccine, this vaccine was a modern miracle of medical science, and it is a successful vaccine 95% chance of not getting it again if you get the vaccine, very few side effects I had blessed my parents when the governor said over 85 could get it by me.
- My dad was 97, my mom's 92. They've been married for 71 years. I got them the vaccine; they're fine. In communities of color, I know there's much dubiousness of these vaccines because they used to use people of color as guinea pigs. But that didn't happen on this. And I'd recommend people get the vaccine in the COVID relief bill that we have in the COVID relief bill. We put money in the one that passed, which I'll get to in a minute. That's the third good thing in the statement; everyone gets the vaccine for free, no insurance company, and nothing. You get it for free. And we have with Biden coming

in, they're going to have a huge number of vaccines, and they're going to set up federal places where anyone can line up and get the vaccine, so it's much less complicated and takes a month, a month and a half before they do what they just got in, but they're going to start doing it, and people can get it. We also said in the law that it should not put communities of color at the back of line should not be placed at the end of a line, to be available relatively soon. In a few months, people will start getting it, and maybe things will turn around. And that's the third good thing that happened: the bill that we put together at the end of last year. It had much good stuff in it. I wrote it. First, New York gets good benefits. We kept the money for mass transit so the subways and buses would keep running. He earmarked \$1.3 billion to help tenants pay the rent, particularly to small landlords who can't afford it if they didn't get it. But there's much money because there's money for food and money for employment. It's extended till March; money for small businesses is significant. And again, we've set aside 15 billion to go to small businesses, small businesses, three four or five people in communities of color who always get ignored. That's why we went out of our way to be necessary. There are a few other things are in that bill that are interesting. Here's something you may not know; anyone who's incarcerated can get a Pell Grant. Young men and young women in prison, they want to make a better life for themselves, but they can't because they can't pay for college they're not making any money. Now they'll get a Pell Grant, they can take college courses and get out better. And here's another thing that you should know in board five because you've had so many losses. I got money in there to pay for funeral and burial expenses. Isn't it horrible, and someone has COVID the worst cry when I see these parents and grandparents saying goodbye to their children and grandchildren because they can't be near them and can't hug them and kiss and touch? But then, even adding insult to injury, they had no money. They couldn't bury these folks.

- Another thing we got money for was money for churches.
- Most people here are church members and churches were going broke because there's no collection plate. And we know that churches are needed more than ever. They provide social services feeding the hungry and helping the children and helping the elderly; they can get this PPP money that pays for the pastor the rent the utilities. And again, I will contact you to the board. I should get it to you, distributed to the board members to get these programs as the money does no good if we pass it if it doesn't get to you. So, there's money for small businesses, particularly minorities; there's money for churches. There's money for burial costs. There's money for food and rent.
- **Ernest Acosta (CB5 Board Member) Question:** This is Ernest Acosta, a board member of community board five, Ernest. How you are doing, I had to type this out on my phone because I wanted to know, is it possible for you to carve out Buster exception for all voting rights legislation.
- **Senator Schumer:** It's called HR one, and tomorrow apropos of this Ernest, I'm introducing the bill to be s one in the senate hrs. House bill, Senate bill in the Senate would do five things. One, automatic voter registration, you have any connection on the electric bill and driver's license anything registered on, you're on the list. So just about everyone is registered. That will have many more people voting. The second thing it does gets rid of all those horrible laws from pass to prevent people from voting no. We know what that part of it's called the John Lewis Stephens gentleman named after the Great John Lewis who was my friend. The third thing it does, it gets rid of that citizens united all that bad money in politics thing, this is good for us in the Senate, it makes DC and Puerto Rico a state, and they can each have two senators: that's a beautiful thing. Beautiful for all of us because I'll be able to get more done for you if I don't have 50, but I have 52 or 54 makes it a lot easier, much more comfortable. So that's one of our highest priorities in the Senate s one, um, you'll see it on TV tomorrow, I think because I'm

introducing it with a bunch of other senators. Well, what will it also avoid, like the nuclear option for the filibuster? Well, that's what we'll have to do to pass it, and I don't have? I need 10 of my Democrats; I need every Democrat to do that. Okay, the republicans will block it, and I'm working on it. Some of them are not as progressive as I am, but I'm working on that very hard.

- **Laura Reyes(CB5 Board Member) Question:** My name is Reyes; I'm a board member. And I'm also an assistant principal in our neighborhood. And as you know, it's been challenging during this time, to teach. Yes. Parents are going through it. Teachers are going through it, administrators are going through it. One of the things that we have been mostly concerned about is just funding in general.
- **Senator Schumer:** In this bill that I talked about \$180 billion to open the school safely. I worked with the teacher's union the principal's union to get this in the statement. I left it out when I mentioned all these things in there. And we're going to put more money into the schools and build it by this for. We have to open our schools, but sadly, we don't want to put teachers or assistant principals at risk. I believe in our public schools I'm the only you know big shot elected official whose kids went to the public schools, my daughter's went to New York City public schools, you'll pardon the saying in Brooklyn, not in the Bronx, but I'm teasing the wall I was always a Yankee fan, you know, even though I'm from Brooklyn. But we could get money for the schools very much needed, and here's what else is in that bill broadband for every kid. Okay, listen to this story, listen to this story; a mom came to me her kid was starting the first grade she was proud. She saved up and bought a computer form. Okay. Two weeks before school started, she lost her job to COVID as a COVID. Right. She had no money to pay for the internet, and the kid couldn't begin school, isn't that horrible. You know, filled with hope and a family hopes he's going to start school and then they can't go on. So, we propose to have every family, rural or in your city or anywhere else, get broadband we give the kids we pay for the Wi-Fi. I believe in you. I think in fact I have a big zoom call with all the teachers. I don't know if you'll be on it but. I don't know if you're active in the Union at all, but they're setting it up.
- **Belinda Lawrence Question:** Senator, I have a question. According to the current news trend, the republicans they're contesting that the impeachment is unconstitutional. Is there a particular article in the constitution that makes this specific impeachment permissible?
- **Senator Schumer:** They're full of; you know what, I'm from Brooklyn, I am not supposed to curse on these things. But the law says that you shouldn't be allowed to impeach someone when kicked out of the office, and it's happened before. It's happened before, not for a president because we've had very few impeachments but for like the Secretary of War. During the Civil War, listen to this Belinda. He attempted to run to the White House to avoid the senate giving impeachment so he could resign. But they impeached him before he got to the White House, and when he heard it, he started to cry, this gentleman, but they kicked him out. And so, and this and that, and the impeachment clause has two parts. One says impeach the president. He's out of office, but you know, the second part says he could never run again. Why would you let him resign and employed that course, you see, so the Republicans, you know what they're afraid of, the Republican Party is still totally controlled by Donald Trump and his crazy folks. And they are wrong completely. It's constitutional, and even conservative legal experts have said that.
- **Belinda Lawrence:** I'm looking forward to him prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- **Jaqua Curiel Question:** This is Jaqua. I'm chair of the education committee, but I have a question specifically about the HR 40 bill regarding the reparations bill. Do you think it'll ever come to fruition?

- **Senator Schumer:** I introduced something to the Senate called the Rooney Rule. What is the Rooney Rule? The Rooney Rule is named after Art Rooney, who was the owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was a very progressive guy, a white guy, but he noticed that all the players were black, but none of the coach's managers, general managers were people of color. It set up a rule for the Pittsburgh Steelers. When you interview someone for a position, one out of every three people you interview has to be a person of color, and the higher up, the more important. It worked. Now all of the football teams do it.
- And if you look now, there are Black General Managers Matt, you know, Jerry Reese was a general manager at Giants. I thought he did a lousy job, but that's neither here nor there. But in any case, I instituted it for the Senate. Every staffer, when you interview in the Senate, you have to interview people of color. It's helped me now. Half of my legislative assistants that's the top job they will get in the legislation, are African American right now. Here's the story about reparations.
- I was meeting with them. When you're a politician, you're so busy. I have time for my family and my little grandson, but I don't have much time otherwise, the staff becomes your friends, you know what I mean, that's what you're hanging out.
- I was meeting with them. I told you that I had just read something called 1619, have you ever heard of this? It was about slavery, but 1619 was the year the first slaves came to America.
- And the woman who wrote it told this story, listen to this story. Her father was born in the Mississippi Delta, one of America's most racist parts; he joined the army in World War Two fought in a segregated unit when they didn't integrate the military. He didn't ever want to go back to Mississippi, so he settled in Waterloo, Iowa.
- Every American holiday he would hoist up the American flag on the front door. The author, who wrote this when she was in eighth, ninth grade, is a smart man, but because he was black, he could only be a bus driver in that city. He couldn't live in the neighborhood we wanted to because we were black, he is hoisting up the American flag. She was mad about in ninth grade the teacher asked the students, they said, find out where your family came from what country your ancestors came from and draw a picture of their flag and tell us about cheating the other black girl gathered together at the end and said we don't know what country we're from because our ancestors were slaves.
- They just dragged them out of wherever they were. We have no history. It touches me, Jacqueline; it gets to be a little bit. I'm an emotional person. Do you know what slanting drew the American flag? They said it's the only country we're going to.
- I told this to my blacks, you know, and why it was a mixed group, and how it meant to me and you know what they convinced me off, and this is what I'm going to answer you they said you know to white. White people of a good conscience, slavery was a history, back in the 1860s, and it's over. Black people live with slavery every day. Guess what I said? I'm sponsoring the reparations bill sponsor. So, we hope we can move it, we hope we can move it. Isn't that interesting?
- **Pooi Stewart Question:** Do you have anything new about immigration reform coming up from President Biden?
- **Senator Schumer:** We're trying to pass some, I am for comprehensive immigration reform which allows all 11 million undocumented people to become citizens, and we're trying to pass a law for the dreamers now the Republicans are very hostile on it. So we're trying to figure out a way to get it done without them. But I believe in immigration, and my middle name is Ellis, the word for Ellis Island.
- My younger daughter's middle name is Emma, named for the poet, Emma Lazarus, who wrote on the Statue of Liberty Give me your poor your tired, your huddled masses yearning to be free. And remember, Trump used to call me crying, Chuck Schumer. That's because I stood with Arabs, Muslim immigrants, when he wanted to kick them out.

- And I got teary-eyed; he was breaking up these families. It was not very pleasant. Some says Schumer, he's a phony. Those were fake tears. They were real tears, and people know me; I'm sometimes crying; I'm emotional, a little emotion.
- I tell people the story I took my daughters when they were four and eight to see the movie Free Willy, you remember about the giant whale. And when Free Will he escaped over the wall, I started to cry, and my daughters were so embarrassed they ran out without me. They ran out of the theater and never seen the Father crying.
- You are human. Free Willy is the movie I watched with my daughter.
- **Ken Brown Question:** Is there any money for nonprofits?
- **Senator Schumer:** Good question, nonprofits are the same as small businesses; you can operate the same way. I'm glad you asked this. (I'm glad, and God is good). Stay for that question, nonprofits are just as eligible as businesses, and we have these groups that we have funded called CDFIs and MDIs. Their job is to get you the money whether you're a small business, a nonprofit or a church, and we will send Ken, a list of the CDFIs in your community, and their whole job is to help you apply for these programs. You know about them, yeah, in our community, it's a dedicated fund.
- The real fund, right, and I think Banco Popular might be one also. Yeah.
- Okay, great. Everybody has a good 2021, and I'll see you soon and keep the faith.
- Thank you. Take care. Keep the faith but pray for me.

• **Old Business : NONE**

• **Old Business: NONE**

• **Meeting is adjourned**

◦ **At 8:38 PM**

Prepared and Submitted by

Ms. P. Stewart

Secretary of Community Board Five