



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., *Bronx Borough President*

**Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Community Board Five

Virtual Meeting

- **Community Board Five Board Members**
- **Attendees:** E.Acosta, S.Bah, A.Caballero, C.Camera, J.Curiel, M.Estrella, R.Gonzalez, A.Hernandez, B.Lawrence, G.Medina, E.Morris, J.Parra, F.Ramos, L.Reyes, M.Rosado, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, P.Stewart, and C.Westbrook.
- **Absent/Excused**
- B.Akumah, P.Blanco, Dr.M.Brown, T.Bushby, A.DeJesus,
- P.Dominguez, H.Esteban, N.Graham.Jr., M.Heath, T.Mims, B.Moore, Dr.B.Omotosho, R.Owusu, D.Perry, C.Rosario, and R.Whetstone.
- **Welcome:**
 - Opening Prayer by Dr. Brown (Board Member)
- **Quorum: 6:38 pm**
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - October General Board Meeting 2020, approved.
 - First in Motioned by Laura Reyes. Seconded in motion by Belinda Lawrence.

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

- Roll Called: 18 Y / 1 Abstention.

- **Chairperson's Report: None**
 - **Angel Caballero Proceeded**

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

Good evening everybody, The City to park off, there's a notation for February 18. On the first page, I want to call your attention to the city's pharmacy Naloxone programs. And what that means is that participating pharmacies can receive an allocation of naloxone kits that they would then make available to individuals on demand. They're currently focusing on chain pharmacies, but if anyone would like to recommend a pharmacy of any kind, we can investigate it. The only thing they're required to do is receive a shipment of the Naloxone kits, make it available upon demand, not charge anything, and keep a record of how many are distributed.

The week of February 22 was the launch of the Jerome Avenue revitalization collaborative. The Jerome Avenue rezoning that we passed a couple of years ago and we had our launch week last week consisted of three days of webinar panels. The first one on the 29th was the stakeholder's meeting, which was held for the public.

The second word is a resource, where they talked about PPP and the different kinds of resources for businesses. With that background, if the third panel on the 25th was a roundtable on Bronx net cable, hosted by the illimitable Gary Axel bomb, that features the kick three of the candidates running to be borough president questions submitted to the candidates that Gary moderated. There is an introduction where we describe the history of the rezoning and JARC thing. You'd like to join the working committees. The Working Committee consists of workforce development, which will focus on training and how to improve the skill sets of residents in the community for potential employment in the Jerome Avenue corridor.

The other one is economic development, which is more business-focused, which is trying to engage existing businesses that are corridor and companies hoping to come in. The businesses that are here can remain viable and improve over time, and for businesses developments that come in, do so in a way that benefits the community. And then, the third working group is the strategy working group, which talks about the general orientation and direction of the collaborative. So, there are several stakeholders, community boards, five that come together, along with other nonprofits, and talk about how to generally Chevrolet make the Jerome Avenue corridor more economically vibrant.

That's the other thing that I wanted to call your attention to is **on March 29 at 11 a.m.**, and again at six o'clock in the evening, community boards, three, five, and six. In addition to the

nonprofit have been going to be conducting a webinar on fielding complaints, we're going to be discussing how the community boards handled complaints from the public, how they're escalated, and we're going to have on many city agencies that we'll be discussing how they handle complaints from the public. I believe there's a flyer that should have gone out this evening. If not, it'll go out tomorrow. We're asking for people to register. Otherwise, you have a district manager, so please read that, and ask me any questions. Let's see, as an addendum, at the last board meeting.

Dr. Bola asked for a report on activities related to banking in the district. I've attached that and had that sent out. I don't know what day it is, um, and that talks about how Amalgamated Bank left Burnside at the end of September, what we've been doing to engage that I've been making continuing to make investments in the community.

The Chase Bank branch on Burnside Avenue has been closed since about October of last year. They have promised that they will open a more enhanced branch on the other side of Jerome Avenue on Burnside that should be in by June, July; not only will that continue to have the services that it had previously, but it's also going to have dedicated business service management. That branch will be one of only 153 branches for Chase in a country with a community manager. The community manager's mandate is to engage with local nonprofits and different stakeholders in the areas so that the bank's investments are more aligned with what the community wants, and they will make the community space branch available for community purposes. Thank you.

Question by Anthony Hernandez: How to get involved with Job Corp?

Ken Brown: The easiest way is to email me, and people like you can email me directly at jarcbx@gmail.com

- **New York Police Department 46th Precinct by Inspector Seminara and Officer Kennedy's Reports:**
- A lot of this will be repetitive for those of you who are on some other meetings, either the Council or the discussion on significant crime in the 46th precinct is down over 18% last month, down 18%, year to date. And that's with a 20% reduction in arrests, so fewer people getting arrested. Crime is still going down, primarily complaints against members of the 46th precinct that has complaints the CCRB without 55%. So that's another metric that was somewhat proud of that we're getting the job done, reducing crime 55% fewer civilian complaints; one category that's not down is gun arrests. On January 1, we've taken 34 guns off the streets of this precinct, and geographically, this precinct isn't that large, you know, very populous, but it's not a large precinct geographically, so 34 guns figure an average of eight to 10 bullets in each gun. You know I was never that good at math, but that's many lives potentially saved. We still have work to do. We have four shootings for the year, which is low compared to some other precincts in the Bronx, but we want zero. We believe three out of those four shootings to be gang-related, and one is a dispute that might have ended with a physical fight years ago. Unfortunately, at

about 430 in the morning on the Grand Concourse, none of these were random acts of violence; we have a pretty good idea. In each incident, who the bad guy is, it's just a matter of making that case legally. Lastly, you'll see some increased enforcement and presence around Slattery Park. As the weather gets warmer, we have concerns in and around Slattery Park with some potential gang violence, and we're also going to be kicking off some cabaret enforcement.

- The music has been having some issues along Webster Avenue with some of those clubs. And I think as restrictions or keys, any problems that we maybe didn't have because of it as far as overcrowded clubs of violence that comes from that. I want to get out in front of that and, you know, really set the tone early that we're not going to tolerate violence in our restaurants and bars. Lastly, I want to put a website in the chat. There's a new public-facing website called NYPD online.org. I'm going to paste it here, here in the conversation. This to do a whole host of things you can you want to shout one up I don't speak, and I can't do two things.
- You can file reports online, so you no longer need a police officer or need to come to the precinct. To file petty larceny reports, that's theft of less than \$1,000 lost property, lost my wallet, your credit card, your credit card company needs police reports into one misdemeanor criminal mischief that's misdemeanor vandalism, usually less than \$250 worth of damage and graffiti so that those complaints can be made online. You can get police accident reports online. There's also a new personnel dashboard. You can search any police officer in the entire NYPD and see if they have any disciplinary history. Any metals, you can search me on there and everything about me; there's nothing in the discipline column. But you can see my past assignments. You can visit any accolades I've received, and for those with discipline, you can see any field they received. That's all on this public-facing website. So as soon as I get it in there. Feel free to peruse it, it's brand new, so it's a bit buggy. I apologize, but, um, that's, that's all I have.

- **Presentation by Community Service Society, Medical Debt Program by Elizabeth Benjamin.**

- My name is Elizabeth Benjamin, I'm Vice President for Health Initiatives at the Community Service Society of New York. And I have a little slideshow to talk about medical debt and a bill that we're trying to get fast and pull money.
- The community services side has been around for 175 years. And our goal is to seek to build a more equitable New York for low and moderate-income New Yorkers; health coverage and health care are significant barriers to economic security, and that's why we're in this. We have many direct service programs that serve 130,000 New Yorkers, who live in the Bronx, but we also work in every county in New York State. We do policy analysis, advocacy, and direct services since 2010; our Community Health Advocates program, which helps people enroll in coverage or if they have a problem with their coverage appeal, denials address medical debt help with medical billing. We've been, you know, helping about 384,000 people since 2010. We've helped set save **\$70 million** from consumers' pockets, and you know if somebody has a problem accessing health care, we win; about 91% of the time, we get insurance appeals denials, reverse 89% of the time, and we help people resolve medical debt 81% of the time. Our polling has shown that health care affordability is a massive problem in New York; 52% of the people with insurance had a health care affordability burden like skipping a test delay and testing or care, skipping or cutting pills, and 46% we're struggling to pay medical bills like they use their savings,

gave up food or rent, we're in collections credit card debt. Since 2019 And this is important. We've seen a 64% spike in medical debt cases, so something's going on out there, and we've noticed that the healthcare providers have gotten a lot more aggressive and putting patients into collections. So, we did a little report, and we found that New York's every single I don't know if everybody knows this, but every single hospital by law in New York is a 501 C three charity.

- These charities have sued 52,000 people since 2015. The amounts this, you must think oh my god, they must be suing people for like you know, \$100,000 or \$50,000 like big money, healthcare expensive. No, you would be wrong. They're suing people for a median amount of 1900 bucks; that is not very much money to the hospitals who are multimillion-dollar, sometimes 100-million-dollar organizations, but it's much money for real people. They also sue people for a commercial interest rate of 9% And the hospitals that sued the most far provided the least amount of hospital financial assistance, and that's even though our state gives the hospitals a billion dollars a year to program to support the provision of providing financial aid to patients. They're suing people all over the state; it's a statewide problem, in the Bronx, as well. One thing that we and the reason why I think Ken asked me to come to speak to the Health Committee is, we found that they were suing people during the pandemic now most of the courts are closed, right? It's tough to get into court, even for us to get copies of court files; it's tough to make appointments, so patients can't go and defend themselves, and yet 5300 cases were sued. There was a front-page New York Times article, sort of profiling, our report on January 5 and it focused on the Northwell hospital system, they own Lenox Hill and the city, but they own North Shore li J is the majority, they're all over, they have like 19 hospitals all over this area's 23 hospitals all over the state. And they were the ones that sued the most. And after the front page, where they were on the front page in the morning, they said, well, these people owe it. We're going to suit them; it's not a problem to sue them during the pandemics, but there was such an outrage and outcry for their being on the New York Times, and they had like 500 comments with people being agitated.
- Whom does medical debt affect? Well, it just proportionately. I like many things with health care; there's a real health equity issue with medical data. I'm in Albany County, where we did a report last week that was profiled on the front page of the Albany Times Union 29 house 2900 cases were filed over five years 550 during the pandemic, Catholic hospitals brought 71% of the cases, so no longer on not only were they a charity, a 501 c three charity but they were religious charity. They were still suing people still are suing people 64% of the patients they sued were in zip codes with people of 25% or more people of color, 28% of the patients they sued lived in majority-minority, the minority neighborhoods. So, there's a real problem here with his medical debt in New York State. I just wanted to do a tiny little video for you all to get it to go.
- Have a severe bill from the Presbyterian facility only for the same visit.
- We have the imaging services bills, the physician bills, which also came separately, and then here we have collection notices. So, this is also one.
- We've helped so many deals with these bills, and it's been a struggle, so we figured there ought to be a law, and I guess that's why I'm here to talk with you all because we'd like to get you involved in helping us pass this law and the law has many provisions, so I'm going to go through them quickly. But the first thing we were proposing in our legal a was in New York, the hospitals had six years to sue patients, and I'm here to tell you last year we raised this issue with the legislature, and they said, okay that's too long, and Governor Cuomo put it in his budget, and the legislature passed it and Jay to move that statute limitations down from six years to three years so that will help, so that was step one. As I mentioned, these hospitals to people for 9% interest, that's a commercial interest rate, the Treasury rate than the average rate is 1%. So,

here's an example of the problem, the guy in the New York Times, Thomas Casper, he's age 48. A father of three sued Stop and Shop on it for a \$30,000 bill, plus another \$8,000 in interest. But Mr. Casper said is, I'm broke, I don't have a penny to my name, I have three kids, if they take my paycheck, I won't have anything. He did not report having been offered financial aid by the hospital that 9% racks up fast. The other thing to do is make it so that you know hospitals instead of right now, every hospital gets to make up its charity, financial aid policy or charity care policy they like to call it, and it's a mess, they can't follow the legal guidelines for it. The State Department Health audit says, oh my god, they're failing these audits 30% of the time. So, our solution is to have one statewide uniform form, developed by the Department of Health, and all the hospitals must use the same one so all the patients can apply using the same form. It seems kind of simple, why do we need 212 different hospital financial aid policies? You see one financial assistance policy in one policy of financial assistance because you have one uniform policy. The next thing, John, that we just saw in that video. There are so many bills just for one incident we've helped another Ms. Chandra she got 27 single bills, separate bills to provide a Mount Sinai for one kidney stone, one kidney stone should not generate 27 statements, one kidney stone should generate one account, we're asking the hospitals to be in charge of all the people they let run around inside their walls, and just bill for all of them and generate one invoice. And then there's another provision where this woman relied on her doctor, who said he was in-network. It turns out he wasn't, and she got a \$35,000 bill. We think that we should be closed, and she should be protected under the New York surprise bill. And then many hospitals charge these things called facility fees, what's a facility fee, it's a resort fee, you know, so we had a woman go in for her free annual mammogram and got a \$142 facility fee. That's just a nonsense charge; it doesn't; there's no medical care called facility fee; it's just classical overhead charges patients shouldn't have to pay them, especially for preventive care.

- Another thing that you all have signed is these hospital patient liability forms where you just when you walk in the HIPAA forms and everything else, they have you sign away all your financial rights. Well, why should you sign that? Well, if you don't, they won't serve you, but they weren't telling you what they're going to do to you, how much insurance is agreed to pay, and how much you're responsible for, and we say we should have one fair financial liability.
- We also support the support from NAACP from AARP from, you know, the Hispanic Federation factors funds, Children's Defense Fund, the nurses, union, many unions, and we'd like you to go to your state legislators at Senator discover Rivera here in the Bronx and say let's get this thing passed, he sponsored the bill, it's not going anywhere. The Senate hasn't even put it on the Health Committee calendar, even though we have 28 Senate co-sponsors. So, we need majority leader Andrea Stewart Cousins to let this go to the floor or go through the Health Committee, we have the votes in the committee, but we need to get it done. So, don't hesitate to get in touch with us involved; you can join our n medical dunk campaign you can be. We have an active social media, which directed me with a patient lead form called we the patients. So please join us on Twitter, Instagram; healthcare for all New York is another way to get involved. Thank you.

- **Presentation/Introduction of new DHS Liaison and BPHN by Pamela**

- Reminding folks that there's an emergency, a virtual emergency preparedness training is coming up **on Wednesday, March 31** at seven o'clock. Suppose you did not get a notice of this virtual

training. I will give you my email to let me know, and I'll forward it to you. As a part of that training on Saturday, April 3, please come to the kingdom at 2019 Grand Avenue and pick up a go-bag from two o'clock, so you go to the training on Wednesday, then come to the church on that Saturday and pick up the gold bag.

- Also, I got a commitment from assembling and Victor Pichardo, who said that he would be available on that day to do a meet and greet and hear from folks in the Community about their concerns. So, I'm inviting you all to let your constituents know, put the word out. Come to the training and get a go-bag. The American Heart Association has this money that they have available right now. I think it's about 50,000 to do projects for healthy, to keep healthy communities that are traditionally not beneficial to initiatives to facilitate health. I wanted to share that with you if some folks from different agencies want to work on that \$50. Not much, but it's a little something that could help facilitate the work that you do in your respective agencies and programs. And thirdly, I'll be coming around, later, would like to organize a peace walk. In June, in preparation for the summer to discourage our community's violence, I need to connect with some folks who want to work. I'm here to work and want to have some folks to work with me. Thank you.

- **Presentation/Introduction of New York City Health Department by Pauline Feranzi**

- Good evening. I am Pauline Faranzi from the New York City Health Department. I typically cover Manhattan. But thanks for having me here in the Bronx, the updates I have for tonight are that we have reached over 2,000 for the 1st dose vaccinations, which is excellent, and we are looking forward to vaccinating more folks as supply becomes available. Johnson and Johnson vaccine homebound seniors can now fill out an interest form to have someone come to them to administer. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine; I can put that link to the form in the chat, though either the homebound senior or their caregiver can fill out that record for the individual, someone from the city health department will then call to verify to make sure they are indeed homebound and need this vaccination to their home and appointment will be scheduled at that time. So, we encourage everyone who knows a senior who is homebound to utilize this resource. Vaccines are becoming more available every day, and pharmacies are now able and eligible to vaccinate people 50 and older, a school, caregivers, including teachers and daycare, employees, and people with underlying health conditions. So, that's just an added point of access for people to gain access to the vaccine. I'm currently in your district; in the zip code, I can break it down unless you would like me to put it in the chat, so it's cleared your zip codes that the highest zip code with the seven-day positivity rate of 8.59% is 10458. The others have codes in which your district comprises 7%, the overall citywide, seven-day average in percentage is 6.1 So you are above the citywide average for positivity rate. We also have on our website information about adults who have vaccinated. So, in your district. Most of us have had at least 1% first dose vaccinations, which is a good number, but we are encouraging people to go and get more to get their vaccines and to, you know, utilize our website to get information, but we understand that equity and vaccine confidence is something that we as the health department needs to work on. And so, we are leaning on community leaders and faith-based organizations to drive home the messaging that vaccines are safe and effective. And considering Women's History Month, I would like to highlight Dr. Kinsey Corbett, one of the significant scientists behind the Audrina vaccine. She's also a woman of color. And you know I wanted to make sure

that she knows that her condition vaccine is inspirational and something that people should know about, but particularly people in our communities who are a little bit concerned, about vaccines and vaccinations in general, so that is my update happy to take any questions.

Public Session

- **Sallie Smith – Resident**

- I'm a proud granddaughter of a farmer. Proud to be a granddaughter of a slave, free slave station in North Carolina. In the 1800s very proud of the daughters of homelessness. He was raised by members of a plantation on the gentleman's road and immigration. The homeless teenager was raised as a grown-up adult. After living on a plantation, and raising himself gets married, having ten children. The ten children graduated from the little kind of school system and attended colleges throughout the United States, London, and Germany; that young lady is Sallie Smith. I also feel that being the daughter of a homeless teenager, every person, regardless of race, is entitled to a place to lay his head at night. Nobody should deny anybody a home, irrespective of where they are; or origin. They should have a decent place to live in any community throughout the United States of America and abroad, and anywhere else. Thank you very much.

- **Ernest Acosta - Board Member**

- Good evening, board members, elected officials, and community members; my name is Ernest Acosta, a board member of the community board. Recently, I became privy to information about possible compensation for COVID-related deaths and hospitalization. Ten years ago, the federal government established a countermeasure Injury Compensation Program, also known as MICP; the fund was initially created to address SARS and h1n1 in one countermeasure claim. It is now being applied to COVID victims and currently has \$30 billion in its coffers. The fund provides a \$365,000 debt or engineering injury benefit to individuals and their family members who were hospitalized or lost a loved one. COVID-19 Yeah. It also covers most wages, unpaid. Okay. Does that involve filing a lawsuit against the medical industry? The federal government intended this for the birth victims for their pain. However, you only have one year to claim these benefits, the one-year timeframe starts from when the patient went into the hospital, not a time of death, as

we have. As we now have past one year. What do you call a timeframe? It is crucial nowadays that people make these claims. Okay, but I think it is an excellent opportunity for this community, which had high COVID-related deaths, to obtain much-needed compensation. I'll include a link into the chat, and I'm putting together a flyer for Angel to distribute; and if there are any other questions, please let me know. Any questions for Mr. Costa, and the link is now in the chat room. Thank you.

Elected Official's Reports

- **Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor**

- *The Representative is Miguel Rondon.*

- **Honorable Jumanne Williams, Public Advocate**

- **The Representative is *not available***

- **Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President**

- *The Representative is Alexis Ruiz*

It's Alexis from the Borough President's Office. I hope everyone is doing well. I miss you all. The latest borough president report has been emailed if anyone has not received it, I will place the link in the chat. Just a few reminders all board members should have received the sexual harassment training course in their emails. Once you complete the training, the completion certificate will be sent to you by email, two to three days later, so if you haven't already sent that to our office, please send that, and if you have any issues, please feel free to email me so that I can assist you. Also, if you have not done so already, please fill out and notarize the certification form when you can and send it in once it's signed up. If anyone has any questions for me, I will be here for the remainder of the meeting. Thank you.

- **Honorable Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson's Office District #16**

- Thank you so much, Angel. Good evening, everyone., Thank you so much to everyone at Community Board Five, all the executive members, Community Members, Elected Officials and staff, and city agencies; everyone thanks you so much. Good evening to all of you, Inspector Seminar to see you and my expressive sister Sally Smith love it. Appreciate you, Happy Women's History Month. I want to join with everyone in recognizing all our incredible women, our first responders, essential workers, frontline staff, everyone help yes here roles that have been on the frontlines for the past year, we appreciate your labor of love and your sacrifice, to keep all of us safe. Although we are getting out of this pandemic and the vaccination is here, we're grateful for our health care officials, the Department of Health and Human hospitals; we know that we still must be safe. Unfortunately, it's a painful reminder of those that we have lost in COVID-19, so I continue to join all of you in lifting both names. We have lost 1000s of people besides many of our friends, family members, and neighbors. I do not get lost on the loss we have experienced, and I continue to hold all our constituents, close to my heart, knowing that their deaths are not in vain. Our work will continue in their honor, and I want to provide all of you, with a few updates from our office as your council member on behalf of district 16. And should you need anything from our office, you can always reach out to Ms. Gomez, who's on the call. She is our representative, always available to help anyone. So, we've been active as an office, although the office is physically closed, we do all constituent services remote, our email, phone calls, working with all the agencies, the past year we've been giving out PPP, food distributions; groceries, canned items food everywhere, and we are continuing to do that with our partners at City Meals on Wheels, City Harvest, Food Bank and New York City Football Club. We have a couple of complete distributions coming up on Friday, and I just picked on Taylor Avenue, as well as next week. We have several remote events around Women's History Month, so if any of you get our emails that we send out on Fridays, please be on the lookout for upcoming events. Well, we've tried to do our very best to remain active, even in the middle of a global pandemic. A few weeks ago, on Sunday, March 8. I believe I gave my annual and final State of the District address for 2020 of emotion as I close out the City Council journey, I'm in my last year. I will be leaving office at the end of the year due to term limits. However, I truly wanted to recognize the work we've done the Partnership on the Jerome neighborhood rezoning the establishment and creation of the JARC the Jerome Avenue revitalization collaborative, and all the great things that we have done together. CB five is my home community. I live in CB five, so of course, I carry on with everything that happens in our community, and I have a question for you. This year we do receive my back in preparation for today because the text that I sent to you has been sent back, the senator from the district. You represent a church and are interested in a site for consideration for the vaccine, it will be a pop-up site, or we can also work so right now, on that one day because I tried to work with you, please send the information. So right now, she gave us a few things I want to say about the budget. We're in the middle of the budget. When I do my final counsel, I want to say that we're grateful for getting money. Did you hear me we are getting money from the federal government, \$6 billion to New York City and the State of New York? And we are grateful we don't have to worry about municipal layoffs. Our goal is to make restorations to agencies like useful information seven days a week and additional pickups, of a corner, where there is much garbage. I was a child since the past. We want a robust Summer Youth Program. Okay, work, learn, grow, so you can keep in touch with all right, get as many young people as you can. All of you know that high schools reopen this week; let me know what's going on. Thank you so much, Mr. Ken Brown and everyone.

- **Honorable Ritchie Torres, Congress Member District #15**

- *Representative is Joseph McManus (Not Available)*
- *Contact: 718-842-8100, Tuesday -Friday (10am-3pm) by appointments.*
- Good evening: my name is Joseph McManus from Congressman Torres's office. Just a little bit, the American rescue plan called the COVID Relief bill, a figure of about \$100 billion will come to New York State, \$22 billion directly to New York as part of that. Also, \$100 checks for working families. And usually, you get it by either direct deposit cheque or debit card. It also expands the child tax credit to **\$300 a month** and is expected to reduce child poverty by 50% across the United States. Right now, the IRS is extending the day to file your taxes, so this child credit thing is still up in the air when they're going to give the money up. It also gives 300 additional unemployment checks to the vaccine national program to scale up and put needles in arms. \$130 billion for school reopened things and provides for small businesses that have experienced discrimination and services for all essential workers. The Congressmen has vote voted on a bunch of bills that have passed, that'll make the child tax credit permanent. Right now, it's only one year in this American rescue plan, and that will make voting more accessible for people. That's the George Floyd justice and policing Act. And these are all passed by the House of Representative and then it goes to the Senate. And he introduced the bill that was for the LGBTQ community and small businesses for a vaccine. So, the new eligibility by the governor's order is that anybody over 50 and anybody that works in healthcare, teachers, transit workers, grocery, workers, or hotel workers; long-term healthcare, restaurant workers, delivery drivers, for-hire drivers, and staff in congregate settings and adults with underlying conditions can get vaccinated. Probably, you must get a note from your doctor for some of these things. If you're over 60 or a teacher; you can get the vaccines also at a pharmacy. Gov., I don't know, besides the bill or executive order that allows you to get four hours off from your job for each shot. With that, I saw this on the news on ABC News and in the New York Times is that the B vaccine waitlist. It's a service to get the unused vaccine. The cons of it is you must have a smartphone and transportation because it's very timely. And just another vaccine thing, I had both shots already. And I was okay, but some people have a sore arm, some people are feeling well. But what the deal is, after you get the vaccine. It's 100% of people vaccinated will not need hospitalization. They do not require hospitalization, and the virus will not be fatal, which is very important. Also, there are about 2000 vaccine jobs available in New York City. It's www.nyc.gov/vaccine jobs, is the website. And one more thing on a local specialty. I was on a website; when you go on it, a dialog box usually pops up. You entered your name and your email address and were able to send a newsletter out to you. Now I want, I know I went through this fast, but I sent that to Ken, and I know we sent that to all Ken Brown, they sent the report to all the community board members, so that's the strength of my information. Thank you.

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

Representative Russell Cheek not available.

- **Honorable Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District #86**

- *Representative is Steven Ochoa the Community Liaison*
- *Contact: 718-933-6909/Ochoa. Camachos@nyassembly.gov*
- Good evening, everyone. My name is Steven Ochoa; thank you for having me; I will be very quick. So yes, our office is open to the public every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. We are open to the public. However, constituents had to make an appointment to our office at our number either 17189336909, and some number is hoping that as more people get vaccinated, and, and several cases will go down, and we're hoping that we can, you know, open our office, every single day. But besides that, you know, the phone number is currently in Albany's first session, and he is working on the budget. And when it comes to district updates. The cell number has partnered with Morris heights health center and rain. Rain tone and time, and barely senior centers will host a vaccine dry until in time for a seat for seniors. And in addition to that, we have also partnered with as a medical and everyday miracle to host a COVID test and site at Fordham Lutheran Church. And then, finally, BSL number has partnered with Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, the Helen Keller International, and Mount Hermon choice to provide free eyeglasses to community members. And we will assume the financing or details for the next event. But besides that, that's all I had to give right now. Thank you.

- **Honorable, Chantel Jackson, Assembly Member District #79**

- *Representative is not available*

- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**

- *Representative is Krissy Bautista/Abdul*
- *My email is Williams @NYAssembly.gov.*
- Good evening to all the Board Members and Elected Officials. My name is Abdul from Assembly woman Latoya Joyner's office. I hope you guys are all having a good evening. I have a few to update from our office, as you may know to the easy Equal Pay Day in the State of New York. So, the Assemblyman Latoya Joyner had a virtual rally to replace women; as you know, this is an issue that's concerning a lot in our society.
- The assemblywoman has introduced a bill called the salary Disclosure Act, and equal pay. It passed six-five to nine. I will put in a chart for more details, so I will be happy to share it if you want additional information—the assemblywoman will have an event for all the women in the career employment empowerment symposium, next week on the 29th and the 30th at 4 pm, you know to uplift some women, please attend, I will share the information with you. And our office is operating usually, online, we take in constituent cases over the phone. And so I give our best to you. I hope to resolve any issue for you. We open from Monday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. So that's all the data I have here. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, so I'm going to share this information on the chat, and I can share the flyers for next week's event on the woman career empowerment symposium with you Ken Brown, by tomorrow. Thank you.

- **Honorable State Senator Gustavo Rivera District #33**

Representative of Oriana Shulevitz Rosado

- I hope you're all having a good evening. Senator Rivera would like to wish everyone a Happy Women's History Month. I know we're nearing the end, but although we can't celebrate in person, Senator Rivera asked you all to join him online. He's celebrating by highlighting women who impact right here in the Bronx or across the country, so please check out our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages. We're going to be putting much information and some fun posts there to celebrate Women's History Month. Currently, the Senator is in Albany working to pass legislation and to pass a budget. So, I'm going to share some of the bills that he is proud of and would like to let you all know some more information on one of the big ones: he passed several of his statements regarding Nursing Home Reform. Two of them, the s3 601 A, delineates reporting standards for communicable disease cases and resulting deaths to bring transparency to information gathered during a public health emergency like COVID-19. And we also have s 43368, which directs the commissioner of Health to establish a direct patient care ratio, requiring nursing homes has been at least 70% of their facility's revenue on natural patient care. The Senate also voted this month. To strip Governor Cuomo of his emergency executive powers; the senator feels this was a necessary step as the executive has overstepped the boundaries and refused to work with the legislature as a co-equal branch of government As a new update, I believe it was mentioned earlier in the meeting about the patient medical debt Protection Act. So, now, we're so excited to hear that there's much support for this act. We just wanted to mention it said that Senator Rivera's bill, and although the senator does not have control over the committee, we are thrilled to check with our legislative director to get an update on where it stands currently in session and what support we need so we can get it moving, and what I'll do is I'll give an update, next month, on this bill and how it's doing and what we can do to the further in terms of COVID updates, I believe it's been pretty well covered already but to repeat because it's a big group of people, anybody aged 50 Plus is now eligible for the vaccine. I will be posting some things on the message, some links, but for some reason, I'm not able to use the messenger app; but I'll send this information to Ken, but you can check your eligibility online; vital in-home COVID-19 vaccines are now available for fully homebound residents. You can sign up, or if you want to check availability, you can go to the city of New York and flash homebound; again, I'll send this link to Ken so that everyone has that available and Yankee Stadium has been open for quite a while now, but if you are eligible for the vaccine to call the hotline or go to [vaccinations.com](https://www.vaccinations.com) To make an appointment. Just know that you're going to need some identification to prove your residency probably, and if you are eligible for a particular reason, you are probably going to need some proof on that end. Check online, see what they're asking for you. And lastly, due to the, you know, COVID-19 crisis, our office is still physically closed, but we are, of course, taking constituent cases over the phone, and via email. you can call our office, and I have that information on the chat a couple of times. Unfortunately, I can't do that right now, I apologize, but again, I'll send that to Ken, and we'll send that out to the group. But thank you so much, and I hope you have a lovely rest of your evening everyone.

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

- *Representative is Terrell Brook*

- *If you or someone you know needs supplies, please do not hesitate to call our office at 212-828-5829 or, or you can send me an email at TBrock@ NYsenate.gov. Have a great evening and a safe Memorial Day weekend.*
- Good evening; I hope everyone's doing well. My name is Terrell Brock, and I'm from Senator Jose Serrano's office; and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Women's History Month, and as I mentioned that Senator Serrano is a co-sponsors of a patient medical debt. Protection Act. Last week, the Senate passed the solitary confinement act, limiting long-term, solitary confinement for incarcerated people. It is to eliminate segregated confinement for the vulnerable, including pregnant women, people younger than 21, and people older than 55. A few weeks ago, the senator's bill to authorize the Office of Parks & Recreation and Historic Preservation to establish a resident curator program for rehabilitating state park buildings, unanimously passed in the Senate. And last month, the senator's bill, S 1260 require recycling in city parks and historical sites, was also given in the Senate. The bill also requires signage, encouraging visitors to use trash bins or carry out what they bring in, and assist these programs. In February and March, the Senate passed legislative packages to better support and protect nursing home residents, aid for college students, COVID-19 workforce, safety, Health, Safety Standards, and support utility reforms and maternal and reproductive health.
- On to the budget, the Senate passed a one-house budget. They will go into negotiations with the Governor. The Governor has said that the state will be made whole between federal aid and improved revenue projections, saying there is no further need for revenue increases, which means that service providers will be made whole. For delayed payments during the current budget year that ends March 31, service providers can expect total funding in the coming budget year. The Governor says we don't need revenue increases. We cannot financially burden our already struggling middle-class families as New York State, Works to address the impacts of COVID 19 pandemic ultra-wealthy New Yorkers, needs to pay their fair share; the Senate and Assembly have each proposed approximately 6.5 billion in new revenues. The Senate suggests using additional payments or fulfilling state commitments to service providers across the board, experience increased enrollment during the pandemic, and creating a **\$2 billion** fund to aid excluded workers. Undocumented workers who do not receive federal help will also provide an additional 400 million residential rental assistance and over 1.3 billion federal funding for this purpose. And 1 billion. Relief Fund for small businesses, commercial rent relief, Aid for COVID impacts every opening and providing 3.5 billion additional dollars to the executive proposal for education, including a 1.3 7 billion Foundation, eight increase also 100 million for arts organizations shudder during the pandemic and restores over **\$1 billion** in health care cuts. The costs shift that impact services were safety-net hospitals and our most vulnerable populations and provides an additional 624 million to increase the minimum wage for the lowest-paid, home health, healthcare workers ever rise 200 million, or acute care facilities and nursing homes, to increase nurse staffing levels. To arrive, a better quality of care and reauthorizes \$3 billion. November's ballot and upsets the tech support to both SUNY and CUNY, and we've seen new unemployment issues regarding applying for unemployment for the new year, and we can help with these issues, as well as other concerns. Our office continues to distribute hand sanitizers to individuals and organizations that have a need, and we're also helping assist with vaccine appointments. Lastly, our new office address is 335 Street, between first and second avenue, and we're working remotely; and I will put our information in the chat. Thank you as well, and have a great evening, sir, you as well.

- **Honorable Oswald Feliz, Council Member District #15**
 - *Representative is not available (Not Available)*
- **Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress District #13**
 - *Representative is Maximo Javier, is not available. (Not Available)*
- **Honorable Scott Stringer NYC Comptroller**
 - *Representative is Victor Martinez not available. (Not Available)*
- **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney**
 - *Representative is Eric Sawyers.*
 - *Contact: 718-561-9253, sawyerse@bronxda.nyc.gov*
My name is Eric Sawyer from the Bronx District Attorney's office. I hope everybody's doing well this evening. I will keep you guys updated on anything that comes up from the District Attorney's Office. I'm happy to be here, I'll be here every month, and I'll keep you guys posted about anything. Thank you. I attempted to put my contact information into the chat, but for some reason, it's not letting me send it to everybody.
- **Committee Reports.**
 - **Housing:** No Report
 - **Jerome Avenue Oversight:** No Report
 - **Land Use:** No Reports.
 - **Parks and Recreation: Co-Chair Pooi Stewart**
It happened, and I just got short notice last night—Congratulations to you, Medina Griset. I'm just the co-chair for the parks and recreations committee for this time I'm talking about the report for the Parks and Recreation committee.
We talked about the New York City Parks brands, and the capital project. So, we're going to be pushing on for next month.
We were requesting that there be planting zones around Devanney Park. We would like to know more about the Green Thumb Garden update as well. Who will be taking care of Live Better

Kid's Garden, which is right across from PS, 306, and we would like to know about the Davidson Playground and Morton Playground, alongside the Aqueduct walk update? The next is illegal dumping next to the parks or gardens. People are constantly dumping construction material along the Sedgwick Avenue. So, we would like to know what the Parks Department or DOT will do, or maybe we would like to have the Sanitation Department get involved with this matter. And that's it for the Parks and Recreation report.

- **Economic Development: Chairman Angel Caballero**

We had the economic development meeting yesterday, so the minutes will be given to Community Board Five sometime next week. But we do have a representative from BJT Bronx, Yolanda Rodriguez, who likes to inform the community. One special event that's going to be taking place is an event, tomorrow at 11 am in front of the old Chase Bank, which is Five West Burnside Avenue, almost at the corner of Jerome Avenue, is going to be a rally and a press release for a new campaign that the Bronx is spearheading for the whole city is a bill that will be introduced in this state Assembly. And the idea is that merchants, for the first time in history, will get rent relief to pay 1/3 of the rent and some additional funding to pay for legal fees for the lenders, instead of having a grant and going through the whole process. They asked, is the application streamlined, and it goes directly to the landlords and supports small merchants who have been impacted by the pandemic and are behind the rent. This will be a precedent in New York City history, and it's also a matter of being proud of us. Because BJT Bronx, which is our local district, is the one that's pushing it forward, along with WhedCo and the Women's Cooperative of workers. Please join us tomorrow and let people know we're going to be doing more and more enormous rallies but will kick-starting tomorrow, we would like as much support as you can provide. Thank you—any questions about that.

- **Health and Human Services: Chairperson Annette DeJesus**

- Hi everyone, my name is Annette DeJesus, the Chairperson of Health and Human Services. I hope everyone is good, safe, and feeling fabulous. We had our meeting on March 3, 2021. I'm not quite sure if I got to send the minutes in because I've had, like, an overload of zooms, but I believe I did, but I'm not 100% Sure. We had COVID updates, which I've been focusing on, so I try to bring all the updates about COVID everything that's happening with COVID. And we had a very lengthy, you know, conversation on COVID on March 3. Then we had a presentation from Bronx Community College Cynthia about some documentary they're filming and where they were at now with that project. We also had a presentation from a young lady. I don't have her name right now. She came to educate us on medical bills, from the Community Service Society and told us about many exciting things regarding debt, statements in the hospitals, and stuff like that. I invited her to come back the following month to present again because what she spoke about was exciting, and I think it pertains to all of us. Our next meeting is **on April 7**. I have a presenter from the New York Department of Health; I've been trying to be very adamant about this COVID situation, the vaccines, and everything that's going on with our health in our community. I invited the New York Department of Health to do a presentation, and our meeting will be **on April 7**. I advise everyone to ask everyone to share as much as possible. I need Ken, if

possible, to send me the link for that because I must be able to send it to the Department of Health because they're going to be doing a screening, they're going to be doing a slideshow and everything. And I need to be able to do the presentation right, there's going to be another presenter, but I must wait until they confirm and that's my report for March. Thank you. Are there any questions?

- **Education: Chairperson Jaqua Curiel**

- I appreciate everybody on the call, the Board members, Elected Officials, and representatives, and our community residents. I will give you an update. I'm doing a vaccination; my second vaccination is for April 6, which I believe is the first Wednesday of the month, so I will not have my education meeting in April, but it will be on the first in May. We will have an agenda and discuss some of the presenters we would like to have at the meeting to deal with some of the educational topics discussed with our Elected Officials and the Recovery Act. The CEC has a forum. Unfortunately, they had to postpone the original one. But there'll be another meeting coming up shortly. I will be in attendance, and I'll update you on the community education council. I reached out to all the ones in the Bronx. And they immediately set up a meeting so we can hear from the Chancellor. Some of my most significant issues and concerns about Wi-Fi are for the underserved communities and the schools. I want an update on what's going to happen. There is a bill that's being circulated in the Senate to address this issue. Our kids need Wi-Fi in the schools, and I would like to know what is going on with the kids that are having to use remote learning, and the impact, especially in our communities, and how it's impacting the whole educational process, and what's going on and what are the results. So, I want to thank you all for all your support, and the subsequent education committee meeting will be held—May the first Wednesday in May. Thank you.

- **Youth:** No Report

- **Cultural Affairs:** No Report

- **Immigration Committee: Chairperson Pooi Stewart**

- Good evening, here is the report of the Immigration Committee. This month, we had minimal volume join this committee. So, we would like our board members to join our immigration committee meeting; we now want illegal immigrants to have a second chance to apply for NYC ID. And this month, Giancarlo Franco from Coalitions for Immigrant Freedom, where he's working and came in to present for us. He talked about temporary protected status and the DACA or Dream Act. So please join us for our next immigration committee meeting, which will be **on April 9**. So, you guys have any questions for immigrations or any parks and recreations committee meetings? No questions and have a great night.

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

- I am the co-chair of the Veteran Committee. We had our meeting, March 9, 2021. A representative from the New York City Department of Veterans Services provided a description on how to help veterans when it comes to claims of benefits. We provided benefits update to the people that were part of the meeting. And now our next meeting is going to be Tuesday, April 13. And I think Miss Roxana is working on trying to get another presenter to join us next month. Do you have any questions? Thank you, have a great night, and stay safe.

- **Municipal Services:** No Report

- **Ad Hoc Community Outreach: Chairman Charles Shorter**
- Good evening from the Community outreach in engagement Ad Hoc Committee. I am Charles Shorter. On March 3, Nero Graham, the co-chair, hosted a meeting where Pamela Lindsay discussed Emergency Preparedness, and she's from the King of Glory tabernacle; as you heard earlier, she has invited us to continue participating. For Dr. Bola and Community Board Five, the solid waste Advisory Board has been meeting. And that was held **on March 11, 2021**. I'll continue to sit on that and represent community board five, and we're looking at all environmental issues as they relate to the Bronx. And that's it for the Ad Hoc Committee. Thank you.

- **Governing Committee: Chairperson: Belinda Lawrence**
- For the governing committee, we have, you know, sent out the change in language that we need to address term limits. We've been going back and forth with the Borough President's office; they have sent the last revision to me. We made it, and we submitted it, and we have not gotten any feedback yet. So right now, we're pending an update.

- **Executive:** No Report

- **Old Business:** No report

- **New Business:** No Report

- *Adjourned at 8:31 pm.*

The next General Board Meeting will be held on April 28, 2021.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. P. Stewart.

Secretary of Bronx Community Board Five