

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
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
By WebEx Video Conference**

- **Board Members**
- **Presents:**

E. Acosta, B. Akumah, S. Bah, P. Blanco, T. Bushby,
A. Caballero, C. Camara, J. Curiel, A. Hernandez,
B. Lawrence, G. Medina, Dr. B. Omotosho, J. Parra, D. Perry,
L. Reyes, M. Rosado, S. Rudolph, C. Shorter,
P. Stewart, C. Westbrook,

- **Absents:**

A. DeJesus, P. Dominguez, H. Esteban, M. Estrella, R. Gonzalez,
N. Graham, Jr., M. Heath, T. Mims, B. Moore, E. Morris,
R. Owusu, J. Perez, F. Ramos-Guareno, C. Rosario,

- **Excuses:**

Dr. M. Brown, R. Whetstone,

- **Welcome**
- **Public Hearing at 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**
- 1. Discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 of New York City Capital and Expense Budget.
- 2. Community residents who interested in the public hearing session and it is now open. Any community-based organization or agency that wants to do a capital of hearing presentation, please identify yourselves.
- 3. Any agency that would like to speak in reference to the Fiscal Year of 2022, New York City Capital and Expense Budget.

4. We do not have any colleagues or agencies in our community board five in session for Public Hearing from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
5. The next meeting is the Community Board Five General Board Meeting.

- **Agenda**

- **Welcome**

- Opening Prayer
- Opening Prayer is done by Cheryl Westbrook, CB5 Board Member.

- **Quorum: 7:15 pm**

- **Chairperson of Dr. Bola Omotosho Report:**

1. Proceedings:
2. Good Evening to all the Board Members, Elected Officials and residents.
3. We have Elvis Nelson teams available in our General Board Meeting to do a presentation about Covid Vaccine Trial in the Bronx. Please provide us with guidelines about what age groups and basic eligibility requirements to join the Montefiore Medical Center-Covid vaccine trial in the Bronx.
4. The FDA approved the Montefiore Medical Center - Covid Vaccine Trial in the Bronx, the remdesivir injection. Since we had a spike in our District, the Montefiore Medical Center has offered our community to volunteer. And this study does provide monetary compensation for all appointments in any inquiry.
5. Just before we go to elected officials, I want to give a big shout out to Miss Perry. The Millennium Dance Company.
6. It was short notice. In October, the day was part of a DDS performance on life performance, or the Nigeria Independence Day Parade, taught by Leto in October. Did anybody know that just barely a week ago, on October 20, the same youth we celebrate with, and they got attacked because they were protesting in Nigeria, their life ammunitions with Sarah young folks died? That was what the Councilmember was referring to, but I want to thank Miss Perry for the Millennium dance groups for being part of our celebrations. Now, it's a different ballgame. And also, I want us to keep all the young families in Cameroon in our prayers. They were going to school, and some gunmen decided to take their lives to ambush them and killed. There's so much unrest going on all over the world. We had only to

beat our feet here in the city less than 24 hours ago, another part of the country, so we sent a prayer. Let's ask for each other less; there's a call to our neighbors. And please, let's hold our emotions. When we agree and disagree on issues. Please, you don't want it, or anybody to lose; these are life for it. Once again, or any group that is doing anything for the youth, please, keep it up. I believe you'll be handsomely rewarded at the end of it all. And I'm using this significantly as a contact point for the excellent work that she's doing with the millennium, keeping all the young girls busy and the young boys.

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

- Thank you very much, Dr. Bola.
- Good evening to all the Board Members, various representatives. And Good Evening and Welcome to our General Board Meeting.
- You all should have received the District Managers report. In the second set of emails. Regarding the documents for this evening. So, you can read that, at your leisure.
- I just wanted to call attention to a couple of things—the Department of Sanitation of the snow plan for this winter. And one of the new features that they had was to visit the website. That is a map that will track plows in real-time. The way that the city has organized snow plowing is through critical screening, increasing levels of critical streets. So, these are called color-coded at that map. Plowing.nyc.gov.
- And one thing on the update around Morris Health Center. For those of you that have been around for a little while. They have been planning to open an urgent care facility at the corner of Jerome and Burnside Avenues. I spoke with them. I think it was last week the week before, and they said that that is still on track to open, and they expect to open that early this coming year, up to march.
- The Mayor of the Mayor's office is asking; since early voting, this started if anyone has any concerns about that's something that I can afford to the Mayor's office, and they can look at any issues around accessibility or anything like that.
- Dr. Bola has said, Some of you have been made aware of COVID may be spiking, both in our community and throughout the city.
- There have been some testing centers that have opened up throughout the Bronx; the nearest one to our community is the Health Center, Edward L. Grant Highway. And if you'd like to go there for rapid testing. They can be reached by phone at 888-364-3065; their address is 1302 Edward L. Grant Highway. And they are open Monday through Sunday, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.
- I think they are the highlights. I don't want to take up too much time because, of course, we have a pretty packed agenda.

- One thing of note NYU has a dental program that they are piloting that they have piloted. And what they do is deliver dental services to selected Elementary Schools. They reached out to me and asked for recommendations for community-based organizations, and NYU has been in touch with a number of organizations throughout our community. So, hopefully, that's a resource that can be up and watched. So, if there are any questions, please reach me. And I will be happy to conclude my report.

- **Voting Items:**

- **Letter of Support: Parks Department Aqueduct Walk Design**

By Iris Rodriguez (Absent)

By Darryl Milton (Present)

- I will be presenting the Master Plan Study. We are looking to increase and improve access to Aqueduct Walk's southern reaches, from Morton Playground to West Burnside Avenue.
- Our goal project of Aqueduct Walks in the Bronx from Fordham Manor to Morris Heights neighborhoods.
- Aqueduct Walk from West Kingsbridge Rd to West Burnside Avenue uses the aqueduct walk park to access entry to the stairs.
- The surrounding land use of the aqueduct walk is 1, 2, and multi-family residential. This park landscapes with 1 quarter-mile walk of the project site such as Community Gardens, Roberto Clemente State Park, and University Woods.
- The historic photo of the former pedestrian bridge carries not only people across but also the Aqueduct tunnel itself.
- Drug-related activities, paraphernalia, homeless encampments, litter, and park dead-ends at West Burnside create an unsafe condition where park users need to turn back around and exit at Captain Roscoe Brown.
- For accessibility of non-ADA compliant entrances and exits, the staircase at University Avenue is in disrepair; steep topography on both sides of West Burnside makes accessibility difficult and expensive.
- It is a part of the Jerome Avenue Points of Agreement for the Jerome Avenue Rezoning study. The masterplan recommends the first phase. We recommend that the \$10 million contracts go towards the northern section to complete this entire block of Captain Roscoe Brown.
- The southern section will cost about 42 million dollars based on our estimates from this study.
- That includes chaining walls and tunnel rehabilitation ramping system, paving landscaping lighting, utilities, soil stabilization. It does not have a potential new entrance too.
- **Dr. Bola Omotosho Question:** Can you give us a timeline of what we expect to materialize?

- **Darryl Milton:** There is no funding for the entire project, except for the \$10 million for the northern section. In the southern area here or the bridge, there are no additional funds. The 10 million only covered on the north of section. And then additional funds would be needed for that park entrance somewhere here in the midpoint.
- **Dr. Bola Omotosho Question:** So, just for us to understand the terms of timeline. Since there is no funding for the southern section, what is the impact of tonight's support letter?
- **Darryl Milton:** We would like to have; I think it would help pursue additional funding for this section's different areas. I think the letter of support would be beneficial when we do seek additional funds here.
- **Dr. Bola Omotosho Question:** The current that will start up not in the playground, that was it, we just talked about that before you move forward with this project. Am I correct?
- **Darryl Milton:** The Morton Playground design completed. During this pandemic, the construction period is on hold. The plan is approved, the funding is there, as long as Ms. Rosa Rodriguez can give us the updates.
- **Angel Caballero:** As far as advice, Mr. Whetstone is a Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, would like to comment to Commissioner that the Aqueduct Walk from the south section will enhance many seniors, adults, or children in our community to enjoy the scene with all these ties up to on West Burnside Avenue in the future. It will be an asset to it, and I hope that I live to see this; and I am so impressed with what this Aqueduct Walk Master Plan Study took place. The Northern section has taken place quickly, and it was terrific that I have seen many community people enjoy walking on the Aqueduct Walk. I hope the north and the south sections will happen sooner to bring more people into our community. Thank you very much.
- The motion was by Angel Caballero
- Seconded was by Griset Medina
- **18 Yea**
- The Letter of Support will be issued out to Parks Department Aqueduct Walk Design.

Presentation: Montefiore Medical Center

- Covid Vaccine Trial in the Bronx by Elvis Nelson
- Good Evening to all the Board Members, Elected Officials, and residents.
- The basic eligibility requirements are those over the age of eighteen, who cannot have had Covid 19 within the past six months and cannot leave or try to move out of the State.

- Those who are not immunosuppressant drugs such as healthy chemotherapies or lupus; those are more specific you cannot be eligible for this study.
- It has to be beneficial if you have hypertension, diabetes, or anything more common, not eligible for this study.
- Please come to our location if you are interested, and the main office is at 3444 Kossuth Avenue, Ground Floor, Main Office. The team will see the patient on the third floor.
- Question from Pablo Blanco: Is there any literature that we could refer to? Because of this study, I am interested in knowing whether the population is being studied throughout the city?
- Team of Covid Vaccine Trial: The population throughout the city is open to the entire city, but the United States was looking for approximately 30,000, including the United States of America, Great Britain, Brazil, South African, and much more. The study is worldwide. And it is still going on as we speak. Every country or region has different Federal Guidelines. For our research, we have just been recently cleared by the FDA to initiate it. If you would like any literature, it is available in the Chat; please look out for the information. It is uncoated by vaccine@montefiore.org.
- Question from Belinda Lawrence: This trial is the criteria that your research will use to select the volunteers to do this trial vaccine based on race. Based on gender economic development background, what are the requirements you will use to select these volunteers?
- Team of Covid Vaccine Trial: Social Economic status, race, gender, both are not to start a practice study only if you're eligible based on your health and your age.
- Question from Belinda Lawrence: What happens in the event when you can use a group of people or specimens to test this vaccine, and they get ill? There are some side effects. What will happen, or is it that you're going to have them sign a waiver that says that if there are any adverse side effects that they're basically on their own? Will the patient be protected or liable for their life with this vaccine trial?
- Team of Covid Vaccine Trial: It's an excellent question. First of all, it has to be pre-screened over the phone, and you will be given a brief health questionnaire, not too moderately invasive for the most part. After you meet the eligibility requirements, you will come into the medical facility to continue the rest of the procedures. The next step is, go over the consent formed, and then the following is complete a physical test. The administered will provide the vaccine or placebo to the patient. The patient will be monitored for a certain amount of time before you're allowed to leave. If, by chance, the patient's results have side effects of the placebo or vaccine, our Medical Center

immediately can always be seen by medical personnel at any point in time. We will take care of the patient. It is 100% covered under us.

- Question from Dr. Bola Omotosho: is there an age control for the vaccine trial?
- Team of Covid Vaccine Trial: No, in addition to not having an age cutoff. It is something to note that vaccine studies are a little aren't compensated for all vaccine studies. For further information so that we are more than willing to discuss that, I will not give the exact numbers. But I am eager to take any individual emails to that in regard to the following.

- **Presentation: New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, , COVID 19 Test and Trace, Bronx Borough Outreach Director.**

- Presented by David Mamadou Coulibaly.
- You can reach out to me at coulibad1@nychhc.org.
- Good Evening to the Community, Five Board Members, Elected Officials, Dr. Bola and District Manager.
- Many Covid19 testing centers are opening in the community.
- The Council Members are fighting hard to build or support, creating many testing centers for this community.
- Hopefully, we can create a testing center in Davidson Community Center. We are looking forward to making one testing center in Davidson community center so people in the community can receive the same service as closer to their homes.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at coulibad1@nychhc.org.

- ***Presentation: Update by the Department of Transportation, University Avenue Bus Redesign update***

- *By Nivardo Lopez, Bronx Borough Commissioner for the NYC DOT)*
- *By Keith Kalb (NYC DOT Deputy)*
- *By Matt Marianka (NYC DOT Director of Planning and Community Affairs)*
- *By Hallie Malone (Community Coordinator NYC DOT)*
- *By NYC DOT Transit Development Division: Ellison Bolan, Nolan Leviton, and Dustin Khuu (NYC DOT Project Manager)*
- A Better Busses Action Plan has improved bus speeds by 25%, install 10-15 miles of new bus lanes per year, and support MTA Bus Network Redesign efforts with borough bus priority plans.

- University Avenue was ranked high as a bus priority corridor because of high ridership and the high volume of buses or slow and unreliable bus service.
- Covid-19 has had impacts on many essential workers live within CB 5 and the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Coming back to Community Board Five from Kingsbridge Road to Washington Bridge, BX3 and BX3b of local and limited the average weekday ridership are 45,461 passengers. Average bus speeds were five to seven mph.
- University Avenue and South Tremont Avenue's current conditions have two travel lanes, one bike lane, and one parking lane. The issues identified along University Avenue are unreliable services such as limited bus stop accessibility, bus bunching, and bicycle safety.
- The University Avenue proposed Treatments will include the bus boarders. Offset bus lanes, bus boarding islands, bike, and pedestrian treatments improve bus speeds and reliability, improves bus speeds, bicycle safety, reduces double parking, and new high-visibility crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety.
- On University Avenue/ Macombs Road, one left turn, one travel lane, one bus lane, one bus boarding island, one bicycle lane, and one sidewalk extension for pedestrians before and after treatments.

- **Public Session**

- **Sallie Smith, Resident of Community Board Five**

- I'm very thankful for the concerns that I had addressed to the board. Regarding the Grand Concourse situation, and your district manager shouted me out at the police council meeting. But I still am concerned about what is going on. I put down the Grand Concourse for the thrift shops and the quality-of-life issues. I noticed that most of you are concerned with the board's section between Jerome Avenue and Webster Avenue. We have very little going on over there. I know that there is a lot of police action right here on the corner. I didn't listen or hear them speaking about the intersection of this Avenue's shooting on Thursday morning, right at my door almost two doors down and shot into the windows and rattle some cause of the incident. So one thing is, we do have concerns on this site, and I will be at the next board meeting. Thank you very much.
- **Dr Bola Replied:** Okay, thank you, Sallie. To update those who probably are not too familiar with what Sallie was referring to, bring vendors. What can get to this attention that Sallie Smith has mentioned that the community must be protected by reporting to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Health and 46th Precinct. The next meeting is on Monday to have all the three agencies discuss how we can better the quality of life, along a corridor of the Grand Concourse Avenue one at first, where Sallie is referring to.
- **Ken Brown replied:** And I want to add that tonight, while we were at this meeting, both the Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Health confirmed that they would have representatives on the next Monday meeting, so please everyone come out to the Monday police-community merchant meeting.

- **Edwin DeLos Santos – ACDP Sedgwick Cornerstone Community Center**

- To reach out to me at edelossantos@acdp.org or 718 220 2600.
- Community Association of Progressive Dominicans
- Good evening to everybody. My name is Adam DeLos Santos. I'm the program director for ACDP Cedric Cornerstone Community Center.
- Thank you, Dr. Bola and Mr. Brown are allowing me to speak to everyone. So, as you know, some of our programs are at a disadvantage because of the pandemic. Many of the education programs are not running during this pandemic.
- We want to let you guys know that we have services that we are offering for after-school services we offer such as Homework Help, stem literacy math for games at dinner, and a snack. Then we also have programs for adults and teens.
- For the teens, we're trying to do civic engagement, as we're trying to have them do projects around the city that help out other people and not just the people from the community, of course, So we're trying every year.
- You can reach out to us at 1553 University Avenue Bronx, New York, 10453, and the number to our office is 718 220 2600, and my email is [Fdelossantos@acdp.org](mailto:edelossantos@acdp.org).
- And if you would like for me to send you any information, I can send you the flyer, and we can speak from there. Thank you, everyone.

- **Samantha (Resident of Community Board Five)**

- Hi, my name is Sam.
- I'm a resident who lives over on Grand Concourse.
- I'm also a member of the Morris Avenue Community Garden on Morris Avenue between Burnside and East 181 Street.
- At first, the garden has started getting going. There have been many great community members who have beautified the park and gotten rid of the trash. And it's a beautiful and quite large community space, and we have a Halloween socially distant COVID safe event on Saturday at 3:30 pm; we individually packed over 150 candy bags for the children of the community, so we would love for everyone to come by drop by to say hi, pick up some candy.
- And to join us for home. Another organization called Bronx bikes will have a CoVid-19 safe, socially distant bike route from a bear meeting on the Grand Concourse of 100 and 38th Street and riding from 138th Street to Mosholu Parkway, and that'll be at 1 pm on Saturday as well. So, there are lots of COVID safe family-friendly, activities, and that we welcome you all to join, so thank you for having me.
- Ken and I will be out there planting some bulbs along the aqueduct walk at about, I think, 183rd street is where we landed on.
- We are also collecting photos of our community. Some of the members have been a part of the community for many years.
- And we are doing a public photo exhibit so, if you can come to share one or two or three photos of

your family over the last, you know, 5, 10, 30, or 40 years.

- We would love to show you know our community's history and have some help beautifying it.
- **On November 7 at 11 am**, I will also drop all this information in the chat, so many family friendly COVID safe ways to join us.
- Dr. Bola and Ken and appreciate your efforts.
- **Francis Rodriguez, Roberto Clemente State Park**
- Thank you for having me this evening.
- I wanted to say the State Park is hoping everybody comes out, takes a walk or jog or bike ride for their mental health. We are thereon. Unfortunately, the inside is still not ready to receive anyone; we are working on there we're working on getting those, and May 13 is required to get everybody in.
- We are working diligently on that to get people inside our building at State Park. But meanwhile, the park outside is open for people to come out take bike rides, walks, and runs and we do have many people who come out and visit the Park every day.
- So, for Halloween. I do want to I've sent to the community. We have our flyer on Saturday. We will have a little Halloween, not our usual haunts and holes, but we will have some treats, but all of them enter from 11 am to 3 pm.
- We sent it out; we wouldn't want kids to come out. We want them to do social distancing wear a mask under their regular Halloween mask.
- And we will have treats and ready bags to go ahead and give them out, so we want to make sure that the community comes out and participates, has a good time, and just everybody is safe and do that.
- So, we plan to do that, and only some other activities, so check out our website, you know at New York State Parks, and then you could go look up Roberto Clemente park for other things that are going on in the Park, but again we want everybody to come out to the state parks and to walk Simmons we've had many people coming out and walk in and just letting us know how they're enjoying the parks, you know, we still have people coming down.
- Again, there's no barbecuing, but it doesn't mean you can't come out with your family and enjoy the day we still have people to birthday parties and different things; you know when prepared foods and just enjoying the day at the Park so we are there for you and we want to make sure that you continue to know we are.
- I've got walkers telling me how since over, they've lost 2030 pounds because this is what they are now doing. I mean, we're there, we're there, and we want to make sure you know we are there every day

open for you to come out down and walk the back out part of the Park is available just come and walk at the Park ride your bike.

- Take a walk or rollerblade we've got many old skaters now everybody's enjoying it, so it comes down and enjoys the State Park.
- **Dr. Bola Replied:** Please accept our condolences for the loss in your family.
- Thank you for the service that you do despite all the challenges.

- **Library Manager of the Central Branch Library.**

- I just wanted to make one short announcement.
- We have a show on Friday, October 30th, at 4 pm, we will have a bunch of dance parties for children.
- They can register online@nypl.org/ locations /schedule

- **Pierina Sanchez (Resident of Community Board Five)**

- Good Evening to Dr. Bola and all of the Community Board Members Five tonight. The update of what I think we were all familiar with our two banks closed on Burnside Avenue, but we had Amalgamated Bank, and we have Chase Bank.
- The community has come together to push back on both banks for those closures on the amalgamated front; they have a national movement, closing many locations because their business model is changing.
- And so for them. They have office hours at Davidson Community Center, which Angel can probably speak to the exact hours. If you are a client of Amalgamated,
- It would help if you had anything from them, you could do cash transactions, but you can speak to a representative over at Davidson Community Center. And the second thing that they have done so far is excellent; they provide lifetime financial counseling to anybody from our community that goes to this organization called neighborhood trust for a lifetime.
- So long as you go and you apply, or you reach out to them this year between now and September of 2021, you will be able to have lifetime financial counseling from that organization.
- It's a nonprofit, and they help you understand credit and towns and banks, and it's all a nonprofit. So you, you know that you're getting trusted advice. Now, Dr. Bola has just said is that we need to continue to hold their feet to the fire

because these two things are nice, but it's certainly not making up for having a physical bank the community. We have a 10-page letter listing our demands, including a request that they give us 15 million dollars for grants for small businesses affected by looting and COVID-19 economic impacts and provide assistance to our nonprofit organizations that serve our community.

- In addition to that, we want to make sure that they commit through the Community Reinvestment Act. As a bank that is federally chartered commitment to be investing in communities like our communities of color, which are home to a lot of low-income people, so we have asked them to dedicate more resources to let us access loans, right so we want more homeownership loans, and we want more access to capital for our finance for small businesses in the community. So, we're going to continue to push; we have sent them a 10-page letter of demands. They are now on the hook to respond to us. And then on the, on the chase fronts. So, Chase nationally has committed to dedicating \$30 billion for low-income communities of color, as a part of their response to the civil unrest facing our country at this time, right as a part of their response to the Black Lives Matter movement and their commitment to social justice. So, when they closed in our community, they said they were having some problems with the landlord. For starters, they're going to be opening back up. It's supposed to be in the first quarter of 2021, which is fine, but we're continuing to push. And then on the same front, we want to make sure that those \$30 billion that they're dedicating to low-income, and communities of color are coming to our, our nonprofit organizations, our small businesses and are helping our people be lifted up.
- Thank you so much, Dr. Bola.

Elected official's Reports

- **Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President**
The Representative is Ish Gonzalez
 - Good Evening to all Board Members. I have two quick announcements.
 - First and foremost, I would like to welcome the new Community Board Members to community board five. I heard you mention it in your report as well. But the Borough President has a new community board member orientation **on November 9**, that's going to be at 6 pm, and that's going to be a virtual meeting, so I know some sessions, some community

boards have been going in for meetings, but this is going to be strictly virtual meetings, so we don't have to worry about any in-person contact.

- So, if you haven't received that email yet, you should receive it by tomorrow at the very latest. But if you don't receive it, I will place my email in the chat. I'll be sure to say my email address again. So, if anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to shoot me an email, or if there's anything else that our office might be able to do to assist you, please feel free to reach out to us.
- Thank you so much and have a great evening.

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

- **The Representative is Nereida Gomez**

- Good Evening, and Thank you, Ken Brown, for the leadership of CB5, to the Executive Team and to all of the Community Board Members and residents and Elected Officials and staff.
- · I have worked very closely with Dr. Bola Omotosho and Ken Brown, Lashawnda, and everyone around so many of the issues we have confronted during the pandemic.
- We have been talking very closely about these public safety and public health issues. Indeed, maintaining the businesses is a collaborative effort. I wanted to thank all of you for being a part of that.
- At the end of October is the recognition of breast cancer awareness month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We continue to raise the level of awareness and provide outreach and resources, and programs.
- · We want to recognize many survivors of breast cancer. The fact that we have to do more around testing early detection and screening and working with all of our domestic violence providers, we have been able in the City Council to allocate \$223,000 to 10 different DB organizations to provide services for clients and families.
- · We understand that during this pandemic, many of our residents may have been living in dangerous situations or living with their abusive partner. Intimate partner violence, elder abuse as well as assault in the LGBTQ community is present.
- · I wanted to thank urban justice, urban resource institute, and so many organizations right here in our community that have been doing this great work.
- · Reminding everyone, of course, we're in the season of the 2020 election. Early voting started last Saturday through this Sunday, November 3, so please encourage everyone to go out and exercise their right to vote. I want to thank the Department of Health and the Mayor's Office for bringing our attention here in our district of Covid19 cases in 10453 at Morris Heights. We have heard about the Covid19 testing, tracing, and rapid centers. We are making sure as we work with Montefiore Morris Heights Health Center.
- · We need to encourage everyone to get tested. The city's threshold is 1.7%, and we're at 2.5, so it's a little bit above. We are still not out of the Covid19 pandemic.
- · We are preparing for the second wave before there is a vaccine that comes to us, so we have to practice social distancing when facemask, washing hands frequently, as well as getting tested at Morris Heights Health Center.
- · We are so lucky enough to open the mobile health care site on the grounds at Riverpark Towers in our community.
- · You can reach out to Nereida Gomez; she is from our team is on the call to help you. Please feel free to contact our office at 718-588-7500 or by email at District16bronx@ council.nyc.gov. You can reach out to me directly at ngomez@council.nyc.gov
- · We have been able to get 200 million in cash funding, including an elevator coming to our districts 9 and 10, housing upgrades, parks, and playgrounds.

- Farmers markets and farm stands and green markets and access to healthy food and nutrition and health books and urban agriculture and farming are precisely the way we need to look forward to work with all of you.
- The gun buyback program is indeed a reminder that the proliferation of illegal and unlicensed handguns in our communities remains an issue.

- **Honorable Nathalia Fernandez, Assembly Member District #80**

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

- Good Evening to all Board Members.
- Good evening Dr. Bola. This is Johnson McManus, just real short, the office is open, it's still available, but with limited hours, which are: Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 3 pm. Our phone number is 718 842 8100.
- And please call before you come because we tried to limit one person in the office at a time.
- If any items people have issues with an answer over the phone, you do not have to come or attempt the office. We will be happy to oblige you by making an appointment.
- Thank you very much.

- **Honorable Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member District #86**
- **Representative is Heidi Salazar the Community Liaison**
- **Contact: 718-933-6909**

- My name is Heidi, I work for Victor M. Pichardo, Assembly Member, Community Liaison. I have a quick announcement.
- One does come up on the November 29th, which is tomorrow Thursday from 11 to 2 pm. Please turn up for UCAC and it is 100% free, but we do request you to bring your insurance.
- If you do not have insurance in general, they'll be able to sign you up for insurance. It is first-come, first-served but it's going to be located directly in front of our office at 2175 Jerome Avenue, from 11 am to 2 pm. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office. I'll put my phone number in the Chatroom.
- On November 2, November the fourth and sixth, we're going to department ID, NYC, for you guys to be able to or anyone in our community to get an ID NYC ID. So again, if there are any questions in regard to that, you're able actually to call our office, but you can sign up for an appointment by calling 311, or go to NYC.gov
- ID NYC and again, it's 100% free. Please feel free our office. The phone number is 718-933-6909, located in the front, at 2175 Jerome Avenue, so please come by it's going to be from 10 am to 5 pm.
- So, it's going to be the full week of the beginning of November, we stopped by its very beneficial if you don't want this to happen again then we are willing to take the, be ready to be able to hold it also in front of our office and I will make sure to send information over to CB Five.

- Also, my name is Heidi, and feel free to call 718-933-6909; and I'll make sure to send the flyers, and I'll post them in the chat as well.
- Thank you. Have a good day.

- **Honorable State Senator Gustavo Rivera District #33
Representative of Oriana Shulevitz Rosado**

- You can reach out to me at osrosado@nysenate.gov or 718-933-2034.
- Hello and Good Evening to all the Board Members, residents, and officers. The office is open in a remote setting.
- We have been working closely at our office, and Senator Rivera has been working with his colleagues in the government to extend the eviction and rent moratorium that I'm sure everyone has heard about.
- Currently, the chief administrative Judge, Lawrence Marx, has just issued an executive order saying that there's a suspension of eviction proceedings.
- Please feel free to contact our office if anyone faces a risk of eviction. I'll give that contact information at the end. On a slightly lighter note we will be having tomorrow at 3 pm at St James Park, a Halloween giveaway. With free mask reusable tote bags and that's all.
- Please wear your mask and practice social distancing, and you can come to participate. Keep an eye out because it depends on the weather, and we're hearing that it's going to be very stormy tomorrow. But again, if you have any issues or questions, please contact our team. And that would be at 718-933-2034. I've also my contact information. Our office is not currently open for visitors, but we are taking Constituent Services inquiries on the phone. And my name is Orianna, I'm the Community Affairs representative, and I'll put the information in the Chat Room. Thank you so much.

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

- **Representative is Terrell Brock**

- Good Evening everyone to Dr. Bola and the District Manager, Community Board Members, and Elected Officials.
- Hi, good evening everyone, this is from Senator Rivera's Office. I hope everyone's doing well today.
- And I like to mention that Senator Rivera held an art and culture Roundtable to hear perspectives from the artistic and cultural communities on how COVID-19, the legislators had impacted them, listened for hours, presentations, from a diverse group of panelists.
- We are still accepting written statements from the public, artists, and cultural organizations on how CoVid 19 has impacted them. We hope to use these statements to

compile and report and make policy recommendations, or we have, New York, New York, artists communities witness statements are local until November 19, 2020

- They can be submitted to Jose Marco Serrano at NY Sen Gov., and as always, our staff continues to provide constituent services, by phone, about employment, everything from help with unemployment claims to Housing issues, and reach out to us at 212-828-5829. I would also like to give a Thank you to District Manager Ken Brown.
- Please give me some names or the cell phone number of The BJT Center, Morris Heights Health Center, and Davidson Community Center regarding masking.
- I'm going to provide that, and I look forward to coordinating that with District Manager, Ken Brown. Thank you.

- **Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress District #13**

- **Representative is Maximo Javier / CB5 District Manager, Ken Brown**

- (The representative left the notes with Mr. Brown)
- Congressman Adriano Espaillat said that he participants in the transportation and infrastructure committee markup for funding for transportation aid and legislation in congress that will come back to the Bronx.
- Congressman Adriano Espaillat also wanted to share the Harlem manifesto that has laid out and supported criminal justice reform elements, both at the City and State and Federal level.

- **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney**

- **Representative is Eric Sawyers**

- **Contact: 718-561-9253, sawyerse@bronxda.nyc.gov**

- Earlier, we did have the gun buyback last weekend, and we had taken 136 guns during this event, partnering with the NYPD.
- New York Yankees gave 150 iPads for the first hundred 50 people. And the event was extremely successful.
- The DA will continue to do things like this in the future. And that's pretty much it for tonight. Thank you.
- **Dr. Bola Replied:** And please extend our greetings to the DA. We greatly appreciate the efforts with her gun buyback program.

- **Old Business**

- **Discussion of Board Officer Elections:**

- **Dr. Bola speaks:**

- We've not been in the Committee Meeting since the pandemic has hit New York City.
- We'll be back shortly. We are going to resume that now, yes, we are, and it's essential to start with committees meeting. Like I stated

earlier in my introduction, we have to set up our committees.

- I will say we have 15. And why is it 15? I included the executive committee. The Ad Hoc Community Outreach, which we from time to time do have one that we set for Housing, Jerome Avenue Oversight, Land Use, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, Health and Human Services, Education, Youth, Culture Affairs, Immigration, Veteran Services, Municipal Services, Governing, Executive.
- The District Manager will coordinate that we have the correct dates and see if those dates are still valid. This will be sent out to the entire committee board members and the community data, but virtual meetings will have to be held, which of course is part of the New York City charter. And why is this all business important? This is about the election of offices. Our bylaws did not allow us to do elections because we do not have a clause that will enable us to do by remote voting.
- The governing committee, which is chaired by Belinda Lawrence.
- They have to come back to the table and review our bylaws to comply with the city charter. Not that we're out of compliance. We're still in compliance.
- Because the city charter does not provide any detailed guidelines for conducting this election; the details lie with each community board's bylaws.
- So, we the executive order of 202.1, which suspends the law allowing attendance of meetings. Telephone telephonically and other similar services. We have to modify and adjust the bylaws to reflect.
- So we are left with two options. One option is to amend our bylaw to postpone the elections until after this emergency or pandemic ends.
- Or, we amend the bylaw to allow for another means of voting. So whichever one it is. We need the Governance Committee to come back and review the bylaw.
- So I'm going to be asking for a motion. We can also have further discussion.
- From what I understand, consultations continue with the Borough President's Office. Although the governor's extension monthly, these virtual meetings that we're having will likely go on till the end of the year. And that is my understanding of the meaning the executive order 202.1.
- We cannot wait and be in limbo indefinitely. Some other Boards in the Bronx have held their elections.

- So we can be able to get back to the table and start meeting gradually. And what I've recommended in June is to leave the current Chairpersons in place until we have elections. And we'll be calling on various committees to give us their timetable for their meetings, edit them and they will be going back to the committee first, and then the chair will present to the General Board Meeting.
- Ken Brown and I, and the rest of the Board Members here and the 46th Precinct have been meeting every week since June of this year.
- Any questions for me on this issue.

○ **Angel Caballero speaks:**

- Can you please elaborate a little bit more that is what we're going to be doing? Because Board Members that are new, who do not know the process, Board Members that that have not been with us. Because of the CoVid-19, I'm sure we are confused.

○ **Dr. Bola speaks:**

- As I said, it was barely almost two years ago, which we had a committee work. And it was amended on June 17, 2018. The changes last changes were made, June 26, 2019, we voted on them. But they did not have the closed. None of us thought there would be a lockdown that we did not have a close but entirely remotely.
- You have to take a vote physically. Now, what I've seen is we're going to bring back the bylaw Committee, which is the Governance Committee, chaired by Belinda Lawrence.
- It does not mean every one of us can participate in that committee. You can join the committee.
- Sure, in case, and God forbid we have a similar situation whereby we have to continue the virtual meetings we will still be able to elect officers or whatever recommendations; this we will bring back if they decide that as well. In light of some of the experiences, we can live with some. This is just thinking aloud.
- We have elections every year for most in the Bronx have polls every two years. So that's an example. And we have a unique situation whereby about office located in an institution which is Bronx Community College.
- So when the College shut down, there is no access to the community college. And now that we have a pandemic. There is no access most of our staff in the office are working from home.
- So, what I'm saying is that we're back on the committee meetings virtually.

- And if anybody has any other suggestions. Given the two options that we have, we must amend the bylaw to postpone the elections until after the emergency meeting until after the pandemic.
- We have amended by law immediately to reflect what that means of voting. Either way, the Governance Committee has to come back and do some I just told to operate by them.
- **Angel Caballero speaks:**
 - We should look at this because we need more time for us to make a motion on the elections process.
 - So, I think that the Governance Committee should meet. And we should postpone the election until further notice until we can continue.
 - So, the executive board offices should stay there for the rest of the year until we can go back and have the elections in the next year.
 - So, we should rollover, is what I'm trying to say. What are some of the Board Members ideas?
- **Jaqua Curiel speaks:**
 - This is required. I think we have to amend the bylaws. Right. To decide whether we can have a rollover of the election and how we're going to do the election. No language in our current bylaws says we can roll over.
 - So, we need someone to essentially have the Governance Committee, create a bylaw committee, or work as the group to spearhead amending the bylaws to roll to put in language for rollover in case something like this happens.
- **Angel Caballero speaks:**
 - Correct, because there's nothing about the pandemic or about issues they're facing.
- **Jaqua Curiel speaks:**
 - So I think we should have the Governance Committee amend the bylaws. I don't know if we have to create a separate Ad Hoc Committee because I thought governance was what we decided to do if we needed to amend the bylaws that fall under the governance committee.
- **Dr. Bola speaks:**
 - The bylaws were sent out to all board members again. And that was a guide that was referred to as well. Okay.
 - So, we were hoping that we will resume business as usual. Unfortunately, the pandemic and even in our district we had a spike, and nobody knows what will happen if we're going to have a second wave or not, and are still categorically, the virtual meeting will

continue until the end of the year. So, the bylaws committee needs to. Now come back.

- Those who are not familiar with what is in our bylaws, please read and understand it. If you have any questions, please ask Ken Brown.
- Ken Brown to send it out again electronically to all Board Members.
- It asks us to set up a nominating committee., Sometimes a March.
- It could be 30 days for them to review; that will be another 30 days to down. Do whatever campaigning that whatever.
- The election should take place in June.
- So if we look at this timetable, and that's why I want us to get back to work and start working.
- Once the bylaw is done. I just want the Governance Committee to come back to us in November and give us a timeline of bringing the amendments to the board. And then, of course, we have to vote on it. And then we follow it from there.

○ **Belinda Lawrence speaks:**

- At this time, who addresses the comments that were made?
- One, we will communicate with Ken to put a date on the calendar when the Governance Committee is going to meet, so we can make up an action plan as to how we are going to be addressing this.
- So, information and more details will follow later, but we're certainly not creating a subcommittee when the governing committee's function is to make amendments to the clauses and add to the By-law. That much I will say for now, but more details will unfold later on after we've had the meeting.

○ **Dr. Bola speaks:**

- Thank you. So that is settled. Any other questions or comments on the election bylaws, I think that is clear, so we're going to begin.
- Belinda Lawrence is the second Vice-Chair and the Chair for the Governance Committee, which will be meeting, and then we let everybody know what timeline will be.

• **Old Business**

○ **Dr. Bola speaks:**

- Now that we still have the Quorum.
- Can we go back to the minutes' adoption, the June's Minutes?
- I want to say a big thank you to Madam Secretary; thank you.

- You see your minutes. I lost count of it while I was in about a 20-page document. We have received it. Honestly, I don't know where to start from all that to say a big thank you for putting these minutes together. And it must have taken a lot of your time. But I guess we did lockdown for everything to do domestically; you still have enough time to write all these and put it down. So, I'm thankful for my colleagues; I believe we all have the minutes, please hold them ready.
- I think I will do to a quick roll call vote to adopt the minutes with three corrections. Yeah, whether we find it now, or we found it later. I will need a motion to accept these minutes with all necessary modifications, whether we see it now or later, which can be part of public records.
- **Angel Caballero speaks:**
 - Absolutely. I make a motion to accept the minutes with the proper corrections whether we find it now or later.
 - Ernesto Acosta speaks to second the motion; I am Ernesto Acosta.
 - 15 Yea, 2 Abstained, 20 Absentee.
- **Dr. Bola speaks:**
 - In the absence of any other new business, and the next General Board Meeting will be on the 18th of November. Traditionally, of course, we're preparing for Thanksgiving. And so we don't meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month.
 - In the month of June, November, and December, during the last month of meetings for the rest of the year before we take a recess for three months for summer and Thanksgiving, which will be just the day before Thanksgiving, otherwise we meet on the fourth Wednesday.
 - So traditionally we meet on the third Wednesday of the month so the next meeting will be on the 18th. But between now and then, please, we meet weekly, for just one hour, and will I try to keep it on the one hour.
 - And we've been getting good results from it for the entire month during the summer period.
 - It's really helped us a great deal and reinforcing the confidence that the community has in the leadership that we have currently on the Deputy Inspector just helps in this community. I've got 46th Precinct to hold a meeting once a week.
 - Thank you to him and his team and the collaboration with West Burnside Avenue Merchants. Under the leadership of The Merchants Association, coordinated by Angel

and Davidson Center, the President of that Association is Mr. Ubaldo.

- And we also have the Director, who is the District Manager running the show for this Community Board Five.
- You have this opportunity to meet and get what's going on, weekly, especially in our district. We have that unique opportunity of getting real-world information from the police when there are shootings, and you're able to report them, the quality of life that have changed, which is unprecedented in the city. At this time, and in a community like ours, which is very diverse, it is a step in the right direction.

• **Meeting is adjourned**

- **At 9:05 PM**

Prepared and Submitted by

Ms. Stewart

Secretary of Community Board Five

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