



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa Gibson., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 27, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Community Board Five

- **Community Board Five Board Members**
- **Attendees:** E.Acosta, B.Akumah, A.Caballero, J.Curiel, A.DeJesus, R.Gonzalez-Jimenez, B.Lawrence, G.Medina, E.Morris, Dr.B.Omotosho, J.Parra, F.Ramos, P.Rojas, M.Rosado, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, S.Socrates, P.Stewart and C.Westbrook.
- **Absent/Excused**
- S.Bah, P.Blanco, L.Deng, P.Dominguez, N.Graham.Jr., M.Heath, T.Mims, B.Moore, R.Perez, J.Pope and L.Reyes.
- **Welcome:**
 - Opening Prayer by Benjamin Richardson (Community Member)
- **Quorum: 6:14 pm**
- **Approval of Minutes:**
- January 26, 2022 GBM and March 23, 2022 GBM
- Motion Passed.
- **Chairperson's Report:**

Reports: Last week, we secured meetings with a council members Althea Stevens and CM Oswald Feliz. The conference was about the concerns and requests of our needs, which we'll pulled out of our budget project requests. We shared it with him last week and some stakeholders in our community. And that leads will also be shared with other board members. I don't want to start going to a four-by-one, but I will mention a few, including Echo Park to be specific and active for more rangers and fire safety for Twin parks. The working families

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probably do not qualify for any of the vouchers if they can have a pathway to homeownership. If you have any buddy that's willing to turn in his office inputs, I'll let him know about the concerning shelters in our district. It did precisely a week ago, to mention a few sanitations. We also had a meeting with council members Althea specifics include most of the steps that we have in our district and high-intensity lights on the expansion of Green Street University. The library on Sedgwick has more Park enforcement and emergency food program. She's also the chair. We've talked extensively about it. One of the other topics it also visited was concerning trade having a business improvement district. What I came up with was worth mentioning. Africa believed to be the end of last year. We had a presentation about Legion Africa, which was predominantly going to be my report. Most of us will have received a unique code from the DPS office regarding sexual training after the deadline for us to do that. If you did not receive the email from DCAS, you are not receiving Sexual Harassment Training Course. There is also a request from the office to have an input into this planning. When we want to see a city mandate an input property planning, if you have any information kindly, we plan to discuss this further. At precisely this point, I will yield to the district manager to give his report. Last Sunday, First Union Baptist Church celebrated 107 years it has been in existence. I believe 48 years Pastor Wilson has lead the congregation in the past. It was well-attended by our District Manager; big thanks to Ken. He came on Sunday morning and was part of the service. Thank you to our borough president, who was also very early. That concludes my report. Solano Socrates will be our Co-chair Economic & Development Committee.

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

Reports: Good evening, everyone. Some of the shelters have also started back their advisory boards. On March 28, there was a camp for Nikah History Month, the men's shelter up by Echo Park to correspond with the school across the street. I believe that the precinct has deployed a neighborhood Coordinating Officer during school admission and dismissal. The shelter itself has designated and guaranteed that a security guard will be out there during those times. The friction between the shelter and the school seems to have been navigated well. On April 13, Council Member Althea Stevens initiated a Youth Advisory Council. She's put out a call to engage the youth in her district in planning advocacy, and I had the pleasure and privilege of sitting on that to represent the board where she's looking for more people to participate. The Shelter at Phelan place, which is down on Andrews, hasn't had a new operator. Community Access stands now offering shelter. When there was a previous operator in that shelter, there was some conflict with the community. That operator has lost its contract with DHS and other reasons. They had their initial Community Advisory Board meeting. In case there are any difficulties with the shelter there. That number is 929-260-9148. That's the one place shelter on Phelan Pl. In April, I enjoyed attending a webinar with humanity's New York, the New York state affiliate of I believe humanities the USA, a federal agency that deals with funding and supporting the Arts and Social Sciences. They have, among other things, some programs to promote civic engagement. They have a future leaders program trying to engage youth more civic and civically engaged. I'm going to follow up with them on this. They sent me some information on those

programs, and of course, you will get the highlights so far when I get them. Thank you very much. The owner of Loew Paradise Theater on the Grand Concourse up by Fordham, it's been effectively vacant since covid. There was a church operating there; they remain interested since it is a historic landmark. They stay interested in pretty much must maintain it as a cultural recreational center because they must keep the theater intact. We're communicating with them to see how they can get a tenant. This is a privately-owned site, so his practice can be solvent. We're going to be continually engaged in trying to preserve a very important this is paradise resource.

Voting Items:

- January 26, 2022 General Board Meeting Minutes; 18 Yah, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention; Motioned by Griseth Medina and Seconded, Charles Shorter; Motion passed.
- March 23, 2022 General Board Meeting Minutes; 18 Yah, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention; Motioned by Medina Griseth and Cheryl Westbrook; Motion Passed.

Public Session

- Board Member – Shania Rudolph: The Burnside, Jerome, Tremont Avenues. First, on Tremont Avenue, cars have always been parked on the right-hand side of Webster Avenue; the auto place across the street is taking up all the parking spots. The auto shop is fixing them; therefore, these abandoned vehicles parked. At the same time, the schools do not have any parking spots for the teachers to park because it filled with no plates, and no registered cars have taken the space. It needed to be addressed for many years, but it has been followed. Many of these cars crashed up; they are beaten up and have no license plate. Throughout my investigation in the last few years, I have been told that the meter person who goes around and collects and gives parking tickets they're in or paid him off does not provide them with violations. This is something that I think it should investigate going forward, but it hasn't. I believe that it's making the way we live unlivable because we don't have decent areas for cars to park or teachers to park their vehicles there. And it just looks unsanitary. On East 182 Street to Jerome, Tremont, and Webster Avenues. They also started from PS 85 on Webster Avenue by the firehouse and down to East 182 street before the bus stop. Some abandoned cars are also parked. Abandoned vehicles are made up of cars with no license plates. It was further down from what he does second on, but now they're going back up further up towards Fordham Road. So it's making the community look not pleasant.
- **Sallie Smith:**
- Reports: What are the things I did my walking to the parks today? I walk through Echo Park. And one of the things that were discussed in the park meeting last night and said about convenience

for the senior's the steps that they talked about. I walked around Tremont Avenue, where you come up the ramp to the park. We got someone who has placed a chair in the middle of the landing where you walk over to the new side. There weren't children on the basketball court but, I stayed at the park. There should not be only a basketball court for black and brown children need to have programs besides a ball as opposed to basketball court, but I do not think that is the only thing that children should be able to have in the park. And there should be something that the city would take advantage of. I'm going to be a little bit longer. There had a station in there years ago and we had good programs there. The park on West 183rd Street and Valentine Avenue and on the concourse needs sprucing up. Notice that on the Grand Concourse, next to love God love gospel there used to be a booster of trees, but there has been some activity there. There should be a notice that the community knows what's coming in our neighborhood. Thank you very much.

- **Elected Officials:**

- **Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President**
- **Director of Community Boards Tom Lucania**

Reports: First, I want to thank you once this evening on this virtual call. It has been a few years of working on this matter. There is a little light at the end of the tunnel. Some people may not want to see the light, but there is some light at the end of the tunnel where we will be joined together in person. I know Ken and Dr. Bola have spoken at previous meetings with me about what the future is for conferences. We recently received a memo from the law department, which we are presently reviewing and will provide the board with the bullet points. It says that **after June 9**, you have a couple of options. One option is to go back to the way you were before COVID, have your meetings in person, and do exactly what you've done in the past. The other option is to create a virtual hybrid meeting. Still have to maintain a presence in a public location and acquire some of your members. Then, once the Quorum of the members is established, members who have extraordinary circumstances, and that's a term that will have to be defined, could participate at home virtually. However, those circumstances will be laid out so that people can vote from home, but they still would not be counted towards the Quorum. A quorum at the public location still must be met before the meetings are held. You must provide the public with the ability to participate virtually in the conference. So that's the cliff notes of it. But we will be providing the board with some more direct information and moving forward as to how your board makes that decision. And then we'll work with you once you've made that decision. Monday, I emailed out the president's latest newsletter, which includes press releases over the last week and events occurring, and I know that some events regarding Bronx week are on that in that newsletter; the Bronx leak is back at its full force. Keep your eye on the emails while I love the Bronx website for all of you. On May 6 and running through May 5, I think adoptable mentioned the sexual harassment training. You should have all received the diecasts link in your emails. If you did not, please let Ken know, or Lashawnda knows, so that I can have that link from the Department of citywide administrative services. Dr. Bola said it is a requirement by law that community board members take this sexual harassment prevention training each year. With that, I thank you for your time, and if you have any questions, Dr. Bola, I'll try to answer them for you.

- **Honorable Council Member Althea Stevens Office District #16**
- **Liaison Michael Lopez**

Reports: I'm Michael Lopez. I'm the community organizer for the customer, CM Althea Stevens District 16. We currently don't have any announcements, but our advisory boards are open. I left my contact information in the chat. We have a Health and Wellness Advisory Board for senior multicultural housing and youth. I'm in charge of the advisory board for housing, so you guys can contact me for anything. And our office is open. Thank you, and enjoy the rest of your day.

- **Honorable Pierina Sanchez, Council Member District #14**

Reports: Dr. Bola, and Good Evening, everyone. This is Councilmember Sanchez representing the 14th Council District. First and foremost, we want to remind everyone that we are open for business. Our office is at 2065 Morris Avenue, right at the corner of East Burnside Avenue, in the heart of CB five. To share three updates today, just so you all know what's going on the city council, as I'm your representative. On the legislative front, the mayor just yesterday announced the executive budget. The mayor puts out his budget at the beginning of the year, and then the council responds to the preliminary budget. The mayor comes back with an executive budget, and then we negotiate the final budget. The last night's budget was \$99 billion, which contains some cost savings. The mayor focused on cost savings. It focused on making sure we are building the rainy-day fund and reducing expenditures in general. They were able to propose some savings and then use those savings to fund things like expanding the Summer Youth Employment Program. With summer programming, things like summer rising will provide over 100,000 young people aged K to 12. I think that's very important for our community. We have many youths who are out of school and out of work. Those are the most at risk, and we have to keep our eyes on them and keep them from going astray. This is a great summer youth employment program that will give them the funding they're going to have paid jobs, and so the deadline for that is next week, May 6, and for summarizing programming again for K through eight. The applications are now open, and I want to ensure everyone knows to please because the earlier you apply for the kids, the more likely you are to get a site close to you. There were a lot of other great things in there. Interventions for street safety, funding for Cure Violence, and many things there. I'm the Chair of the Committee on Housing and buildings in the New York City Council; I'm going to focus on how the mayor did commit a \$5 billion commitment to build and preserve affordable housing throughout the city of New York over ten years. That's about \$500 million a year. Now what we've been asking on the advocacy side and the council side, as a lot more than that, we have a crisis, and we must build much, much more \$500 million isn't good is far enough. Especially when you consider that that is both for NYCHA, which we have for everyone else's new construction and preservation in New York. Over ten years, the mayor's plan has been 5 billion, and we've been asking for 4 billion things. We will continue to fight for many things that help us keep our housing stock safe. To start with that legislative update. I introduced a piece of legislation

inspired by the tragedy right that happened at Twin parks Northwest this year, having insufficient heat and then a space heater causing such a tragedy. The bill that I introduced will be doubling fines, in some cases quadrupling fines for landlords who, even after they get that first or even second violation from HPD, the kind of HPD goes and inspects and find a violation. Even after that second violation, if you continue to get violations, we will double your fines. It works on the violation; \$200 reinspection, repeat violation, it will go up to 500 and in some cases up to \$1,000. We're trying to single out the bad actors. If you're a good landlord and do your thing or even try to do the right thing, this bill is not about you. This bill is about folks that ignore it on a repeated basis. The tenants and the cries for help when they're not maintaining their buildings will be hot water, mold, and lead remediation. This is a critical piece of legislation. One of many things that we're going to be doing to tighten up on that landlord's right is to put the microscope on the bad folks who are not doing what we need them to be doing. Those were my legislative updates. I want to invite you to a couple of things in the district. I am very excited to invite you to my 100 Day predecessor, the mayor had his 100 Day announcement yesterday in Brooklyn, and it was very far. If you follow me on social media, you know that I took the train there, and it took forever. The 100 Day celebration will be right here on Morris Avenue at the beam Morris Garden: it's Miss Carol Cuthbertson. She runs the garden; we're going to be. I'm super excited because we will be making a special announcement. I brought our community into the participatory budgeting process for the last two or three board meetings I shared with you all. Participatory budgeting allows the community to decide how government money is used. I remove myself from the equation, and I say community; what do you want to do with a million dollars in the community? And I'm so proud that we had 800 People 100 votes come in the participatory budgeting process, which was everywhere from age six. This one six-year-old I was supposed to be 11 years old, but she was very, very excited to be six years old, and she wanted to vote. She knew some of the projects on the board and to 80 years old, right? We had folks from all over the community who participated. We helped us to read to allocate a million dollars, so we will be announcing the winners during our celebration and will have coffee and refreshments. But most of all, just excited to share in the community the more spin garden is a beautiful space. It's right here in the heart of this reporting and community board. We're also going to be having a book fair next Friday for children, especially children with autism; it will be on May 6. Please apply for the Summer Youth Employment Program to submit their applications early. We want our youth engaged, especially those teenagers who want to get paid for the experiences that they're getting, and I'll put more information in the chat about all these things. But that is it. Policies are a little wordy, but always good to see you all; I'll be on, and Sharon is also on from our team, listening to the board meeting. Kingsbridge Armory, we haven't met since the litigation ended. As of April 13, that was the day where you can say that the litigation ended because the Kinect, the developer that had the rights to develop the National Ice Center in the summer of 2023. They essentially dropped their suit, saying that they would not be pursuing the lawsuit. That they had started on December 28. On that day, now what is happening is that we're sort of at stage zero for the armory. That's the Kingsbridge armory, Kingsbridge, and reservoir. The beautiful structure has

attempted revitalization maybe three or four times over the past 26 years since I was this little walking by the armory. We're going to do it this time. We're having preliminary conversations with stakeholders; Congressman Espaillat was able to gather a Small Business Roundtable last week, which was great. The BJT that attended the Burnside Jerome Tremont association Representative was present. Thank you so much, Angel. The Northwest Bronx Community clergy coalition grassroots organizations have also done outreach work. They put together a zoom, Bronx Community, and many folks were on that call. The city gets ready to develop into a private entity, or anyone is not the city; there must be a unit process. And in this case, there's also going to have to be aboard. The formal community advisory group will do a lot of more formal outreach and things like that over a time-limited period. Then EDC, which holds the property, will be launching an RFP. The RFP will say hey, world; there's an armory here. That RFP process will tell us who might have the funding necessary, the money, and only the vision matches what the team wants to see. So that's going to be the second step in the process is that RFP, and then after the RFP comes to a third piece, which is the land use process. Once we know that holding an entity accountable, it could be the nonprofits of private developers. My interest is to make sure that the community's voices are heard and reflected in the RFP. So that team and EDC are together, they're going to take the project through the land use process to ensure that all of the zoning designations needed are in effect. And after the zoning process, we get to stage four which is shovel on the ground, right. We should be visited by the mayor very shortly and the deputy mayor and EDC president to tour the armory. I'll reach out to CB's five leadership and the BJT and other stakeholders so you can accompany us. The Hunts Point market is in the South Bronx, but it's an economic engine for the Bronx. The same way that Kingsbridge armory can be an economic driver for the Bronx.

- **Honorable Yudelka Tapia, Assembly Member District #86**
- **Representative is Leon Tulton the Community**
Liaison/Tultonl@nyassembly.gov/718-933-6909/2175 Jerome
Avenue, Suite C, Bronx NY 10453

Reports: Good evening, everyone. My name is Leon Tulton, the community liaison for Assembly member Yudelka Tapia. I would like to make two announcements going to be occurring this Thursday. In partnership with other elected officials, Assembly member will be posting a rally at the Bronx Borough Hall or the steps at the Bronx Borough Hall. So that will be this Thursday, **April 28, at 5 pm**. The purpose of the rally is to demand the passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York. For those who might be interested in the Assembly Bill number is 6678. And the Senate Bill number is 1046. The purpose of this bill, if it's passed into law, is to add language in the election law that would include such things as helping language minority groups and protecting eligible voters against intimidation and deceptive practices. We need everyone to come out to lead their voices to push for the passage of this important. It will be on the steps of the

Bronx Borough Hall building, located on the corner of Third Avenue and East Tremont. I posted the information in the chat for those joining by video, but I'll post it once again; there's a link to RSVP, but you can still come regardless. The second information and this I can show a picture quick, but I'll just quickly read it. There's going to be a community conversation that the Assembly member is co-sponsoring is going to be on Thursday at 5 pm. It will be at MS 390, located at 9030 Andrews Avenue South, and for more information, please call 718 583 5501. The community board I sent the two pieces of information to the community board, so I can often want to thank you for sharing the information on the community boards, webpage, and social media. So that's another place where you can look for the question again, our posting information one more time in the chat, and my contact information. Thank you very much and have a good night.

- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**
- **Deputy Chief of Staff Stephanie Portillo**
- **Constituent Liaison Sharon Williams,**
- **718 538 2000, williams2@nyassembly.gov**

Reports: Good evening, everyone. How's everyone doing tonight? My name is Stephanie, Deputy Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner. I do have a few updates for everyone. Tomorrow the assemblywoman is hosting a minimum wage rally at City Hall Park at 11 am. To fight to introduce her bill number 875 038, which increases the minimum wage annually by a percentage based on inflation. And she will have the rally joined by other assembly members and Senator Ramos, which is tomorrow at 11. We are also in May hosting a couple of events. Our first event will be a food giveaway to help celebrate Ramadan at the end of Ramadan **on May 6** at the Bronx cultural Islamic center on 166 Street. We're partnering with part of the solution **at 2 pm on May 6** to do a food giveaway. The Assembly member is hosting monthly citizenship clinics at our district office through July. A national organization that helps people apply for fee waivers and speaks to actual lawyers if you're going through the citizenship process they will be in our district office **on May 13 and 14th from 10 to 6 pm**. The Assembly member is also hosting a shred event **on May 27** at Joyce Kilmer Park in partnership with the sanitation department at 1 pm. And on May 28. The assembly member is hosting a Mother's Day event at both sides lounge in High Bridge, and more details on Mother's Day are to come. That's pretty much it. Our office is open for walk-ins from 10 to six Monday through Friday, and I've left information in the chat for everyone. Good evening, everyone, and enjoy the rest of the night.

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

- **Director Of Community Affairs Francisco Aquino Ramirez**
 - **By appointment only: 2432 Grand Concourse, 5th Floor Suite 506**
 - **718-933-2034 / Aquino@nysenate.gov**
 - Reports: Hi, how's everyone doing? I hope you're all having a good evening so far. I do have a couple of updates that I'd like to share with you all. So in regard to the budget, I want to put out there 30 million for gun violence prevention intervention programs and 350 million for the New York City Housing Authority. Most importantly, 800 million for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and 250 million for the COVID era utility arrears are essential. We've known that the rep has been funding for months now. This is excellent news. Another update that I'd like to share is that Senator Rivera fought for the extension of Medicaid coverage and eligibility for new mothers for an entire year after giving birth, including undocumented immigrants. It's providing care beyond the fourth trimester. If you have any other questions regarding the budget, I'll be more than happy to assist, and I'll leave my contact information in the chat. We do continue to assist with and provide at-home testing Covid kits. We are happy to have been able to partner with the Child Development Support Corporation. Please feel free to contact me. Like I stated, my information is in the chat. Our office continues to assist with ERAP applications.
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- **Honorable State Senator Jose Marco Serrano, District #29**
 - **Liaison Terrell Brook: tbrock@nysenate.gov**
 - Reports: On March 11, it was discussed the importance of our parks to get \$4 billion. New York State's budget and the academic parks and green spaces have become more critical than ever because they have provided New Yorkers with safe and enjoyable outside areas in which you gather. The senator had two bills pass the New York State Senate in March. The first bill, 5006, is a bill that will permit farmers' markets and state and local products. This is an essential piece of legislation because it will help increase access to fresh, healthy, locally sourced produce, and of course, the state the second bill 301 is a bill to create a state passport program. This program will help you connect more to our state parks. Explore new parks in New York State and recently decided to also part paths to the Senate as 1421, which prohibits the lease of St. Louis so St. Boris, wildlife management areas and unique areas for gas production and s 135. This relates to aliens reporting in municipal parkland and 5025, which creates a state task force to promote outdoor learning and recreation opportunities and give PPE, such as test kits and masks, if anyone needs that or any general assistance. You can reach out to us at 212-828-5329.
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- **Honorable Congressman Ritchie Torres**
 - **Congressional District #15**
 - **Representative is Joseph McManus**
 - **Contact: 718-842-8100, Tuesday -Friday (10am-3pm) by appointments.**

- Reports: A little shout out to Ken, He did a great job at the 46 precinct Community Council explaining what issues the community has. Sometimes the members, staff people are working from home. Sometimes they could be out at an event, and sometimes they're in DC instead of here, so it's helpful if you call and make an appointment. Many people have heard about the ghost guns, and anything that the President proposes is good. In conjunction with our President, Congress proposed legislation on these guns; one was to make sure there were background checks. This is important: legislation to remove a civil shield to allow victims and families to sue the manufacturer when they are injured. The Congressman also had a press conference to try and institute the child tax credit. It was only for one year, and in doing so, we brought about 40% to 46% of American children out of poverty. The Congressman he's the vice-chair of the Homeland Security Committee. He had this meeting in the Bronx to talk about issues of concern; he always likes to bring people to the source. And number one, he was in the council. He had NYCHA testify before the actual commissioners, which was very good. The day we had a press conference to reiterate the solution, the possibility of million dollars was allocated to a study. We're working on that. And everybody is familiar with the shootings in the subway in Brooklyn. Congressman Torres sent a bipartisan letter to the MTA asking about what is happening with the security cameras. The MTA said that three cameras were not working and that so many people don't know that the Homeland Security Committee has oversight. They gave the federal government some money for cameras, they want to know what is and what's not working. What is the downtime and is there a program to fix any camera that gets broken?

- **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney**
- **Representative is Eric Sawyers**
- **Contact: 718-561-9253, sawyerse@bronxda.nyc.gov**

Reports: How's everybody doing tonight? One quick thing to announce. A quick reminder, the Office's annual Bronx child event is **on Saturday, April 30**. PS5, 564 Jackson Avenue Bronx, from 11 am to 3 pm. For children the age of three to 13. There'll be learning about Internet safety, body safety, bullying, prevention, and many other things. NYPD will be there, FDNY will be there, and many other things. If you guys want to come out, it'll be Saturday this Saturday, from 11 am to 3 pm. I'll put the rest of the details in the chat. I had sent out the flyer previously, but I can send it again if needed.

- **Committee Reports.**

- **Economic Development Committee:** Chairman Angel Caballero
- Reports: Good evening, everyone. Good evening, everyone. Our economic development, we had combined our meeting. We had it yesterday, the fourth Tuesday of every month. We invite all

board members who at least tried to come to one of our meetings; we are very excited about the economic development because there are things that will happen this summer that we're hoping to beautify our community around the Devaney Triangle. I have requested the Commissioner of Parks to allow us to plant in the park and brighten it up. We were able to get some donations for some nursery items like bushes and rose bushes that the park needs to brighten up that area there. We're going to be planting there with our kids. In an after-school program that we have here at Davidson Center in the summer, we will be painting that park and beautifying it in our community. That's one of the things that we want to do to continue cleaning out Burnside Avenue; we have an HRA program with which the Community Council participates. We have 10 to 15 participants in that program until the end of May. And we're able to get Burnside Avenue clean every morning and try to keep it as neat as possible because it's a vibrant community, and we want to build it up. The BJT Bronx Merchants Association works diligently on the BID formation process. We are expanding our map. It's not only going to be the BJTs area; we're going to extend it to 184 street towards the concourse. We're still working on that. Hopefully, by the end of May, we will have a good product that we can present to the board to let the board know where we're going to be. We will also be applying for the trees that State Senator Gustavo has requested for us to be a part of. We tried to get diversity in every prepaid that I can try to see in the community five to get some trees up there. I think it's good, and if community residents. If there's a pit missing a tree; please call Ken, relate the message to me, and see if I can push it. Have a good evening, everyone.

- **Parks & Recreation Committee: Chairperson Griset Medina**
- Reports: These parks need trees, bushes, or a lot of construction work. I'm going to send the information to Ken tomorrow from the community. I drove around right after the Parks committee meeting yesterday. I will let him know about the repairs and the trees, and like University Avenue, many trees need to be planted because of empty tree pits. The community is also asking why we don't have tables and benches like we used to have back in the days on the island. And a lot of parks have a lot of repairs to be done. Thank you.
- **Housing Committee: Report by Ken Brown (by request)**
Report: On the shelter that's coming in at Mt Hope Place; for those who may not recall, it was initially scheduled to go to Mount Hope. There was a problem with the operator. There's a new operator assigned, and they should be opening. I believe they said they should be getting clients starting in the shelter is 50 plus there was also a presentation for potential development on 2322 Valentine Avenue. This is a six-story development, approximately \$3 million. There'll be a total of 14 apartments.

I remember its seven studios. And then there's a one-bedroom. They are requesting a letter of support. And if everyone agrees that should be an agenda item that we discussed at the Executive to potentially put them on for a letter of support for the May General Board Meeting. HPD also requested a letter of support hearing for the transfer of public parcel at the 2017 Grand Concourse. Currently, public land is to be transferred to private to be developed for

affordable housing. Offering our meeting in May, they also request that an agenda item be discussed at the executive to put on the agenda in May potentially.

- **Health and Human Services:** Chair Annette DeJesus, Co-Chair Charles Shorter
 Reports: Good evening, everyone. Good evening and God bless every one of us. Glad to be here. We had our meeting, I believe, April the first Wednesday of April. I invite you all to join us. I'm working hard to make sure that I bring a lot of information and many updates and a lot of you know good stuff to the Human Services Committee. We spoke about many things. We talked about track and trace, the good and bad things about test and trace, and how that works. And we spoke about the long-term of COVID and what are the signs and a lot of things that I feel we should all know about. In the second place I gave in the minutes, everything is there. We also spoke about the BA variant. We must be a little careful and make sure that we are mindful of what we're doing. I spoke about what I'm thinking of bringing in the next; I believe the night meetings or four depending on whether I can do them two by two. I'm bringing a series of end of life and I started getting very involved in trying to educate myself, and there's a lot of things we don't know about. We don't know if we're making the right choice for our loved ones or ourselves. I went through this on a personal side. I think some of us have gone through it, and some of you have not. You go with what was going on or what you think may be right. I invite all the board members to please join me at the next meeting and bring a friend or community board member coming from the community because I'm going to try to give it as informative as possible. And I want to make sure that we all get educated or a little bit of knowledge of end-of-life situations that we encounter and sometimes don't know how to deal with them. I gave in the notes the minutes we spoke about some of the signs. A lot of people are still getting COVID, and everyone is different. I advise everybody to check themselves. Make sure you continue limiting yourself. The Health Department came in and he gave his updates. I am super excited that you're a part of my health and human services. I invite everyone to please join me in May to bring a friend. That's it for Health and Human Services.
- **Ad Hoc Community Outreach Committee:** Chairman Charles Shorter
- Reports: Good Evening all, this is the Ad Hoc Community engagement and outreach committee report. There were many updates from the committee today and excellent information that should be in the news-flash. I've been asking for you guys for blurbs. This news flashes out to the community. I cannot send out the news flash if I don't have blurbs about who presented at your committee meetings. I've only received two blurbs from committees. Not to spank or anything, but we had this tool that we said we wanted to have with the community, and if it's viable, I need the information to get the information out to the committee. I'm also the co-chair of Health and Human Services, and I'll be working closely with that. And our next meeting will be next Wednesday. Please send a blurb that can be short. Let's get one out and see if this is valuable for the community. I appreciate it. Thank you.

- **Veterans Committee:** Chairperson Roxanne Gonzalez
- **Reports:** Good evening, this is Roxanna, the Veterans Affairs Committee Chair, and my co-chair Juan Parra. Good evening. It is a pleasure to be on. We had a meeting on April 12. And my co-chair and I brought to the table, as always, resources and benefit updates. We also had a guest speaker Mr. Mohammed from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He gave us a quick update on what services his location provided. And I believe he also had some resources for the community. I'm not sure if he was able to send it to Ken in our district. One of the essential things he mentioned is that suicide prevention is an ongoing event that we should not oversee and continue to monitor those around us, especially veterans who are among us. We need to make sure that our friends and families are connected with those services, especially at the VA hospital. We are now speaking about the VA, and there's a proposal about some closures. The NYC Manhattan, VA hospital is in Brooklyn, and some centers are opening centers; a whole conversation is being made. There are organizations that are hosting different events that are going to be happening. They provide community support and the veterans will join in and voice their opinions since that's where most veterans will and have been taking care of their health concerns upon returning from any conflicts or at war. We need to keep vigilant on that and state our support. There are a couple of events coming up in May. It may be something we always celebrate because of the COVID and everything else that has been happening. One of the things that you know is there's flagging of the gravesite at Woodland cemetery. I provide that information, and I'm unsure if you have it. I'll make sure you get it so we can put it, and just in case anyone is interested, they could contact the PLC, and you know, arrange the time and volunteer to place those flags on those operator's sites. We also had the appropriate museum that's happening is up and functioning. This is new information that just came up. And as always, you know there's information that was not discussed because we didn't have it. We aren't tonight, and it's 50% off to any NYC resident. You could enter the ship with proof of residency, which is a great deal. One of the most significant events we usually have here is our 34th annual Fleet Week. 2022 and this will be happening between the 25th and the 31st of May. All this is new information that I'm giving. You know, tell a friend, tell him, you know, bring in a veteran. Share that information. I would like to extend an invitation to our next meeting **on May 10 at 6 pm**. We could have received more information and benefits and brought it back to join us; please know what C B five is doing—carrying on the news. Our community, please let them know that this is what we do, and we need to get the word out. Thank you for your time.
- **Cultural Affairs:** Chairperson Patricia Rojas
- **Reports:** Good Evening everyone. We again invited Mr. Glover from the Bronx Council of art to give us a presentation. We got a lot more information about grants available to communities when doing block parties. If you want to hire an artist to do an artist activity at your party, you could get a grant of \$750 to pay them. He also spoke about a lot of workshops that they're going to be having for artists in the Bronx, so please visit their website [Bronx arts.org](http://Bronxarts.org) which I think is you will find a lot of information if you are an artist in the Bronx or know of an artist in the Bronx. There are a lot of opportunities to get a grant to help artists. Also, there is an opening at

the lobby of the Longwood gallery, which is very exciting to be able to go and mingle with your fellow people and see some fantastic art. They also talked about several ways that people can serve for the Bronx Council, and one of them is to be a judge for their award. And then other ones are for applying for these grants. The grants are significant, especially when artists don't get paid very well. To have an opportunity to get funding to do what they want to do. I also have urged everyone to go and sign up for their newsletter so you can get information on what's happening in the Bronx and get information on the events they're holding. They're holding this for this summer, a series of workshops to help artists promote their work and to be able to have an excellent website that showcases the kind of work that they're doing. There are several opportunities that may be coming up. Thank you

- ***Adjourned at 8:20 pm.***

The next General Board Meeting will be held on May 25, 2022

***Prepared and submitted by Ms. P. Stewart
Secretary of Bronx Community Board Five***