



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 23, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Community Board Five

- **Community Board Five Board Members**
- **Attendees:** E.Acosta, B.Akumah, A.Caballero, J.Curiel, L.Deng, N.Graham.Jr., R.Gonzalez-Jimenez, B.Lawrence, G.Medina, Dr.B.Omotosho, J.Parra, R.Perez, F.Ramos,P.Rojas, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, S.Solano, C.Westbrook, and P.Stewart.
- **Absent/Excused**
- S.Bah, P.Blanco, C.Camera, A.DeJesus, P.Dominguez, M. Heath, A.Hernandez, T. Mims, E. Morris, B.Moore, R.Owusu, J.Pope, L. Reyes and M. Rosado
- **Welcome:**
 - Opening Prayer by Nero Graham, Jr. (Board Member)
- **Quorum: 7:03 pm**
- **Approval of Minutes:** None
- **District Managers by Ken Brown Report:**

Reports: Good evening, everyone. Councilmember, a pleasure. A couple of notes from this month's activities. You all have the district manager's report in the packet sent out. A handful of meetings between the Burnside, Jerome, and Tremont merchant Association and the Department of Transportation talk about the potential qualification of the district. We have an ongoing conversation, so I'm sure the chair of economics and BJT can speak at a greater length about it. There have been several meetings concerning the potential to form a coalition around food insecurity in the Bronx. This was headed up primarily by an organization called Bronx Impact

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that they have a database of social services and institutions in the Bronx. And they're heading up the initiative to find a coalition specifically addressing food insecurity concerns in the borough. There's been some legislative advocacy done, and there was at least a tentative commitment by the White House to have a Food Summit sponsored by the White House next year. But right now, we're in the process of forming or scoping out the need for an independent Coalition for the Bronx around food insecurity. This is still a question of information because there are already several coalitions or groupings that deal with issues related to social service delivery and the needs of people. Some meetings will be scheduled with the Bronx foundation to discuss their opinion of the Center for nonprofits. Whether there should be an independent coalition and then ending those conversations will proceed either as an independent coalition or have a more robust engagement with the existing partnership throughout the borough.

One of the working groups that are most vital is the Ad Hoc banking group. This working group was a group that was, to a large extent initiated, given vitality, by our now Councilmember Sanchez. If you may recall, this kind came about due to the closing of Amalgamated Bank. We continue to be engaged with what's left of Amalgamated Bank to talk about bringing loan programs through existing financial institutions in the borough for small businesses. The JARC wrote a letter to the regulated bank, the Federal banking regulators when it announced that it intended to merge with another Bank of Chicago called Amalgamated. We sent a letter with our concerns to the federal regulators. And I'm not saying we're taking credit, but Amalgamated Bank had withdrew their request for the merger for what they said is nonfinancial reasons. So maybe that'll give us some leverage and try to get resources debated in the community. We're now for the coming year, talking about the other issues related to having access to financial services that we can identify.

Voting Item: Henwood Place Step Street Reconstruction by Keith Kalb, Interim Bronx Borough Commissioner for the Department of Transportation.

Reports: Good to see everybody tonight. Thank you for having us. On March 8, we presented to the municipal service committee. We have a Henwood Place steps reconstruction project for the district. We wanted to get a vote from the board on the project's conceptual design. We are joined by Teresa Cruz, our Senior planner Holly Malone, a GreenWave coordinator, Janine Aznar, our Associate Project Manager for our capital project and engineering division. Hayden Benjamin is the assistant director of capital project engineering and Department of Transportation. My colleagues in the Department of Design and Construction are also here. Henwood places a critical mode of transportation for many residents in your district. It does run between Morris Avenue and in the Grand Concourse. We are asking for a letter of support is needed to move the capital project to the final design to move forward from this stage. We want to rebuild the step street, so there's a lot of stuff here that shows you its conditions, which we all know are terrible. The trees in the suitable areas are not substandard drainage is substandard. New walkways, lighting systems, beautiful plants, and planted areas have a time limit. On the north side, a ramp travel north. In the east, on the north side of the step the Bronx, we have lots of these step's streets that are critical pathways for folks that you can get an

idea of people walking on the ramp to get from A to B on either side of the Henwood place. This is looking east from Walton from its bottom and looking towards the conquest side. You would see this as a step on the right-hand side as you look east and the ramp to the left. We have some benches at the bottom and some benches. Folks wanted to take a break from walking the stair or walking the ramp, and I think this is the best view of the project of what we're planning to do. The ramp from up and down with some planted tree beds at various paths provides some shade and added new lighting. A bike channel will make it easier for folks who are traversing on a bicycle to walk their bike up and down and not have to bounce it down or up the stairs. We haven't gotten to the final design yet. We're here seeking a letter of support for this conceptual design. We can move to the next stage of finalizing the structure design, but we have this in mind. The municipal service committee gave us some vital feedback on the plan's next step, which is the intersection of Mars and the Concourse. You can see we're doing a bit of a redesign here as part of that part of this project; as well as you can see that we have a piece of art that we're going to plan to install. **Janine:** The Percent for Art is not part of this project. It's out of another project. It just needs we it's just included to show that we will integrate the design of this project to match that present for the art presentation. **Keith:** These are some of the amenities that we will include in the project, which is the Flushing Meadow luminaire and pole the streetlight their city by the city bike racks on both sides so that, you know, bicyclists can take full advantage and then the modern city benches, and I guess this is a solid granite stair tread which is crucial for you know, in case it's wet, or there's inclement weather. The other item I want to point out is that the veneering coping there will be a stone like you see here on the bottom of your screen and we anticipate the structure to be made out of concrete these are the these are the landscape design I am not even going to pretend that I know what all these are but they assure me that they're beautiful and that they will look fantastic once complete And will these are low lying, the ones to the right of the shrubs and the ground cover and then the trees on the left will be as we as I showed her You can see here the shrubs would be here and the trees would you know be an even level around them to fill in the space. So the rest of this is like stuff related to maintenance and the millions of protection of traffic This project is a little ways of This is a construction we're going to have to remove a couple of parking spots during construction that is standard for because of the narrowness because the space of the step Street is so close to the buildings we're going to need some space to mobilize and to do the reconstruction This is the crucial par The estimated cost is 9.5 million The rejected design completion is in the first quarter of 2 projected the start of construction is the fourth current quarter of 2 And the duration is 24 months and completion is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 202 That is my Reader's Digest version of the project That we presented already to the municipal service committed And we are looking like I said, for a vote or letter sorry, a letter of support for this for this conceptual design For the step Street. **Nero Graham Jr.:** To give us a synopsis of the presentation that was made to the committee, what were your recommendations for board members and visitors? We did have a meeting we met on March 8, and we received an overview of the project and quite a few board members present in puzzles. We understood it well, and it will be very successful for the community with the design. The board and I were to submit it to the executive committee to put at the internal board meeting, and from our point of view, we asked that it move forward for a vote from the General board. I am. Yes, I fully support

it. **Cheryl Westbrook:** How are you? I have two questions that came out in the community. One came out from residents. Way number one is the alternative means of transportation because those steps are in decrepit condition. It is a major transportation route between Marvis Avenue and Grand Concourse. Those steps, so what is going to be used to replace that? **Keith:** during construction, unfortunately, we're going to have to close it okay because this structure has to come out and all the infrastructure has to be replaced, and then we would rebuild it back brand new and ADA compliant. Yes, it will be a hardship on the community for that 24 month. **Cheryl:** So that means they'd have to go to 175 Street to walk up the hill to the Concourse. That was a concern. The other matter was that those steps were infested with rats. Once construction begins, you know those drainage holes that are there that are one eats the right and left sides of the stage. Currently, yes. **Keith:** I'm looking for the route for the had a way or a path for like the detour. I skipped over it because I forgot I missed this route change in my presentation. We'll have to come around. We understand that there's a hardship, but in 24 months, you will have a brand new, beautiful, compliant step straight. Yes. **Cheryl:** Understood, the other concern they had was that once construction starts once the construction begins, though, those rats are going to run, and those they're concerned that the rats are going to run into the ability, and this came from the residence of 112 that is right in front of where you're taking parking spots right yeah. **Keith:** I will be returning to the board when we do construction. We are a little bit ahead of ourselves on the structure. I know that during construction, DDC has a pest control mitigation that they will be required to do during the building to ensure no pests, rodents, you know, they should be controlling the road and population is vital what I'm telling. Once we get a letter of support for this conceptual design, that will. It will move on to the final design. We'll have the staging and the details about how the construction will roll out, who the contractor will be, and who the liaison is. And this is more specific about any impacts that this will have on the surrounding community. **Cheryl:** The last concern had with these benches at the base of the steps they were concerned that transients would use it to know how the homeless would use it because the homeless were sleeping on the benches at the top of the steps. Hence, their concern was homeless were now going to be. We'd been based efforts on the other matter they had with teenagers or young people in the summertime, Hanging out at those windows on those benches. You know, socializing and making noise is a problem that has been ongoing and would place. **Keith:** I will note those concerns. The benches and the bike rack their amenities that we can add. We can maybe look at instead of benches, maybe put in more bike racks. Those things are negotiable. I want to rest so, but we can certainly, you know, talk further about once we get further along, okay. **Ernesto:** This is Ernest Acosta, the board member. I live two buildings away from those stairs, and the one thing that I've noticed is that the lighting is horrible. In the nighttime, you wouldn't want to walk down. It's scary. The show touched derived thing about the benches that many homeless people were using the full-length benches when where they can stretch out but noticed at the bottom of the stairs where you have these the benches they sectioned off, and I think that might prevent them from laying out. As far as them sleeping there, the top part of the stairs is an ample open space that you eliminated in your design. It looks like the ramp like how you made the DA compliant when it reached the top where Morris's looks. Maybe I'm just seeing it from a different perspective, but there isn't the same amount of space as on the top right there. They are keeping this place

clean because of people throw things out. We had a little community movement and cleaned it up ourselves. Saturday morning, we had garbage bags. Then in about a month, it was just recorded the same, you know, condition as well. It got to be garbage pails put in there, you know. **Keith:** We're a little early to figure out whether there will be garbage pails here. There's not going to be enough space for a bucket. It would be impossible for us to get clean because you can't get a truck close enough to either side and dump. We can work with sanitation about possibly putting tails.

Nero Graham Jr. made a motion on Henwood Place Step reconstruction to give a letter of support for this project. Medina Griset seconded the motion. 19 Yes/0 Ab/ 0 No. The motion is passed.

Public Session

- **DYCD/Summer Youth and Neighborhood Advisory Board:**
- Reports: This is Lisa T Hayes, Neighborhood Advisory Board Liaison and Candice Julian is my Director; you can contact the DYCD Neighborhood Advisory Board Unit at 646 343 6499 or email NAB@dycd.nyc.gov. If you are interested in applying for NAB, please visit www.nyc.gov/dycd.
The DYCD in the neighborhood Advisory Board Liaison Unit is a unit where we help the neighborhood advisory board. The neighborhood advisory boards are 41 different boards representing the Department of Youth and Community Development, a community action network. As a community action network in the department, on behalf of New York State. We help to decide not only the community needs but after receiving the community needs of the people than the community members such as yourselves and others around New York City. Utilize that information to see the needs of the communities. Then there is a very quick RFP that lasts about three years in which the neighborhood community members read it to make sure that the people who are providing the programs and partnerships are what you all need and the community what we all need. And then they're after they continue to meet to have a sense of accountability and check in. This is usually a 220-minute presentation, so I'm giving it in three minutes. I would love for you all to reach out—a piece of information in the chat earlier. I will come back and do so as well, as I did want to highlight that the Summer Youth Employment Program is up and running. An applications are also on the website. You can find more information about that there. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Elected Officials:

- **Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President**

- **Representative Thierno Bah**

Reports: Good evening or good night, everyone. So happy to be here. I have a few reports that I would like to bring to your attention. The ladies and Borough President newsletter were sent out today, which has informed her weekly information on the district on any activities from the BBP. Please review the newsletter for more details. I want to remind you that community board members who are up for reappointment should continue serving until they receive a letter from the Borough President. You have until the end of this month for the new applicants. Also, our new applicants will be notified later in the spring by email. Also, to remind you that her inauguration will be this Sunday, the 27th, doors will open at 2 pm, and the program will start at 3 pm. You can call the number on the flyer to reserve to make a reservation. Be mindful that it will be at Lehman College, and they require you to be vaccinated and show proof of your vaccination upon entry. Thank you.

- **Honorable Council Member Althea Stevens Office District #16**

- **Representative Liaison Tyreke Israel**

- **Report:** Hello and Good Evening. My name is Shelby Ventura, her constituent liaison. The only update that I have today is that her inauguration is this Saturday, March 26. Her doors open at 2 pm. The program starts at 230, and it's going to be a Latino pastoral Action Center at 14 West 178 Street. I've dropped the link in the chat where you guys can RSVP. Suppose anyone would like to contact me regarding this. My email is C. Ventura at Council the nyc.gov. I'll drop it in the chat again so that everyone has it.

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

Reports: Hello Good Evening everyone. I wanted to share an update about the Kingsbridge armory, so many of you may know, the armory has been underutilized for 25 to 30 years. CB five, CB four, CB seven will be in effect all of us is the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. There have been many attempts to revitalize the armory in ways that jobs bring community facility space, and all the rest have been huge visions for what is possible over there. But one after the other attempts have not gone well. One was to have world-class ice skating. An ice-skating rink in the Kingsbridge National Ice Center, and most recently in December, that attempt started to conclude. EDC had sued the Kingsbridge National Ice Center organization to get the site back because the developers never actually finished the financing. And so they're eight years on their way to a broken promise about developing the ice center there. The Ice Center countersued, we're still in legal proceedings. If I were a betting person, and it's a pretty secure bet, we're going to have to redevelop that, and we're going to have to choose how to do it. Even though it falls within community board, seven, I will be looking toward a CD five because this will

be project-wide and city-wide impacts. We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars to redevelop this armory, and whenever you're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in government investments. Those are construction jobs. Those are permanent jobs. I want to make sure that you all are a part of that conversation. It's just wanted to put that on your radar. It's something that I'm focused on making sure that we accomplish, but it's it's still a little bit in a holding pattern. Another update is that the city's budget process is well underway. We've had many preliminary budget hearings; the housing and buildings committee meeting was seven or eight hours long. Many folks from around the city are weighing in on what the administration should be doing this time around. And the biggest takeaway, as Dr. Bolla pointed out during the last month, is that there have been decreases in the housing budget, but there is no housing plan. I will be fighting to make sure that there are investments in affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, you know, and just supporting and stabilizing our neighborhoods. *It's foundational for us.* I have just a couple of Office updates. We're here. We're open for business. Thank you to those who attended our Grand Opening a few weeks ago. We have free immigration legal services on Thursdays, so call in, and we'll put our information in the chat. Call in and make an appointment, and you can see a CUNY attorney here on site; in about a week or two. We will be getting a housing attorney who can also provide legal advice on housing cases and the support that our liaisons offer here. And then on the budget, we're going to be doing participatory budgeting, we'll be announcing soon, which projects made it through sort of vetting process and how the voting will work. And those were my updates. I did get a question over email from Ken about the Loews Paradise Theater. I did want to address that. The question that you can ask me was, can we make sure that that becomes a or remains a cultural facility? We've been looking into it today. I will be welcoming thoughts and whatever you folks all are hearing, but I understand it's private property; of course, it's historical landmarks, so they cannot alter the insides or the outsides, right. It must look the way it looks today. It must remain that way because of the historic landmark designation of the world changers church there. I understand that they might be, they might be considering moving. I'm just going to ask folks to share with me anything that you know so that we can weigh in as a community about what can happen there. It is not a government site. It is not like the Kingsbridge armory, and it is a private site. The tools are different. There's no they don't need my approval. They don't require the council's approval to do what they will do next. We should still be weighing in as a community about what happens there. Thank you, it's perfect to see you all.

- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77**
- **Representative Sharon Williams, Constituent Liaison**

Report: Deputy Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Joyner. Good evening, everyone, and thank you again for having us. The only update I have for the assemblywoman is that we are holding an event via zoom regarding salary negotiations for Women's History Month. We're going to be **on March 31 at 6 pm**. We're going to have some guest speakers talking about salary negotiations specifically for

women of color and how to navigate those waters. Looking forward to April, we will have our senior week from April 11 to the 15th. I will be sending out flyers once finalized. To share with everyone and our office is entirely open for walk-ins, and we're open from 10 to six. Our office location is 910 Grand Concourse suite, any issues you have regarding the district needs help, and our office number is 718-538-2000. And I'll also drop all this information in the chat and the Zoom link if you would like to sign up for the webinar. So thank you again, and have a good night, everyone.

- **Honorable Yudelka Tapia, Assembly Member District #86**
- **Representative is Leon Tulton**
- **Reports:** Hi, my name is Leon Tulton. I'm the Community Liaison for Assembly member Yudelka Tapia. The only thing to report is just a follow-up that our office had an Open House ceremony on February 24th. Those who could attend the open house on behalf of the Assembly member, we just wanted to thank you for attending our open house ceremony. This event was an opportunity for the community to look at our office and see the type of work that we do meet the staff members. The Assembly Member is very committed to making sure that the community knows that we're here to serve them. Besides that, our office hours are Monday, and Wednesday from 11 am to 7 pm, just as a reminder. And Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday office hours are from 9 am to 5 pm. If you need any help with any state-related issues, such as if you have a problem with ERAP or a problem with your unemployment benefits, please give us a call you must make an appointment. The number of our office is 718-933-6909. I'll say again at 718-933-6909. I'll also post the information in the chat. With that, thank you very much, and have a good night.

- **Honorable State Senator Gustavo Rivera District #33**
- **Representative Francisco Aquino Ramirez,**
- **Reports:** Good afternoon everyone. My name is Sadie Meadows. I am the newest member of the community affairs team at the Office of State Senate Rivera. I'll drop in the chat my contact information. I'll go ahead and share some special updates. The senator is in Albany for the first six months of the year for this legislative session. Senator Rivera celebrated the status one-house budget resolution on which the sports team included 1 billion for assistance to financially distressed or safety-net hospitals. In addition, it provides 345 million to expand the essential plan to all insured individuals under 50% of the federal poverty level, regardless of their immigration status, which is excellent. The Senate also looks forward to working with its colleagues to pass critical legislation such as the New York Health Act to include coverage for all in this year's budget and pass three bills on medical debt. I'm happy to pass the two bills in the Senate in January, including Senate Bill 4935, which would provide access to life-saving inhalers as we do with EPI pens to treat severe asthmatic attacks in schools, camps, and public facilities through

non-patient-specific prescriptions, He also shared a couple of events and office updates. The senator was able and happy to celebrate Black History Month on New Year's. We provided goodie bags with your resources, COVID at-home test kits, and numerous pop-up test kits for distribution with other elected. Happy to have visited other locations and distributed kits for independent houses; more houses monthly pay homes. I want to let you all know that we continue to assist with ERAP applications. If one of your constituents received the lessons 15 months ago, they are eligible to apply one more time, even though they still have protections. We were notified that according to eight state OTA determinations as of Monday, November 15. To submit an ERAP application; a decision is no longer required. We continue to assist with SCRIE. We continue to help our constituents in any other matters. Thank you.

- **Honorable State Senator Jose Marco Serrano, District #29**
 - **Representative Terrell Brock,**
 - Reports: Good evening, everybody. My name is Terrell Brock, and I'm the community liaison from State Senator Jose Serrano, who wrote this. On February 27, Serrano's bill section 1426, requiring New York City to collect discarded recyclable materials at city parks, playgrounds, and historical sites, passed the New York State Senate. It involves posting signs on facilities without trash receptacles stating that they must retain trash until you reach a trash can and provides state assistance, which is progress. In February, they partnered with council members Stevens for a test kit and mass distribution in the Bronx. And on March 1, the senator, and his colleagues advanced legislation to stiffen New York's sexual harassment protections in the workplace. That legislation is currently in negotiation, which was still negotiating for the state budget. Senator Serrano is the chair of the Senate Committee on cultural affairs, Tourism, and Parks Recreation, and last month we certainly had the opportunity to participate in joint legislative budget hearings. Feel free to reach out to us in regard to this. It also helped with E rep. Housing unemployment and with general assistance, like reach us at 212-828-5329 or email us at Shawano at NY Senate. I'm calling for Ken to be able to put the information in the chat for me.
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- **Honorable Congressman Ritchie Torres District #15**
 - **Representative is Joseph McManus**
 - Reports: I want to let everybody know the office is still open, but you need to make an appointment. I put the contact information in the chat so you can make a phone call. The Congressman hosted a woman's History Month today at the Botanical Gardens. The main speaker was the governor, and anybody who attended had an opportunity to see the puppet show last week instead of the war between Russia and Ukraine. Since Congressman Torres is on Homeland Security, he sent a letter to the FBI to investigate the Russia compound. I'm not sure if everybody knows, but in the Bronx, in the section of Riverdale 255 Street, there's a 20-story building, and the Russians use it for living quarters. The last three or four presidents have sent quite a few Russians back. One thing they will do another bill, as a member of the finance Financial Services Committee, is to make all American companies disclose their ties to Putin's Russia or any country that has invaded a sovereign nation. There's always the threat that China might invade Taiwan. They wanted to send a clear message that this would not be acceptable. So that's my report.

- **Honorable Brad Lander NYC Comptroller**
- **Bronx borough director Greer Mayhew**
- Reports: My name is Greer Mayhew; I'm the new Bronx borough director for the comptroller. I would like to introduce myself, and I'm going to put my contact information in the chat for anyone who needs me. I will only update what we have earlier this month. The comptroller released a federal spending tracker to emphasize and amplify the controllers' passion for transparency. He released this tracker, which outlines all the federal relief money sent to the city and where it is allocated. If you're interested in looking at that, it's on our website, I can put the website in the chat. Thank you.

- **Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney**
- **Representative is Eric Sawyers**
- **Reports:** I just wanted to announce two things. So the fifth annual Bronx child safety fair is coming up in April. The exact date is Saturday, April 30. At PS five School at 564 Jackson Avenue. The event will be from 11 am to 3 pm for children three to 13. At this event, they will be learning about Internet safety, body safety, bullying, prevention, and other things. And NYPD will be present, and the FDNY will present as well. And obviously, I will be present as well. If that makes it more fun to go to. Also, I wanted to make a quick announcement or ask for volunteers for support or help that it will be taking place next week, Tuesday, March 29. from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. This event will be virtual. It is basically to help prepare the upcoming TAS on how to create a proper jury. If anybody is interested, like I said, it's from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm; it is a virtual event with breaks throughout the day. So if anybody's interested, I will put my info in the chat.

- **Committee Reports.**

- **Economic Development Committee:** Chairman Angel Caballero
- Reports: Good evening, everyone. I'm just going to give you a small synopsis of what transpired during economic development. We are working very hard and diligently, especially on the Jerome train line, Jerome, and Burnside Avenue section of the Bronx. We have a sanitation crew cleaning that area daily, Monday through Friday. Burnside seems to be coming right back up as usual, which is a very vibrant area on Burnside Avenue. We also have many plans, and I plan to do a street festival that I'm planning now and organizing for the local merchants and the community at large. We continue having services with the BJT Bronx merchant Association services and meeting services with the merchants. Local businesses are very excited about the BID formation, which that's where we're at now. We're doing some other virtual meetings with the bid formation and are very excited about Devanny Park. We are cleaning it up and looking forward to working with the new Bronx Commissioner.

- **Health and Human Services:** Chair Annette DeJesus, Co-Chair Charles Shorter
Reports: Good evening, everyone. We were helping Human Services. We had our meeting; I am the Co-chair of Health and Human Services, going back up on COVID numbers, and we'll continue to look at that for the community. And we will continue to look at Health and Human Services initiatives and the Bronx. That's it for Health and Human Services.
- **Ad Hoc Community Outreach Committee:** Chairman Charles Shorter
- Reports: We are looking forward to the Ad Hoc Outreach and Engagement Committee; we are looking forward to getting a newsletter out. It was a draft and not an actual first newsletter, and it's very light. It's in the packet. I again ask each committee to send a quick blurb. Look at your committee's quick blurb of what, who presented who, what, when, where, why, and how. Just send me a short blurb, and I would like to get the newsletter out for the first week of the succeeding month. When you have your committee meetings, please send me a quick blurb of who, what, when, where, why, how, and I will get it out in the newsletter, and we have a commitment from the organization is going to assist us in really making it look a lot nicer, but we want to get that out. Succeeded, and it can send it to can, or I guess it can send it to me. Good, my email it's Charles W shorter at Gmail, and that's all squished up together. I am also on the Bronx SWAB, which looks at environmental justice issues in Bronx waste, and I will be inviting them in the future to a full board meeting. Thank you very much.
- **Veterans Committee:** Chairperson Roxanne Gonzalez
- **Reports:** Good evening, this is Roxanna, the Veterans Affairs Committee Chair and my co-chair one power. On March 8. We held our monthly meeting. And we had project Welcome Home Troops, and she gave us a quick introduction, and I'm hoping to have her again. I believe that she has a breathing technique. To help the veterans on how to deal with stress. I encourage anyone interested. If we are still virtual, she is willing to come on board and teach us those techniques.
We also had the Bronx VA hospital representative with a new initiative for the veterans. I'm very excited, and our co-chair always brings the great benefits that our veterans are entitled to and the recent changes. Now our goal is to maintain a robust meeting still. I encourage each person in this meeting if you have time to join us **on April 12 at 6 pm**, and we are going to have more exciting information. I get excited whenever I could save \$1 when one told us about the Unlimited, removing the cap from those VA loans the veterans could receive. I was excited. Come and join us to hear those new updates we have and share with the veterans' neighbors and bring one long review on the virtual meeting is so it. God bless you all; thank you for your time.
- **Education Committee:** Chairperson Jaqua Curiel
- Reports: Good Evening, Dr. Bola. Good evening to the community board residents, all of our elected officials everybody on the call. I hope everyone is doing well. My committee is that I focus on mental health for everyone in the community. My next meeting should be on April 1 Wednesday, April. I'm shooting for, but I want everyone in the community to realize we must focus on our mental health and get all the services we need.

- **Youth:** Chairman Bobby Akumah
 Reports: Good evening, everyone. We had the Yankee's scholarship awards, and the turnout was slipping. We didn't have enough applicants submitting it, not that we don't have enough youth in the community. Somehow, we managed to meet five potentials in which the winners, and a couple of questions came up. I wanted to bring it to the board. So I had a couple of parents complaining about the application. And the first complaint was, this one. I think she had gone back and forth with the zip codes on the application. The parent applied for their child to match the zip code, but the deadline is way close, making the parents unable to complete the essay. Parents were trying to prepare the essay but the time was minimal; therefore, we needed to remove it because it was causing massive confusion and frustration.
- **Cultural Affairs:** Chairperson Patricia Rojas
 Reports: We had my first meeting as the chairperson for Cultural Affairs, and we just discussed the Paradise Theatre, which we brought up at the discussion today. Hopefully, we will get some information on that in the future. We also brought up more ways of interacting with our community and bringing more arts into the Bronx and our community. Thank you.
- **Municipal Services:** Co-Chair Lucia Deng
 Reports: This is Lucia Dang. I'm the co-chair of the municipal services committee. On March 8, we heard the presentation that DOT gave tonight, just in much more detail, and we asked many questions and made many suggestions during that. Then we asked them to present to the executive board and then to the General Board to vote. So that's the most important thing that we discussed. Please join us for future meetings because many of these projects come through us first. That's an excellent opportunity for you to get the details on these infrastructure investments and give your input and feedback. So thanks to everyone tonight.
- **Governing Committee:** Chairperson Belinda Lawrence
 Reports: Good evening, everyone. To reiterate something that Dr. Bola touched on earlier. The governor is extending the state of emergency for New York State **on March 17**. She will be revisiting and assessing to decide when the new extension date will be. We will keep an eye out for that. In the meantime, we'll still be hosting virtual meetings for March. The governing committee does not have an agenda scheduled. As soon as we have anything looming, that is of utmost importance. It will schedule a meeting, and an announcement will be made.

- *Adjourned at 8:20 pm.*

The next General Board Meeting will be held on April 27, 2022

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