



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa Gibson.. Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Angel Caballero**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

General Board Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023

Bronx Community Board 5

- **Community Board 5 members in Attendance:**
Bobby Akumah; Eloise Bennett; Angel Caballero; Catherine Cudjoe; Annette DeJesus; Lucia Deng; Shannon Goodson; Alisha Jackson; Nanette Matthews; Theresa Mims; Basil Moore; Juan Parra; Patricia Rojas; Shenia Rudolph; Charles Shorter; Carlos Veras; Cheryl Westbrook

- **Absent/Excused:**
Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez; Michelle Heath

- **Welcome:**
 - Opening prayer by V. Martin.

- **Quorum:** 6:14PM.

- **Welcome by Angel Caballero:** Community was informed of the transition of Dr. Bola Omotosho, and Ms. Belinda Lawrence, as they have left the community board. The agenda was reviewed, motioned 1st by Ms. Westbrook, and 2nd motion made by Ms. Mims, and approved. Ms. Ciara Gannon from the Bronx Borough President's office was recognized. The community was also informed that Mr. Nero Graham, 1st Vice of the board, has resigned. Dr. Bola Omotosho, former Chair, was afforded an opportunity to address the community, and board, and thank all for the celebratory event that was held on April 18, 2023.

- **Approval of minutes:** Roll call and approval of March 22, 2023, minutes.

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- **District Manager's report:** The District Manager thanked Ms. LaShawnda Dodson, Community Board 5 Office Administrator, for attending several community activities in his stead. Mr. Brown reminded the group that there is a community forum being held with Bronx Community Board 6, on shelter siting. The flyers were distributed. Mr. Brown also informed the group about a miniatures museum in Israel that is expressing interest in collaborating in some form with the Bronx.

- **46th Police Precinct report:** The precinct reported a 10% reduction in several categories of crimes. Firearms continue to be a major issue in the district and are being confiscated. There is an anti-graffiti program and interested persons should contact the precinct and fill out a form for consideration of removal services. Officer Kennedy thanked the community and partners for another successful Easter egg hunt activity. There is a prom dress and suit giveaway planned for May 11th at Love Gospel Assembly on Grand Concourse.

- **Public Session:**
 - Dr. Bola Omotosho thanked the board members and community that the NYPD will be honoring him for his years of service to the community.
 - Ms. Sallie Smith, resident, spoke about decorum and respect for another in the public forum. Ms. Smith also reminded the community to attend committee meetings and thanked Mr. Juan Parra for his leadership on the Veterans Committee.
 - Elder Pamela Lindsay spoke about how to create a resiliency network and supplied flyers. The Elder also spoke about the Green Thumbs Garden on Grand Avenue.
 - Mr. James Hwang, owner of the laundromat that was destroyed by a fire on March 5, 2023. Mr. Hwang expressed concerns and frustrations that he is not being fully apprised of the situation and subsequent investigation. Mr. Hwang

distributed a letter outlining his concerns. Mr. Hwang was invited to attend the Economic Development Committee to further continue the discussion about the fire and his frustration.

- **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Ms. Ciara Gannon of Bronx Borough President's Office: discussed the community board application and interview process. Board 5 has received over 40 applications.
- Ms. Sharon Quitisaca of Council Member Sanchez office: A tour of the Kingsbridge Armory was conducted, and there is renewed interest in exploring ways in which to best utilize the armory.
- Senator Sepulveda's office supplied a flyer for informational purposes.
- Lucia Bradshaw of State Senator Robert Jackson's office: shared her telephone number and that the Senators' staff will be at Jerome Library to meet constituents, call 212-544-0173 for more information.
- Ms. Sharon Williams of Representative Latoya Joyner's office extended greetings and provided contact information- 718-538-2000. The Representative is conducting Senior Week activities-flyers distributed.

- **Committee reports:**

- Governance Committee: L. Deng. Reviewing ways in which to memorialize decorum and codify co-chairs, as well as types of meetings. Next meeting: May 9th.
- Health and Human Services Committee: Annette DeJesus, chair. Next meeting May 3rd.
- Youth Committee: The Yankee Scholarship Selection Committee is in place and will meet on April 24th to finalize nominees.
- Parks Committee: April 25th is the next meeting.
- Land Use: Next meeting, April 20th

- Economic Development Committee: Ms. Goodson discussed the continuing need to develop and maintain BIDs in the Bronx area. A taskforce has been created to promote the initiative. The committee also discussed the recent proliferation of illegal smoke shops in the neighborhood. The next information is May 25, 2023.
- Cultural Affairs: Patricia Rojas provided email so that members can forward cultural affairs information. Ms. Rojas discussed the Missing Them -Covid 19 Memorial. The exhibit is available at Courtlandt Avenue and 150th Street.
- Veterans Committee: Mr. Juan Parra gave report. Next meeting is May 9th. A member of NYS Department of Veterans Affairs will present.
- Housing Committee: Ms. Matthews presented ways in which the committee can focus on affordable housing opportunities for our district. The next meeting is April 20, 2023.
- **Old Business:**
 - None
- **New Business:**
 - Chair informed group of vacancies for 1st Vice Chair, and Secretary. Interested board members should submit 25 copies of their letter of interest. In June there will be general elections for all board positions which are for two years.
 - Mr. Leonardo Coello, Bronx Community Affairs Director for the Mayor's Office presented two issues; NYC Schools surveys which is important. Mr. Coello also highlighted the newmycity@nyc.gov. The site will make it easier to apply for certain benefits. He also mentioned the new Rat Czar. The new rules about refuse collection were also discussed.

The next General Board meeting is on May 24, 2023 @ 6pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Charles Shorter,

Secretary

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