



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 – 11/8/2023

Start: 6:05pm

Quorum: 6:10pm

Attendance: Bobby Akumah, Eloise Bennett, Wilfredo Bonilla, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Annette DeJesus, Lucia Deng, Shannon Goodson, Roxana Gonzalez Jimenez, Esmeralda Herrera, Marlene Jimenez, Maribel Maria, Nanette Matthews, Theresa Mims, Basil Moore, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Brenida Parsons, Benjamin Richardson, Patricia Rojas, Shenja Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Carlos Veras, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused: Michele Heath (excused)

Unexcused: Alisha Jackson, Kay Lopez, Suri Medina, Julius Roberts, Beverly Smith, Nekeisha Afful, Bakary Camara, and Felix Ceballos.

- **Approval of Minutes**

- September 2023
 - Board members are waiting on edits to minutes from September 2023.
- October
 - Benjamin motioned to adopt without corrections.
 - Patricia seconded the motion to adopt the minutes without corrections.
 - Motion passed: 25 yes, 0 no.

- **Chairperson's report**

- There were a few groundbreaking/openings.
 - 2050 Grand Concourse: UPS.

- **District Manager's Report**

- Expressed gratitude to Lashawnda Dodson, Community Coordinator.
- Catalyst program: Echo Richman Park.
 - This is a coalition to make Echo Park more "family friendly," the Friends group meets on the last Thursday of each month.
- Catalyst program: Aqueduct Walk.
 - Aqueduct Walk has been submitted for landmark status.
 - The letter is in packet.
 - Public hearing will be held.
 - Details: November 14, 9:30AM at 1 Centre Street, 9th Floor NY, NY.

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
Telephone (718) 364-2030 * Facsimile (718) 220-8426 * bx05@cb.nyc.gov

Serving these Neighborhoods:
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

- The public is invited to testify in person or via written statement.
 - Morris Heights Farm Stand.
 - The Farm Stand operates every Wednesday, 10am-2pm. The Stand is located at the intersection of University Avenue and West Burnside Avenue.
 - Operated by Grow NYC, which has decided they do not have the staff. The last day of operations for the season will be on November 29, it will then pause for the winter season until July 2024.
- **Voting Items**
 - Multiple dispensaries are asking for CB5 to submit a letter of support for licenses. Addresses are listed below.
 - Shannon Goodson and Annette DeJesus spoke as Economic and Health and Human Services chairs (respectively).
 - On 11/1 a joint meeting was held, which was productive. Applicants were informative and responsive to CB members' questions.
 - The committees recommended to not express support for the licenses' approval.
 - Member Roxanna questioned whether items that were denied during committee meetings should be brought to the general board. After speaking with several members, the problem was resolved and voting proceeded.
 - As notes were not shared prior to this (11/8) General Meeting, applicants who were present were invited to speak for 2 minutes.
 - Applicant: 2480 Grand Concourse and 2385 Grand Concourse
 - Two applications, same potential licensee.
 - Represented by Jon (also represents E Burnside location).
 - Consider themselves established in the community (Run several wireless stores).
 - Reiterated from the public hearing that the best way to combat illicit sales is to offer legal alternatives. Legal stores are safer and are controlled by OCM.
 - Applicant: 151-165 East Burnside Avenue.
 - Jon (same individual mentioned above) presented.
 - Wants to clarify that not all the stores that are before the board/applying would open, as OCM would evaluate which can open depending on distance, regulations, etc.
 - When legal dispensaries open, property values go up.
 - No CBs opted out during the window of time provided (EOY 2021).
 - Commitment to give 10% of profit, don't know what the actual implementation will look like until after licenses are approved.
 - Would work with the community to decide how to allocate funds
 - After hearing from the above, member Benjamin motioned that we continue with voting. Patricia seconded.
 - Voting outcomes are below:
 - 2480 Grand Concourse
 - Benjamin motioned, Patricia seconded
 - 19 no, 9 yes

- The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 2385 Grand Concourse
 - Roxanna motioned to vote, Theresa seconded
 - 19 no, 9 yes
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 342 East Fordham Road
 - Annette motioned for a vote, Theresa seconded
 - 24 no, 4 yes
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 372 East Fordham Road
 - Benjamin motioned for a vote, Carrie seconded
 - 25 no, 3 yes
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 151-165 East Burnside Avenue
 - 19 no, 9 yes
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 380 East Fordham Road.
 - Benjamin motioned for a vote, Patricia seconded.
 - 18 no, 10 yes.
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 2433 Grand Concourse
 - Benjamin motioned for a vote, Patricia seconded
 - 21 no, 7 yes
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
 - 2034 Jerome
 - Benjamin motions, Chef seconded.
 - 19 no, 9 yes.
 - The board will not submit a letter of support for the approval of this dispensary license.
- **Public Session**
 - NYPD 46th Precinct
 - Represented by Domestic Violence Sargent Orellana
 - Read off CompStat report: Week to date crime decreased 14.6% overall
 - Robbery: decreased by 12.5%

- Felony assault: decreased by 7.7%
 - Grand larceny decreased by 42.9%
 - No change in week to date for murder, rape. Burglary and auto thefts are up week to date.
- Year to date changes between 2022 and 2023:
 - Murder: decreased 8.3%
 - Rape: decreased 26.9%
 - Robbery: decreased 9.3%
 - Felony Assault: Up 8.5% compared to 2022 (about 50 more)
 - Burglary: decreased 24%
 - Grand larceny: decreased 9.6%
 - Auto: up 31.5% (about 60 more)
 - Crime overall in 2023 1.2% less than 2022
- Sargent Orellana also provided domestic violence resources:
 - Organization: We All Really Matter: 24 Hour Hotline: 917-736-1046
 - Has resources, referrals, helps with survivor advocacy, HRA assistance
 - Location: 5 days a week, 9am-5pm, WeWork Harlem, 8 West 126th Street, NYC
 - Weallreallymatter.org
 - Mayor's Office to End Gender Based Violence. Family Justice Centers in each borough
- Next 15 days, recommend keeping a look out for
 - Homicide last night, suspect has been identified, working to apprehend
 - Watch out for motorized scooters, pattern of crime (robberies, etc)
- Member Wilfredo: concerns about fentanyl sales
 - Orellana- Precinct has identified several locations, cannot reveal additional information
- Member Benjamin: concerns about action not being taken until things escalate
 - Police officers have to act on probable cause
- Public: how often does NYPD run verticals in Tracy Towers, Additional concerns: van parked on 6 West Burnside, thinks there are activities happening in that van
 - Orellana will escalate matter
 - Upon investigation, if van found to be derelict, it will be reported to sanitation
- Sally Smith
 - Illegal parked cars since 2019, feels that concerns have gone unanswered by 311. Has brought this matter up before.
 - Street sweeping has gone undone due to parked cars
 - Street flooding at a site with a clogged drain
 - Chair Angel: Will take the matter to Municipal Services
- **Elected Officials' Reports**

- Nicole Aguila – CM Oswald Feliz
 - DOB representative visits office 2x a month, requests that community calls office to find out when representative will next be in
 - Fall Fest
 - Details: November 21, 2-6pm, 573 East Fordham Rd
 - Office Hours: M-F, 10am-4pm
- Maria Villalobos – CM Pierina Sanchez
 - Family Day
 - Details: Saturday, November 11 at 12pm, Half Nelson Playground
 - Turkey Giveaway at St. James Park Saturday, November 18
 - Housing Attorneys – in office 2x a week
- Rep. Gustavo Rivera
 - NMIC will be at the office – immigration and housing legal assistance
 - Call office for appointments (718) 933-2034
 - Location: 2432 Grand Concourse Ste 506
 - Turkey Giveaway for individuals and organizations holding events
- Vincent Sepulveda – State Senator Luis Sepulveda
 - Bridge Builders will aid people with issues with SNAP, help with applications for Fair Fares
 - Details: November 29 10am-3pm, 900 Rogers Place
 - Call for appointment 718-991-3161
 - NYLAG will assist with civil issues (child support, etc.)
 - December 5th 10am-3pm, call number above for details
- Lucia Bradshaw – State Senator Robert Jackson
 - Turkey Giveaway
 - No date yet, please call for more information (212) 544-0173
- Joanna Rivas – Congressman Ritchie Torres
 - Recent funding:
 - \$800k in project funding to NY Sunworks- works on integrating sustainability and education in schools
 - \$178K to wildlife conservation society
 - Office is accepting nominations for the Service Academy
 - Submit application by 11/29
 - Office: (718) 503-9610
- Janelle Enriquez – Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
 - Office offers assistance with housing- harassment, rental support, SCRIE/DRIE etc.
 - Thanksgiving Giveaway, multiple locations/dates. All are first come, first serve.
 - Saturday, November 11 2pm-4pm
 - Union Reformed Church of Highbridge, 1272 Ogden Avenue
 - Monday, November 13 2pm-4pm
 - 1195 Clay Avenue Tenant Association
 - Tuesday, November 14 2pm-4pm

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
 Telephone (718) 364-2030 * Facsimile (718) 220-8426 * bx05@cb.nyc.gov

Serving these Neighborhoods:
 Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

- Sedgwick Houses, 140-150 West 174th Street, Bronx 10452
 - Wednesday, November 15 2pm-4pm
 - 1520 Sedwick Avenue Bronx 10453 (Community Room)
 - Monday, November 20, 2pm-4pm
 - Highbridge Gardens, 1135 University Avenue, Bronx 10452
 - Tuesday, November 21 3pm-5pm
 - The Family School, Bronx 10456 (East 166th and Sherman Avenue)
 - Office: (718)-538-2000
- **Committee Reports**
 - No committee reports
- **Old Business**
 - Emmanuel
 - BJT BID formation
 - Currently hiring: Program Manager, Executive Assistance, Community Liaison
 - Is encouraging people to apply
 - BID would help with how the community adjusts to the new dispensaries
- **New Business**
 - Saturday, November 11 is Veteran's Day. Councilmember Eric Dinowitz introduced Int 581 – would observe Veteran's celebration the entire month of November

End: 7:55pm