



**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– 10/25/2023**

**Meeting Started:** 6:10pm

**Quorum:** 6:12pm

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

**Excused:** Charles Shorter

**Absent:** Bakary Camara, Felix Ceballos, Catherine Cudjoe, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Alisha Jackson, Kay Lopez, Suri Medina, Julius Roberts, Beverly Smith.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- 6/2023:
  - o Benjamin motioned to adopt minutes with corrections, Patricia Rojas seconded
  - o Corrections to minutes: Separate those who are absent from those excused
  - o Vote: 23 yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention
- 9/2023:
  - o Juan Parra motioned to adopt minutes with corrections, Benjamin seconded
  - o Corrections to minutes: Julius, Michelle excused
  - o Vote: 27 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention
    - Add time that quorum was established, add attendance to notes

### **Visit from Assembly member Yudelka Tapia – Cannabis Licensing**

- What are the parameters of the board to approve/deny the applications?
  - o There is no specific date to close the window for license applications. About 2k applications already
- Are there any guidelines to follow (how do we decide if we should say yes/ say no)
  - o Tapia: CB role is to make recommendations. Go to OCM website for guidance. First time applications open, requirements were so strict (required that people were formerly justice-involved).
- Conversation is not going anywhere as many members haven't read OCM guidelines  
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

- Trainings available through OCM for new applicants
- Concerns about NYPD response times, concerns with how enforcement will work
- Assembly member Yudelka Tapia will send website link with updates from OCM
- Conversation will be tabled so that members can review OCM rules and make informed comments/questions

### **Chairperson's Report**

- Many workshops have come up
  - o Look out for emails from Ken/Lashawnda

### **District Manager's Report – highlights**

- Morris Heights Farm Stand: Today marks one year anniversary of farm stand. Event held today.
- Family Enrichment Center: Likely on Webster Avenue
  - o Holding planning meetings every other Monday, email Ken Brown to participate in meetings
  - o Directed and guided by community
  - o Goal of Enrichment Center: Strengthen families, directed by families themselves
- Read about other events in packet
- Thank you to Lashawnda for helping while Ken was off

### **Voting Items**

- Adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Budget requests
  - o Removing items that have been completed, as follows:
    - Pg 7, number 16: completed
    - Pg 8, number 18: completed
    - Pg 9 number 20: completed
    - Pg 11 number 23: completed
    - Pg 16 number 34: completed
    - Pg 18 number 38: completed
  - o Motion to strike and add new projects as presented during the 10/25/2023 public hearing
  - o Annette DeJesus motioned to make above changes, Teresa Mims seconded
  - o Vote: 27 Yes, 0 No, 0 abstentions
- Election: Board Secretary.
  - o Maribel submitted letter of intention. No opponent.
  - o Vote: 27 for Maribel Maria to be Secretary.

### **Public Session (limited to 10 spots)**

- Sally A Smith – Aluminum can dispensers – enforcement
  - o Sanitation concerns- would be interested in a DSNY rep
    - Streets are not being swept, residents are penalized for litter that washes up after rainstorms
- Nancy – Community Resiliency Network

- Flooding prevention- CRN has received FEMA hydro-barriers to distribute to the community: reusable/store well. Act like “sand” bags. Are available to homeowners/business owners for free.
- Cardine Verdiner – Good Shepherd Services
  - Operates 90 programs across NYC such as afterschool programs, in-school counseling, BRAG (Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence)
  - BRAG Hosting Haunted House event on Saturday 10/28 4-7:30pm Location: 825 East 233<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Detective Lee Statin – NYPD 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct
  - On behalf of Inspector John Potkay
  - General crime statistics: Index crime down 1.5%
    - Increase in grand larceny, auto related crimes.
    - Issues with online challenges that encourage criminal behavior.
  - Please keep in mind not to keep expensive items in cars during the holidays.
  - Acknowledging recent violence during afternoon dismissal hour
    - Shots fired incident on 187<sup>th</sup>
      - NYPD PAL is trying to introduce more programming for local young people. Importance of reducing idle time
    - Is it possible to get residents involved in a “Citizens’ Watch”
      - Detective Statin: is exploring if it is possible. NYPD is openly recruiting for auxiliary ranks from the community. Schools are looking for school safety officers.
  - Halloween Pumpkin Patch on October 29th 12pm, in front of precinct on Ryer Avenue. 1000 pumpkin giveaway

### **Elected Officials reports**

- CM Pierina Sanchez
  - Aware that there is concern about illegal cannabis sales and availability to kids.
  - Office is handling heat and hot water complaints.
  - Holding Oversight hearing on Monday 10/30, regarding 311 response times to complaints, preparing for heat season
    - 10/26 Hearing regarding Mayor’s Management Report indicators housing production, mold complaints etc.
      - Invites public to share any concerns with her staff.
  - Fentanyl exposure at Daycare
    - Family has asked for measures to avoid this happening again
      - Ongoing city/state conversations exploring how to address
      - Rep. Espaillat has requested a focus on West Bronx regarding fentanyl activity. The Bronx is leading the nation in fentanyl deaths
  - Kingsbridge Armory
    - Competition regarding plan for armory
    - Proposals have to align with requests lined out in vision document
  - Maria Villalobos– CM Sanchez’s office
    - Fall Festival on Saturday, 10/28 at St. James Park

- 10/26 Bronx legal services in Sanchez' office
  - Brought Participatory Budget idea sheets
    - [www.pbnyc.org](http://www.pbnyc.org)
  - Office offers assistance with SNAP, referrals for DV assistance, tenant assistance
  - Office: 347-590-2804
- Leonardo Coello – Mayor's Office
  - Safety is the priority of Adams' administration
  - Sends regards re: Middle Eastern conflict, recent protests
  - Bronx "identified" as "Ground Zero" regarding fentanyl
    - Mayor convened task force
  - Increase in jobs announced early this week
- Brian Rodriguez – Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
  - November Thanksgiving food distribution
  - Offering services for: education, job readiness
  - 718-538-2000 ext. 9518 (Rodriguez' direct line)
  - 910 Grand Concourse Suite 1JK
- Vincent Sepulveda – State Senator Luis Sepulveda
  - Friday 10/27 10am-3pm: for anyone with SNAP issues
    - 1320 Webster Ave 10458
  - 11/2, 11/15 NYLAG will be on site – can help with any issues with immigration
    - By appointment: 718-991-3161
  - Office is also offering 2023-2024 application assistance for heat and home energy HEAP
- Lucia Bradshaw –
  - Flu shot event
  - Nov 14th
- Joanna Rivas – Rep. Ritchie Torres
  - Regarding Congressman Mike Johnson speaker election. This allows work to continue in Congress, but Congress needs to reach agreement to fund the government by 11/17 to avoid a government shutdown.
  - Office will still be open if there is a shutdown
  - Military service academy nominations
  - Office can help with any issues with social security, IRS, passports, contacting any federal agencies
  - 718-503-9610
- Trevon Blondet – Bronx DA Darcel Clark
  - Court tours starting in November. Inviting the CB5 to tour the court.
  - 917-946-3438
- Nicola Aguila – CM Oswald Feliz
  - Representative from Department of Buildings will come in every other Wednesday to discuss fines/etc. Contact the office to confirm if rep will be on-site
  - Immigration lawyer on-site every Tuesday
  - Office: 573 East Fordham Rd. (Entrance on Hoffman Street)
  - AccessHRA app on phones can help with EBT scamming- can see transaction history

## Committee Reports

- Lucia Deng, Chair – Municipal Services
  - o Ongoing work with Reimagining the Cross Bronx project
    - Important to have public provide feedback. More information:  
<https://www.crossbronx.info/>
- Juan Parra, Chair – Veterans
  - o 11/11 Veterans Day- many businesses offer perks to veterans
  - o Next meeting 11/14
- Benjamin Richardson, Chair – Immigration
  - o Concerns regarding migrant arrivals
  - o Next meeting 11/9
- Carlos Veras, Chair – Education
  - o Girls in Aviation event in Queens
- Patricia Rojas, Chair-Cultural Affairs
  - o Visit from Bronx Art Council. For more information:  
<https://www.bronxarts.org/>
- Shannon Goodson, Chair – Economic Development
  - o BJT Exploring BID formation. Hiring Program Manager, Executive Assistant, Community Liaison Coordinator. Positions are open to the public
- Angel Caballero, Chair – Parks
  - o Galileo Playground scoping- May come to board for presentation

#### **Old Business**

- No old business

#### **New Business**

- No new business

#### **Meeting Ended 8:20pm**

Submitted by,

Maribel Maria