



**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**

### **September 27, 2023**

Meeting started: 6:03pm

**Board Members:** quorum: 6:05pm

**Attendance:** Nekisha Afful, Bobby Akumah, Eloise Bennett, Wilfredo Bonilla, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Felix Ceballos, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Annette DeJesus, Lucia Deng, Shannon Goodson, Esmeralda Herrera, Marlene Jiminez, Maribel Maria, Nanette Mathews, Theresa Mims, Basil Moore, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Brenida Parsons, Benjamin Richardson, Patricia Rojas, Shenita Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Carlos Veras, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson.

**Absent:** Bakary Camara, Roxanne Gonzalez-Jimenez, Alisha Jackson, Kay Lopez, Suri Medina, Julius Roberts and Beverly Smith.

**Excused:** Michelle Heath.

#### **Chairperson's Report:**

Have been meeting with 46th Precinct over the summer

- Looking to get involvement from locals and businesses
- Meeting held prior to council meeting
- Can meet with inspector

Fair held over the summer

- Job Fair
  - About 36 resumes in total
  - Next Job fair - possibly Nov 2023

Roberto Clemente State Park - 50th Anniversary Celebration

Friends of Echo Park

- Meets at the end of month
- More info available at Parks Committee meetings
- Organization has set up a cleanup committee

Morris Park Heath Center

- Over 500 tote bags with resources given out during summer event

City Law

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

- Meetings held over the summer
- City of Yes – next meeting Oct 6 at 8:15 am at New York Law School

#### Small Business Services

- Small business mobile services on September 28

#### Meetings with CM Sanchez re: Kingsbridge Armory

- Meetings are every month

#### West Tremont Avenue Bridge Redevelopment

- Ongoing, with report from Municipal Committee Chair next general board meeting

Attendance at community board meetings is important as this is where work goes on

Angel- working on directory of agencies and resources in CB5

#### **District Manager Report:**

Report in packet

- Friends of Echo Park – sister group of FO. Aqueduct Walk

Catalyst program- from Parks Dept.

- Friends of Echo Park will meet at Davidson on 9/28
- 1st Thurs- Aqueduct walk at 183 and Aqueduct Job Fair
- Department of Aging, DYCD among agencies represented
- 20 vendors in total

St. Barnabas has monthly meetings re: social determinants of health

- Last meeting- 9/20
- Reach out to Kenneth Brown, District Manager to join email list

#### Cross Bronx Expressway Walkshops for Redesign

- 10 am on October 21 2023.
- Next will be on Devoe Ave

Angel- importance of referring to bylaws

- General Board Meeting dates are in packet

#### **Report from NYPD 46 Precinct- Detective Stanton**

Contact information: Stanton: 929-920-4628, text/call

- Upcoming event: 2nd Annual Fall Fest in October (possibly October 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Last year's event shut down Ryer Ave, created a pumpkin patch
- Goal: Increasing relationship with PAL
  - Getting to know local children especially elementary students, hold events for children

- Stats from over the summer
  - Quarter 3 = down 3.11% major index crime
    - Murder 10 (this year) vs 11 (last year)
    - Rape 16 vs 23 (last year)
    - Grand larceny is up 211 vs 158 (last year)
  - TikTok trends have led to people participating in “Kia Challenge” where young people are hotwiring Kias and Hyundai’s
    - Precinct has been encouraging owners to use Apple AirTags for tracking, but does not encourage people to follow cars
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- 2.81% decrease in index crime overall
- As holidays approach, likelihood that certain crimes will increase
- ESL for new learners- Tuesday 10/3 6-8pm
  - 182<sup>nd</sup> & Ryer Ave (at Church)
- Citizen's Police Academy – every Spring/Fall
  - exploring possibility of ride along

Question from Attendee- Tara Carr

- Request statistics- can look up stats provided on the front end website of NYPD
- What tools have been used to address issues in the community:
  - Listening to various quality of life concerns brought up during meetings with public
  - These conversations are kept confidential (as much as possible)
  - Neighborhood safety teams: have made 3 gun arrest in past two weeks

Question from Board Member Eloise Re: Ghost tags

- Department is deploying detectives’ bureau to address
- Locally: Bronx Tow Pound has been assisting 46<sup>th</sup> precinct

Question from Attendee

- What is happening with the Safe Hallways initiative- conversation is higher up than 46<sup>th</sup> precinct

Question from Board- Illegal weed dealing via van, cars, and ebikes

- Precinct initiatives- Neighborhood coordination officers are working with Bronx Tow Pound as well
- Illegal vending in stores- dealt with by sheriff’s office
- Word is spreading that illegal dealings are not worth it

### Public Session:

Sallie Smith

- Sanitation Concerns: issues regarding pick up time for trash, buildings placing trash out earlier than supposed to
- Accessibility issues with buses

Vitresha Long, Morris Heights Tenants Group President

- Issues regarding management at facilities
- Landlords- not respecting rights

- Requesting a representative from HUD to address: abuse of power, concerns about fraud, building conditions
- Looking to get people down from CGI
- Finds that there isn't clear communication, there is abuse of non-English speakers
- Will be addressing the Housing Committee
- Expansion of Sidewalks/Bike lanes has been challenging
  - Decrease in sanitation pickup,
  - Concerns re: road rage, aggression due to lack of parking spots, etc.
- Concerns alt public engagement

### Reports from Elected Officials:

Mayor's Office - Leonardo Coello

Contact information- 917-327-1131

- Welcoming new and returning board members
- Safety measures put in place for new school year
  - Doors closed in schools once programming starts
  - Auto-lock doors coming to all schools
  - Can look up details on NYC. Gov
- Challenges with "Migrant Crisis"
  - Has "no new answers"
  - Asking community to put pressure on state and federal representatives re: Funding
  - Budget cuts are coming to all city agencies - 15%
  - TPS granted for certain Venezuelan migrants, will help many get work authorizations
- Question from Board- Concerns about how budget cuts will impact NYPD and "boots on the ground"
  - no officers will be laid off, will impact where new officers will be sent
- Question from Attendee- have long term stayers in shelter (originally from NYC get moved out)
  - Acknowledging that migrant issue is systemic
  - Change to time limits in shelter for adult migrants
  - Changes to zoning laws have been proposed
- Question from Attendee- Plan to house during the winter
- Question from Board member- Concerns that vouchers are over saturated in the market
  - Landlords illegally discriminate against voucher holders
- Question from Board member Erachie- Question on Floyd Bennett Field

Borough President's Office- Ciara Gannon

Contact Information- 718-590-6005

- Open Meeting Law training - Friday, virtual
- Most recent City of Yes meeting- recorded, on YouTube
- Tour de Bronx- Biking event
- Domestic Violence/Fire Safety awareness months- October

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Council Member Oswald Feliz District 15- Nicole Aguila

Contact Information- 917-233-3329

- Back to School events- Backpack giveaways
- 2850 Development for senior residents
- Tuesdays – appointments available for people with immigration concerns
- Health Bucks distributed for use at Farm Stands/Farmer's Market

Council Member Pierina Sanchez District 14- Maria Villalobos

Contact Information- Office- 347-590-2874

- Office open: Monday-Thursday 10-4pm, bilingual (English/Spanish)
- Office provides legal assistance, tenant issues
- Event: Fall Fest- Oct 28 at 12pm St. James Park
- RFP open for Kingsbridge Armory
  - Submissions must be youth-oriented
  - Community-led

togetherforkingsbridge.com

- Participatory Budget process starts in October

State Senator Gustavo Rivera District 33- Brent Schneider

Contact Information- 718-933-2034 (office)

- 3000 backpacks given away before this school year

State Senator Luis R. Sepulveda District 32- Vincent Sepulveda

Contact Information- 718-911-3161 (office)

- Office open: Monday -Thursday 10-3pm, by appt.
- Crafting agenda regarding funding
- Bills this legislative session: [S5158](#)- Establishes an electric scooter operator's safety manual, licensing requirement and insurance requirement.
- [S5981](#)- Requires all edible cannabis products be packaged in child resistant packaging
- [S4329A](#) - (signed)- Authorizes the commissioner of motor vehicles to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states, countries, provinces or territories that issue driver licenses
- In office Legal assistance with NYLAG - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>
- In office: Hunger Free NYC on Oct 4- can provide assistance with WIC, food stamp issues

State Senator Robert Jackson District 31- Lucia Bradshaw

- Tenant Rights Clinics on Oct 10, 24, Dec 12
- Capital Allocations Requests open
- Seeking agreement with BCC in order to have office space at the school
- Currently located at 5030 Broadway Suite 701

District Attorney Darcel D. Clark- Trevon Blondet

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Contact information- Email:blondtt@bronxda.nyc.gov, 917-946-3438

- Office is holding a 5k for Domestic Violence Awareness on Oct 7 at 9:30am
- Will have speakers with lived experience
- Therapists will available as well

Congress Member Ritchie Torres District 15- Joanna Rivas

Contact Information- 718-503-9610

540 E Fordham Rd Suite 2A

- Office is open Monday-Friday 10-5pm
- Current Legislation - rights of senior citizens, [Right to Medicare Act](#)- aims to prohibit employers from forcing seniors to switch from traditional Medicare to Medicare Advantage
- Small Business Loan Program- 5,000-350,000 available for things such as new equipment
- Honored Dr. Clearence Jones for work during Civil Rights Movement

### **Committee Reports:**

Health and Human Services

CRN - relaying disaster information

Education Committee

Aviation programs to recruit

### **New Business**

- CB5 election for Executive Board Officer-Secretary - must submit letters of intent to the Community office by 5pm 10/20/23.

End time: 8:24

Next meeting: Oct 25th

Maribel María

Board Member