



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**

**COMMUNITY BOARD #5**

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

**Chairperson  
Osiris Guzman**

**District Manager  
Kenneth Brown**

**Bronx Community Board 5 – General Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** May 27, 2026

**Quorum was established at 6:27pm.**

**Attendance:**

**Board members present:** Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, James Coger, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Roxana Gonzalez-Jiminez, Osiris Guzman, Tisha Hatch, Michelle Heath, Marlene Jiminez, James Lin, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Norma Perez, Dilletta Pina, Benjamin Richardson, Charles Shorter, Chef Geneva Wilson.

**Board Members excused:** Nekeisha Afful, Yazmin Benitez, Eloise Bennett, Theresa Mims and Sheniah Rudolph.

**Board Members Absent:** Bobby Akumah, Phyllis Bowdwin, Bakary Camara, Lucia Deng and Beverly Smith.

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**Topic 1: Meeting Opening, Translation, and Quorum**

- Chair welcomed attendees, ensured translation headsets distribution, and confirmed quorum. Two voting items were on the agenda (bus stop resolution and street co-naming).
- Chair framed the final month before summer break, urging committees to complete work by June and prioritize unfinished items for September/October.
- Translators distributed headsets.

**Topic 2: Approval of April General Board Minutes**

- Chair opened review of the May 2026 General Board meeting minutes and invited corrections. Corrections: add Roxana's name under Governance Committee bylaws amendments/text change; confirm placement of Media coverage, Board contact, and Community engagement on second page; clarify approval phrasing "approved with correction/as corrected."
- Noted minutes are not "corrected" until changes implemented.
- April minutes approved "with corrections" by unanimous consent.

**Topic 3: NYPD 46th Precinct Briefing**

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

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- Lt. Vandy (patrol; filling in due to a funeral) and Sgt. Proscow (NST/K – guns, narcotics, vehicle enforcement) introduced themselves and offered to address concerns.
- Announced 46th Precinct Community Council meetings (every third Tuesday, 7:00 PM).

#### **Topic 4: Municipal Services Resolution – Reinstate BX40/42 Bus Stops at Burnside Ave & Grand Concourse**

- Committee Chair James Lin presented resolution urging MTA to reinstate eastbound and westbound bus stops at Burnside & Grand Concourse for BX40/BX42; rationale: safety/accessibility, hazardous crossings, impacts on seniors, children, and people with disabilities.
- Acknowledged Ms. Sally's five-year advocacy.
- Board adopted the resolution via roll call; motion carried. James Lin made the motion as the chair of the Municipal Services committee. The vote was 17 in favor, 0 no votes. And 1 abstention.

#### **Topic 5: Voting Item – Street Co-Naming for Andrew and Mary Hee**

- Proposed co-naming: W 174th St & Davidson Ave (dead end) and step street to Featherbed Lane. The vote was 15 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions and 1 recusal. James Lin made the motion as the chair of the Municipal Services committee.

#### **Topic 6: Chair's Report – Community Events and Initiatives**

- Gun Violence Awareness Day: June 5, 12:00–3:00 PM at P. Morris Garden, 2096 Morris Ave; with Bronx DA; participation encouraged.
- Echo/Slattery Park Day: June 6; Parks & HHS committees hosting children's activities, raffles, resources; supports positive visibility following concerns.
- Joint CB5–CB7 Opioid/Substance Use Town Hall: June 11, 6:00–8:00 PM at Bronx Library Center (310 E Kingsbridge Rd); partners/educators/NYPD anticipated; community testimony focus.
- Capital & Expense Budget Requests: Spreadsheet with agency responses to be distributed "in the coming days"; committees to own follow-ups ahead of next cycle.
- Youth Initiative Pipeline: Momentum building; collaboration with Bronx DA; youth roundtables planned to gather direct input and engage volunteers.
- Youth & Education Committee: Schedule roundtables; continue development (Timing TBD).

#### **Topic 7: Proposed Bylaw Amendments (Notice & Discussion)**

- Governance Committee presented proposed amendments to restructure and consolidate standing committees (combine Land Use & Housing; Parks, Recreation & Culture; Youth & Education; maintain Economic Development, Health & Human Services absorbing Immigration Services items; establish Budget & Capital Planning as standing; Governance and Municipal/Veteran Affairs remain).
- Article VI, Section 2 clarifies chair/vice chair roles, committee assignment, quorum, attendance; introduce up to three public members per committee; legal review in progress.
- No vote taken; slated for next meeting.

### **Topic 8: Community Fire Incident – 2026 West Tremont Ave**

- Fire around 1:00 AM over the weekend; one fatality, three injuries; most of 6th floor under vacate orders; FDNY/Red Cross assisted; DOB to inspect and clear vacates post-repairs.
- Emphasis on fire safety education district-wide; risk higher in older buildings.
- Board practice: Developers must include fire safety plans (emergency protocols, resident education) in appearances; collaborate with Borough President's Office on fire safety programming.

### **Topic 9: District Manager's Report (Ken Brown)**

- Maritime Workforce Development: Citywide conference (May 1) at CUNY GC; convening DYCD for pilot to place Summer Youth Program participants into maritime trades (deckhand, tugboat internships) next year.
- NYPD North Bronx Reorganization: Bronx split into North/South commands; CB5 in North; meet-and-greet held May 20; ~200 new officers to North Bronx from current academy class.
- The District Manager's report is included in Board Member packets.

### **Topic 10: Public Session – Programs and Concerns**

- Expect Hope (Josephine/Josiemiel De la Cruz)
  - Summary: Christ-centered maternity home in Morris Heights; housing and support through child's second birthday; capacity up to five; alumni program; seeks partnerships and referral awareness; accepts currently pregnant women without children in custody.
- Ms. Sally/Ms. Allen (Bus Stop Advocacy)

- Summary: Five-year advocacy for reinstating Burnside/Concourse bus stops; mobility barriers noted; commitment to continue advocacy; recognition later in elected officials' section.
- Marlene Jiminez, (Board Member, Fentanyl/Opioids)
  - Summary: Shared personal loss; called for education, awareness, and open parent-child dialogue; moment of silence observed.
- Faith Green (Twin Parks West TA President)
  - Summary: Youth outreach gaps (98 teens; only two SYEP sign-ups); sanitation/rodent crisis on steps between E. 183rd St & Webster Ave; unclear maintenance responsibility; plans petition submission.
- Conrad White (All Nations SDA Church)
  - Summary: Offered collaboration on housing/food needs; new to district.
- Katie "Ruby" Page (Senior Center President; BronxWorks site)
  - Summary: Resource/program inequities vs other sites; difficulty meeting BronxWorks leadership; low participation due to limited activities; seeks support to reach leadership and sponsors; opposes burdening seniors with fundraising.
- Michelle Heath (Board Member; "My Pet 360" App)
  - Summary: App launching in July for pet care organization (records, reminders, care team, GPS nearby resources, safety ID, photo journal).

### **Topic 11: CASA – Bronx Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) Hearing Mobilization**

- Enrique Colon announced Bronx RGB public hearing on Monday, June 8 (5:00 PM until late); march assembles 4:00 PM at 851 Grand Concourse, proceeds to 558 Grand Concourse; 5:00 PM press conference then hearing entry.
- Preliminary RGB ranges: 0–2% (1-year), 0–4% (2-year) increases; explained rent stabilization indicators.
- Encouraged broad turnout, including youth; flyers offered.

### **Topic 12: Workforce1 Safety Concerns – Request for Police Support**

- Kenneth Sanchez (Lead Security, Workforce1 at Webster & Fordham) detailed repeated safety incidents and delayed police response (guard injured; individual remained on-site for ~2 hours).
- Workforce1's diverse client population necessitates timely law enforcement support.
- CB5 chair committed to follow up with police precinct(s) and DSCs; requested Kenneth's contact info for coordination.

## Topic 13: Elected Officials' Reports and District Services

- Bronx Borough President's Office (Alexis)
  - Summary: Appreciation for CB5; reappointment interviews available by phone (~10 minutes); Bronx Pride March on Saturday, June 20, 11:00 AM at Borough Hall (851 Grand Concourse); youth-led career fair on Thursday, June 4 (10:00 AM–1:00 PM; Chancellor's Day); open to FDNY fire safety workshop partnerships.
- Council Member District 14 Office (Maria)
  - Summary: Community safety town hall held; skate party youth engagement event on Saturday, June 6 (12:00–4:00 PM at Grant Park); volunteers needed; budget season updates; immigration clinics Tues–Thurs by appointment; housing specialist and lottery assistance; walk-in hours Mon–Thu, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM.
- Assemblymember George Alvarez's Office (Anne Marie Batista and colleague)
  - Summary: Senior internship opportunity (unpaid); fire-related assistance coordination; housing clinic; office at 2633 Webster Ave at 194th St; 718-933-2204; will assist even slightly out of district.
- State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office (Rael Amonte)
  - Summary: WhatsApp groups for events (English/Spanish); overdose prevention supplies (naloxone and testing strips) available Mon–Thu, 12:00–4:00 PM; housing & immigration clinics via NIC and West Bronx Housing (appointments 718-933-2034); blood drive Wednesday, June 17 (12:00–5:00 PM at Fordham University); 10th annual Senior Health Fair & Luncheon Thursday, July 23.
- State Senator Luis Sepúlveda's Office (Elizabeth Marte)
  - Summary: Echo Park Health & Wellness Fair success (300 produce bags); Father's Day "Dads vs. Dads" tennis at Cary Leeds Tennis Center on Saturday, June 20 (RSVP 718-991-3161); office hours 975 Kelly St, Suite 203; legislative update on S4735-B (limits immigration enforcement inside schools); immigration appointments June 15 and June 22; legal services ("Night Live") June 23 by appointment.
- State Senator Robert Jackson's Office (Edgar Tavares)
  - Summary: Budget highlights and bills: S4121 (sensitive locations protected from civil immigration enforcement), +\$860M for public education (homeless, foster, English learners), S4449 (transitional aid for schools), S947 (ban extra tenant fees for online/ACH payments), S10110/S10111 (protect rent-regulated tenants from surcharges), S8847 (EMS staffing standards), S1018 (school bus worker stability); encouraged RGB hearing attendance.

## Topic 14: Transportation/Municipal Committee Report

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- Meeting scheduled Thursday, June 4 at Davidson community center; public session included.
- Committee/Community: Attend; prepare questions on speed limits and bridge impacts.

### **Topic 15: Education Committee Report**

- Meeting held since last general board meeting; continued work with Youth and Economic Development Chairs; next meeting Monday, June 22 at Harmony Hub (6:00 PM).

### **Topic 16: Youth Committee Report**

- The last meeting was had on May 14 with Catholic Charities making a presentation on their services (mediation/co-parenting, discouraging physical punishment, encouraging bonding).
- Next meeting Thursday, June 11 at Harmony Hub (2018 Creston Ave at corner of 179th St), 6:00 PM; focus on youth engagement to deter substance misuse; June 24 local event mentioned.
- Exploring internships with local organizations (e.g., CDM, Union Community Center); seeking community support to develop workforce pathways; summer activities planning.

### **Topic 17: Cultural Committee Report**

- Strong advocacy to establish a cultural institution (not just a center) to provide local arts/dance/pilates spaces and programming; proposed location referenced as 1800 Grand Concourse Avenue outreach to Bronx Council on the Arts and others; low prior meeting attendance noted.
- Tentative next committee meeting targeted for June 11 (pending chair confirmation).

### **Topic 18: Health & Human Services and Parks & Recreation – Joint Outreach & Survey**

- Joint event at Echo Park on June 6 to connect residents with resources and partners; deploy resident survey for data-driven planning (analyze over summer; prepare for September).
- Parks meeting at BronxWorks announced for “tomorrow” at 4:00 PM; flyers distributed.

### **Topic 19: Veterans Committee**

- May 12 committee meeting with Worldwide Veterans Service; introduced US Veterans Resource Guide; reviewed common VA disabilities; attended

“250 Strong” event (May 11); VOC Dept. of Veteran Services meeting (Apr 29) on tax exemptions/housing programs/resources; induction into NY State Senate Hall of Fame (May 26).

## **Topic 20: Housing Committee**

- “As-of-right” 15-story mixed-use project to be located at 1959 Jerome Avenue (~290 affordable units; Food Bazaar at ground floor) under Jerome Ave rezoning; AMI mix 40/50/70%; units for formerly homeless via DHS referrals.
- Committee concerns: high 70% AMI share; limited 3-bedrooms; need detailed fire safety training, emergency operations, building operations, sanitation/trash handling; clarify Housing Connect local preference.
- Developing standardized housing intake process requiring submission 10 days before meetings; applicants to provide project design, sanitation/fire safety plans, bedroom mix, AMI breakdowns, rents; agreement to potential written stipulations.
- Target: finalize draft and vote at June general board meeting; next Housing Committee meeting on third Thursday of June (TBD due to Davis Community Center conflict).

## **Topic 21: Council Member Oswald Feliz’s Office – Recognition & Programs**

- Chief of Staff Esperanza Diaz offered condolences to Marlene; recapped Senior Appreciation Luncheon (May 13 at NY Botanical Garden); publicly honored Ms. Sally Smith for bus stop advocacy.

## **Topic 22: Logistics for RGB Hearing Participation**

- Mobilization steps clarified: assemble 4:00 PM at 851 Grand Concourse; march to 558 Grand Concourse; 5:00 PM press conference; attend Bronx RGB public hearing Monday, June 8 (starts 5:00 PM; runs late).
- CASA/Participants: Follow mobilization plan; distribute flyers; support turnout.