



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	December 19, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	<u>Serviam Gardens</u> 321 E 198th St, Bronx, NY 10458 Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/xg7uHSzMhck
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct read by District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera**

- II. Public Hearing facilitated by District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera**
 - A. Mayor's office- *Not Present***
 - B. NYC Public Advocate's Office- *Not Present***
 - C. NYC Comptroller's Office- *Not Present***
 - D. Bronx Borough President's Office- *Not Present***
 - E. Bronx District Attorney's Office - **Jumane****
 1. There is a Re-Entry employment resource fair on January 30th at the Bronx River Community Center from 10am-2pm. They will be providing suits, job readiness workshops, on-site mock interviews, lunch, USB's, and metrocards-anything a person would need to apply for a job. The target audience for this event is anyone who has been justice impacted and/or incarcerated.
 2. There is a Youth Advisory Meeting on February 3rd from 10am-1pm where youth from ages 14-20 can speak to the DA about ongoing issues affecting the community like crime in their

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neighborhoods and gun violence. Breakfast, lunch and metrocards will be provided.

3. The office is currently hiring two community liaison positions.
4. The Crime Victim Unit provides emotional support services to people who have experienced a crime, and/or witness one.

F. 52nd Precinct - New Commanding Officer Chase Maneri

1. CO Chase Maneri has been on the job for 10 days. Most of his career, he has been in The Bronx, a borough he loves. For the last 5 years, he was at PSA 5 in Harlem. Has been a sergeant at the 48th precinct, Lieutenant at the 44th Precinct, Detective in the Bronx.
2. 450 (15%) up in major crimes, important to note that. Recommends Kia or Honda car owners to get a red club to lock the steering wheel.
3. Scooters are being used to commit crimes, especially, around Mosholu Parkway, between midnight and 3 am. Recommends people don't walk with their headphones in.
 - a) Question: If a scooter has the capacity to go over 30 miles per hour, does the vehicle need to be licensed?
 - b) Gas-powered vehicles need to be registered and licensed with DMV.
4. 2 shootings in the last 4 days. One was on Bailey, a 15 year old was driving a car, and was shot as he drove away, it seems they wanted to steal the car.
5. 2024- Increase scooter enforcement. Increase summonses for car washers- found 22 car-washers in the district. The precinct will continue to give summonses until the illegal car wash gets the message to move.

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a) Question: Do some of these car washers have licenses?

b) CO Maneri: The only legal scooters the precinct has encountered are the ones you drive through.

G. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera - Not Present

H. NY State Senator Robert Jackson - Cary Figueroa

1. The office hosted a public service career at Bronx Community College: 30 city agencies were in attendance. There are 12,500 openings in the city, and it is important that our communities get informed and apply for those opportunities. 90 people registered for the fair and 120 people attended it.
2. The office has constituent services at 1530 Broadway Avenue, New York, NY , 9 am to 5pm.

I. Assembly member George Alvarez - Natasha Phillips

1. Wishing everyone a happy holiday!
2. The office is located at 2633 Webster Avenue. It is open from 9 am to 5 pm, no appointment is needed. Some of the assistance provided is SNAP, SCRIE, Housing, Notary, Peer-Talk. The office is open.

J. Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz - James Dezell

1. Thanks CB7 for hosting a “rocking” Christmas Tree Lighting.
2. For any Bronx resident with an EZ Pass that crosses the Henry Hudson Bridge, their toll will be automatically rebated starting in February 2024.
3. His office distributed newsletters to the community, the newsletters are a great way for constituents to stay updated of all the events that have taken place, newsletter comes out every season.
4. Wishing everyone a happy holiday!

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K. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr - Not Present

L. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office - Not Present

M. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office - George Cook

N. Council Member Pierina Sanchez - Adrian Cacho

1. The office has been focusing on connecting residents to services needed after a building collapsed in the district. Thanks agencies and mutual aid organizations who are working collaboratively to support constituents affected.
2. There was a fire in the district last night. If anyone knows business and tenants in need of services, the office is willing to assist.
3. Urges everyone to stay up to date with the office by following their pages on Instagram and Twitter.
4. Thanks everyone for coming to the Tree Lighting Event.
5. Office is closed next week for the holidays; however, they will be available via email.
6. The office offers third party services: Bronx Legal Services, Housing, General Welfare.
7. Wishes everyone a happy holiday!

O. Council Member Eric Dinowitz - Not Present

P. New York Public Library, NYPL- Bronx Library Center, BLC

1. Tisha Williams introduces herself as the new Librarian Manager at Bronx Library Center, BLC
2. NYPL offers free English classes, patrons can register at <https://www.nypl.org/events/classes/english>
3. Beginning in January 2024, BLC will offer immigration services. Additional details will be provided at the January 2024 General Board meeting.

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4. First 5% (23.5 Million) cut affected Sunday service. BLC is no longer offering Sunday services and programming.
5. Second cut, in 2024, of 5% (22.5 Million) will affect hours, research libraries, maintenance and programming. At the moment, it is not known if the cuts will affect weekday or weekend programming and services.
6. NYPL has a hiring freeze in effect.
7. Libraries under renovation- are closed permanently.
8. The two budget cuts equal 46 Million, and libraries are expecting more cuts in the Fiscal year 2025.
9. Patrons can support and lobby for the NYPL [Libraries Are for Everyone: #NoCutsToLibraries \(investinlibraries.org\)](#)
 - a) Andrew Laiosa: Certain libraries will be closed permanently, any of them located in The Bronx?
 - b) Tisha Williams: Will have that information at the following meeting.

Q. Armando Ramos - Constituent

1. Recommends the board to vote “yes” on Motion A.
2. Urges the board to cite sources.
3. Expresses discontent with Council Member Dinowitz, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Congressman Ritchie Torres, Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr., and urges them to not send them to war, and to demand their support for cease fire now- in reference to the Israel-Palestine Conflict.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera closes public hearing

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IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks

- A. Welcomes all to the last meeting of 2023.
- B. She thanked everyone who came to the Tree Lighting Ceremony on 12/7/2023. It was a wonderful event and she cannot wait for next year's event.
- C. She also thanked the District Manager and staff for the work they have done in helping the Board.
- D. Thanks board members for their commitment to the community, and their energy to make it to meetings and events.
- E. Please take a look at Bronx CB7's January 2024 Meeting Calendar.
- F. Wishes all a happy holiday!

V. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates

- A. Echoes thanks to all who attended the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Especially thanks to the event's sponsors and participants: Montefiore Einstein, Ridgewood Savings Bank, Future of Mosholu Parkland, Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr., Part of The Solution, the New York Botanical Garden, the 52nd Precinct- Community Affairs Unit and Explores, the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Public School 8, Public School 20, and the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center's Dancers.
- B. The office is open for constituent services from Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm. In person services are open from Monday-Thursday, and Friday via email.
- C. Urged everyone to follow our Instagram page @bxc7 to stay up to date with meetings notices and community events.

VI. Attendance (Roll Call) by Chairperson Yajaira Arias:

- A. Roll call was taken and Quorum was met

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B. Members present: Betty Arce, Yajaira Arias, Emmanuel Asamoah, Erick Ascencio, Michelle Avila, Monjur Chowdhury, Kimali Corley, Hugo Gonzalez, Alfred Grant, Lowell Greene, Leslie Harrison, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Andrew Laiosa, Jesús López-Jensen, Kazi Noor, Tayna Peña, Daisy Perry, Edgar Ramos, Cristiana Robles, Robin Rollan, Momodou Sawaneh, Barbara Stronczer, Gwen Thomas-Steed, Bernard Wright.

C. Members Absent: Leurys Acosta, Tasha Andrews, Damariy Barbosa, Tobie Buford, Sandra Erickson, Jean Hill, Mahbubur Jewel, Rosalie Leslie, Yeny Medina, Meriyen Parra-Feliz, Jhenelle Robinson, Chad Royer, Carlos Sosa, Samantha Souvatzis, Adaline Walker-Santiago, Jake Wilson.

VII. Review of Previous November 2023 Minutes:

A. Lowell Green: Asks why some elected officials names are boldfaced and others aren't?

B. Karla Cabrera Carrera: Some have their official website pages hyperlinked, and so those print differently.

C. Motion to accept the minutes was seconded by Michelle Avila

D. November 2023 minutes are approved as presented.

VIII. Motions

A. Barbara Stronczer presents motion: Executive: Bronx Community Board 7 will provide a letter of support for the Decatur Block Association's application to the Department of Transportation's Open Streets program to operate Open Streets on Decatur Avenue between 194th Street and 195th Street during the summer months. (<https://bit.ly/48uWFQ0>)

B. Motion is seconded by Michelle Avila.

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1. Betty Arce: urges board members to read thorough Executive minutes taken by Michelle Avila.
2. Lowell Green: Asks clarifying questions around Summer Streets and Open Streets.
 - a) Erick Ascencio: Responds that summer streets are singular events that take place usually on some summer weekends, while open streets are streets that remain open on multiple days throughout the summer.
3. Barbara Stronczer: Decatur Block Association was not sure how many days they'd hold programming. Initially, their representative suggested 6 days a week, but it appears the association would provide some supervision and programming 2-4 days a week.
4. Betty Arce: The association still needs to submit an application to the Department of Transportation's Open Street Program. The original plan may have been too ambitious and not taken into consideration the human resource needed to have a street open 6 days a week.
5. Nkosa Barret, Decatur Block Association Representative: the association met with Street Lab and decided for Mon, Wed, and Fri from 11 am to 4 pm.
6. Hugo Gonzalez: asks what happens if a delivery truck needs to make a delivery.
 - a) Nkosa Barrett, has observed in past events, that delivery trucks park at the corner and complete deliveries on foot.
7. Tayna Peña: Reminisces the days growing up when the Decatur block was closed and thanks the Decatur Block Association for bringing that back.

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a) Nkosa Barrett: Grew up on Decatur and mentioned to the Executive Committee that there used to be Play Street on the block.

8. Motion was approved unanimously

IX. Chair Yajaira Arias opens Nominations for Board Secretary

A. Barabra Stronczer nominates Helene Hartman-Kutnowski

1. Betty Arce seconds the nomination
2. Helene Hartman-Kutnowski accepts the nomination.

X. Committee Reports -

A. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. No meeting was held. Next meeting is on January 2, 2024 at the Williamsbridge Oval Rec Center.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Betty Arce

1. Bronx Library Center presented to the committee, and discussed a Recognition Ceremony Event.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. The committee met to discuss citi bike usage data and they are hoping representatives from the MTA and DOT will be at their next committee meeting.

D. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Erick Ascensio

1. No meeting was held. Next meeting is on 1/9/2023.

E. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. No meeting was held. Next meeting is on 1/10/2023 at WBO.
2. Thanks District Manager Karla for planning the Tree Lighting Ceremony Event.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis

1. No meeting was held. Next meeting is on 1/11/2023.

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

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1. No meeting was held. A notice for an Adult-Use Retail Cannabis Dispensary License at 61 East Kingsbridge Road was received.
2. The Public Hearing is on January 16, 2024 at 5:30pm before their official committee meeting later at 6:30pm

H. Veterans Affairs – Hugo Gonzalez

1. Chad Royer, expresses gratitude for committee members: Hugo Gonzales, Jean Hill, Tobie Buford, Emmanuel Asamoah & Bernard Wright for their commitment to the Veterans Affairs Committee.
2. Next meeting is on January 17, 2024 at Kittay Houses- the Department of Veterans Services may present, and the committee will discuss upcoming events in May: Flagging at Bronx Victory Memorial and Flagging of Veterans Graves at Woodlawn Cemetery.

XI. Board Members Questions and Comments

- A. Chair Yajaira Arias: 52nd Precinct will host their annual winter wonderland on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 4pm.
- B. Lowell Greene: Encourages everyone to get a Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center’s Membership. Believes it is imperative to show in numbers that the rec center is heavily used.

XII. Chair Yajaira Arias requests a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- A. Michelle Avila motions to close the meeting.
 1. Barbara Stronczer seconds the motion.
 2. All board members present “aye” in favor.

XIII. Meeting is Adjourned.

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