



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

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Monroe College's King Hall 2501 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/ 78M YkmrKw
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read
- II. Public Hearing/Public Session

A. Leslie Harrison: She shared details about Bold Boutique and is inviting others to spread the word and share flyers. She mentioned that they are accepting donations and seeking volunteers. Bold Boutique is part of the Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the event is aimed at supporting cancer patients. They will be giving away items such as clothing, personal care products, and wigs to individuals undergoing treatment. The boutique is located at 1575 Blondell Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461, and is typically open on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

B. Sandra Erickson: She wanted to highlight an article from yesterday's paper, which her 90-year-old mother pointed out to her. The article reported that children, ages 6 and 12, witness needle exchange regularly outside the Bronx Library Center on Kingsbridge Road. Ms. Erickson expressed her gratitude to Council Member Feliz for his support against the siting of transitional housing in that area of the district and to the Community Board for bringing attention to the issue. She hopes they can write a letter to the Health Department, expressing their stress and outrage over the truck stationed outside the library.

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She emphasized that the community is overwhelmed by this, along with the transitional housing and non-rent-stabilized housing in the area, and feels it is crucial to raise their voices more on these issues, especially through the housing committee. The DM added that the van has been moved from location to location. At first, it was in front of PS 246, where they had submitted several complaints about it. Then they moved to the front of the library, and they also received a lot of complaints. Ms. Cabrera Carrera encouraged everyone to keep reaching out to their Elected Officials so that we can have them advocating to have the van moved and keep creating policies around harm reduction from a public safety lens.

C. Ronnie Colangelo: He mentioned the Fortune Society, stating that they are not required to disclose the individuals they house, whether they are sex offenders or armed robbers. He believes they simply don't want the community to know. He offered his Facebook page as a resource for anyone needing assistance with buttons, flyers, or materials for rallies. Karla informed everyone that the mayor has put a stop to the Fortune Society project. She is waiting for a confirmation in writing and is hoping for an update on what they plan to do next.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera's Updates:

- A. Officers from the 52nd Precinct could not attend tonight. The next 52nd Precinct Council meeting will take place on 12/19 from 6-8PM.
- B. A reminder that residents must continue to call 311 for complaints. Please retain the 311 information. Contact your elected officials or the Community Board if the 311 call is not resolved properly. For active drug use complaints, you can call 911.
- C. On 12/16/24, there was a major water main break between Mosholu Parkway and Bedford Park. Water service, electricity and heat had to be restored to about 13 buildings in the area. This affected businesses as well as homes. Claims can be submitted to the NYC Comptroller's office, contact the Board office if you need help. The office is open M-F from 9 to 5PM.

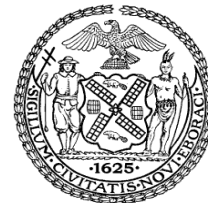
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IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks:

- A. The council passed The City of Yes initiative. We will be seeing a lot of lawsuits contesting this initiative, therefore, there won't be any changes for at least six months until the lawsuits are resolved.
- B. Congestion Pricing will be in effect January 5, 2025. We might see an influx of people driving into our district and parking their cars to take the train into the city. For any issues with this, contact 311.
- C. There is a bill at the council level to have scooters licensed, registered and insured.
- D. We had our annual tree lighting last Thursday. Thank you to all the board members that came out and helped.
- E. Our Victory Memorial Statue will turn 100 years old in November 2025. We are going to reach out to our elected officials to collaborate on hosting a Centennial celebration in May.
- F. Andrew Laiosa is chair of the new Ad-Hoc committee. It is being set up for January 2025 to discuss the possibility of combining a few committees and going over the by-laws.

V. Attendance (Roll Call) by Chairperson Yajaira Arias

- A. Attendance was taken and a quorum was met.

VI. Review of Previous Month's Minutes:

- A. Minutes were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

VII. Motion(s)

A. Motion A:

1. **Budget, Personnel & Ethics** (<https://bit.ly/3Zumeho>): Send an Attendance Violation Letter to board members, Gwen Thomas-Steed, Jhenelle Robinson, Lowell Green, Stephen Bogart Lebow, Michelle Avila, Jasmin Clavasquin, Kayla Owusu.
2. Motion approved with 19 Approvals, 2 Abstentions and 2 Disapprovals.

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3. This issue was discussed at length with differing opinions. It was agreed that the new AD HOC By-Laws Committee would look at this issue. The District Manager pointed out that if a quorum is not met that the work of the Board can be held up. Many items that need approval have a 30 day window. Chair Hill of the Budget Committee stressed that these letters were a “heads-up” to see if there was a problem. She acknowledged that reasons can be as varied as illness or changes in work schedules. Board Members have 30 days to respond to the Attendance Violation Letter.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. Ms. Arce would like to remind everyone who lives in a 1-9 unit home that the building is supposed to have covered & latched trash bins, not plastic bags. Come January 2025, DSNY will start issuing summonses.
2. The next committee meeting will be on January 7, 2025.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. No meeting, next meeting in February.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. DDC came to start the roll out of Phase 5 Redesign of the Grand Concourse, which will take place from Fordham Road to 198th Street on the Grand Concourse. They will have informational circulars in the next couple of months.
2. The next committee meeting is on January 2, 2025.

D. Housing, Land Use & Economic – Yajaira Arias

1. We had a presentation from The New York City Independent Budget. They provided us with information and data as to the housing initiative they had throughout NYC regarding the median income so that we can see how much housing has been provided to low income families.

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E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. Ms. Stronczer thanked the staff for all their help in setting up for the Tree Lighting Event. It went very well.
2. There will be a new system for **new Tree requests**. The planting will be done by location and new tree requests should no longer be called in. All other complaints should be called in, they will still be processed through 311, such as broken trees or trees that have roots that are uprooting the sidewalk.
3. Next committee meeting will be on January 8, 2025.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life - Vacant

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. Ms. Avila invited all to attend a Virtual workshop on January 21, 2025 at 6:30pm with Montefiore's Office of Community and Population Health (OCPH). Meeting ID: 868 9257 7160 By Phone: 646-558-8656.

H. Veterans Affairs – Vacant

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. The Committee met and went over the motion request to send out attendance letters. These letters are just to open up communication with the Board regarding your attendance.
2. We also discussed the Ad Hoc Committee to go over the by-laws.

IX. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives:

A. Congressman Adriano Espaillat: **Not Present**

B. Congressman Ritchie Torres: **Not Present**

C. Mayor's office: Alina Dowe

1. The Mayor is working to assist those affected by the water main break. He is focused on restoring gas service, although the water has already been restored. The Red Cross is out there offering help.
2. A form is available for people to report any damages to their home, business, or vehicles, through the Comptroller's Office. Those affected

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can file a claim with the city and may be reimbursed, as it has been verified that the damages were caused by the city's fault.

3. The Mayor's office has been informed about the complaints regarding needles in front of the library. They encourage people to continue reporting these issues through 311.
4. The Mayor is excited to report that there have been over 1300 illegal smoke shops closed and thousands of illegal guns and scooters taken off the street.

D. NYC Public Advocate's Office: Not Present

E. NYC Comptroller's office: Greer Mayhew

1. They are confirming that ACS has been monitoring the safety of children in care throughout 2023, resulting in satisfactory outcomes. Although the rates remain low, instances of neglect are still occurring. They will continue to provide support to ensure these issues are properly addressed.
2. The Street Safety Department plans to implement a vehicle safety program covering cars, mopeds, and scooters.
3. He mentioned that his office is handling claims related to the water main break on Webster Avenue and offered assistance to anyone who needs help with the matter.

F. Bronx Borough President's office: Kenny Agosto

1. Mentioned the BP's office can be reached if any assistance is needed, 347-213-0375.
2. Held a workshop 12/2 at Lincoln Hospital to see how they can decrease the number of HIV Infections. Stating they can use Prep within 72 HRs of exposure to try to prevent getting infected. More information can be found online.
3. This past weekend they hosted the Veterans Toy Giveaway at the Bronx Zoo.

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4. On Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 11am to 3pm, they will be hosting a Holiday concert series.
5. On December 22, 2024, from 3pm to 5pm, there will be a Hanukkah Celebration.
6. On January 10, 2025, from 10am to 1pm, the BP's office will host a "Baby Wearing Workshop." Learn how to safely carry your baby with this technique. Location is at 851 Grand Concourse on the 1st floor.
7. From February 18-23, 2025, the 6th annual Savor the Bronx restaurant week will be held.

G. Bronx District Attorney's office: Trevon Blondet

1. They donated 265 jackets to NYC Cares and 100 cans of food to Destination Tomorrow.
2. Sandra Erickson inquired about any reports of gunshots. He responded that there has been no reported gunfire in the district, but noted that robberies have increased.
3. Andrew Laiosa asked if they are turning over anyone who is undocumented. He stated no, however, Mr. Laiosa can contact his office, if he has any other questions or concerns.
4. When asked about safety concerns regarding people being shoved onto the train tracks, he replied that he doesn't have an answer at the moment but will see if it's an issue his office can address. Chairperson Arias stated that they can attend Traffic and Transportation Meeting to express their concerns.

H. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office: Not Present

I. NY State Senator Robert Jackson's Office: Not Present

J. Assembly Member George Alvarez's Office: Not Present

K. Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

L. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr's Office: Not Present

M. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office: Gabriela Santana

1. They hosted a turkey giveaway and gave 1000 turkeys.

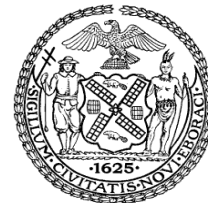
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2. They will be hosting a toy give away on Thursday at 6pm
3. Participated in a press conference for Every Block Counts.
4. Assembly Member Tapia will be in Albany on January 8, 2025 and for most of the month.
5. Office will be closed December 23, 2024 to January 6, 2025.

N. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office: George Cooke; see pages 4 & 5

1. The office will host a Toy giveaway on Thursday at Fordham University. 440 East Fordham Road entrance on Bathgate Ave in the Student exchange center from 4:00pm to 6: 00pm, Santa might be there.
2. The office will also host a Toy give away with Nino De La Caridad on December 23, 2024, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm 2467 Bathgate Ave. Children must be present to receive a toy.
3. Call 718 842-8100 to reach the office.

O. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office: Paola Olivo

1. The office hosted and participated in Tree Lighting Events
2. Participatory Budgeting- share what the office should invest in at bit.ly/PBideas2024.
3. Int. 904-2024, INT 645, INT 1127, and INT 1128 all passed.
4. Joined Mayor Adams to roll out Every Block Counts Initiative-Phase 1.
5. Soon there will be news about the Kingsbridge Armory.
6. If you'd like to schedule an appointment with our office, please call us at (347) 590-2874 or email district14@council.nyc.gov.

P. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

- X. Motion to close board business:** Andrew Laiosa made a motion to close and seconded by all others.
- XI. Next meeting date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at P.S. 246 Poe Center's Gymnasium. 2641 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468
- XII. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

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