



**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:	February 25, 2025
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Monroe College's King Hall 2501 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468
Meeting Recording:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd2p_nYmtIM
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. The District Manager read the Meeting’s Code of Conduct**
- II. Public Hearing/Public Session**
 - A. Tamika Phillips, Alzheimer’s Association: Not Present**
 - B. Davon Harris, KIPP NYC Charter Schools:**
 - 1. The upcoming KIPP School event will be held on March 1st and March 8th.
 - 2. April 2nd, the lottery will launch for schools of choice.
 - 3. The General Board meeting will be held at the KIPP school on Jerome Ave next month, in April.
 - C. Anthony Riviuccio, Constituent:**
 - 1. He spoke about hosting the flagging event at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway during Bronx week before the parade and festival begin. This will be the memorial's centennial event.
 - D. Sirio Guerino, Guerinos Against Graffiti (GAG):**
 - 1. Mr. Guerino announced that a new organization was being formed in Norwood. It will be called the Norwood Needs Parking Association (NNPA); details will follow.

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2. Concern was expressed that individuals put others at risk; parking at a hydrant can endanger lives. He suggested calling 311.

E. Jake Wilson, Board Member:

1. Two NYCHA buildings, Bailey House and Fort Independence Houses in CB7 and CB8, may now be landmarks. Ms. Wilson does not know how or who accomplished this. The buildings had planned repairs, and the tenants feared that being landmarked would add red tape to much-needed interior and exterior repairs. Ms. Wilson asked for help in getting details as to how this was accomplished and help in removing the status or obtaining a waiver, if possible, to complete the much-needed improvements to the buildings.
2. Jake Wilson is the President of Bailey Houses, and Barbara Laurey is the President of Fort Independence, their sister building. They are asking for the board's help on this issue.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera's Updates/Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks:

- A. The Community Board Applications are open. The deadline to apply is March 9, 2025. <https://form.jotform.com/250137007893153>
- B. Bronx CB7 and The New York Yankees Youth Leadership Award applications are open. Please help spread the word in the district. <https://bit.ly/4gM3ZuD>
The Deadline to apply is March 24, 2025, at 5 PM.
- C. Bronx CB7 received a Sidewalk Cafe notice for Mirador Restaurant at 44 W Kingsbridge Rd, Bx, NY 10468. The deadline for CB7 to provide comments is 3/30/2025. The notice has been referred to Traffic and Transportation.
[Requirements | Dining Out NYC](#)
- D. DASNY State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Lead Agency Request for the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (IAC) Rising Ground, Inc., Property Acquisitions and Renovation Project, Borough of the Bronx, Bronx County, New York (Other Independent Institutions Program). The environmental review request pertains to Rising Ground, Inc.'s

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acquisition and renovation, furnishing, and/or equipping of the following properties (“the Proposed Project”): **2597 Sedgwick Avenue, Bronx, NY10468.**

E. The Office is open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

F. We are collaborating with DSNY, PS 246-Poe Center, the 52nd Precinct, and Senator Gustavo Rivera to bring you a recycling event with three components: e-waste, paper shredding, and free thrift store.

1. **Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025**

2. **Time: 11 am to 2 pm**

3. **Location: PS 246-2641 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468**

IV. **Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky took attendance (Roll Call)-Quorum Met**

A. **Present:** Leurys Acosta, Tasha Andrews, Betty Arce, Tobie Buford, Monjour Choudhury, Kimali Corley, Sandra Erickson, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green, Helene-Hartman Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Khadija Kolya, Andrew Laiosa, Rosalie Leslie, Jesús López-Jensen, Marcus McLarty, Edgar Ramos, Robin Rollan, Esme Sattour-Low, Momodou Sawaneh, Barbara Stronczer, Gwen Thomas Steed, Zuleika Ventura, Adaline Walker-Santiago, Jake Wilson, Bernard Wright.

B. **Absent:** Yajaira Arias, Michelle Avila, Leslie Harrison, Stephen Bogart-Lebow, Tayna Peña.

V. **Review of Previous Month’s Minutes:**

A. Betty Arce motioned to accept the previous month’s minutes. The minutes were approved with no corrections. Edgar Ramos seconded the motion. Motion passed with 25 In favor; 0 Opposed; 1 abstention (Jean Hill); 5 absent

VI. **Motion(s)**

A. **Edgar Ramos, Traffic & Transportation Chair, motioned to send a letter to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) requesting that accessibility improvements be prioritized at the end of the D subway line at 205th Street and 4 Subway Line at Woodlawn in the proposed 2025-2029 Capital Plan (<https://bit.ly/4b4r4rc>).**

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1. Bernard Wright seconded the motion.
2. Discussion and Q&A follows:
 - a) Adaline Walker Santiago asked if the motion could include persons with support animals. It is expected that they will be included.
 - b) Another comment was made that because we are already getting an elevator at the nearby Mosholu Parkway Station, could this complicate matters? The response was that this is a request, a “wish List,” for future projects.
3. Motion Passed with 25 In favor; 5 Opposed; 1 abstained (Robin Rollan); 5 absent

VII. Committee Reports

A. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. The next meeting will be on March 4th.
2. Volunteers are needed for the event at P.S. 246 on 3/22/25 from 11:00 to 2 PM. E-waste is just electronic devices. All clean clothing from a smoke-free home will be appreciated, but children’s clothing is needed in particular. There will also be paper shredding.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. A webinar about the Yankee Scholarships is scheduled for high school seniors on 3/26/25. The award is \$750. Applications are due by 3/20, and the Yankees are looking at students who have about 50 hours of leadership/volunteer activities and a resume. Suggestions and help will be given regarding what would qualify; for example, babysitting or being Captain of your baseball team would qualify.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. Motion A was read and discussed above.
2. Access A Ride has opened its pilot program, E-Hail, to the public. Starting 11/17/24, E-Hail, call now to get an application (877) 337-2017.

D. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Barbara Stronczer for Yajaira Arias

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1. A webinar was held on Fordham Landing; see page 27 in the minutes. A suggestion was made that we ride or walk through Fordham Landing. The presentation is also on page 27.

E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. The meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.
2. A representative from the Van Cortlandt House will present to the committee next month.
3. Councilman Dinowitz planned to announce a community mural, but the meeting was canceled; details will follow.
4. The next meeting will be on 3/12/25 at 6:30 PM.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life - Vacant

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. The next meeting is March 18.

H. Veterans Affairs – Bernard Wright

1. Ms. Colhane, Veteran Advocate, reported that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has plans to close the Manhattan and Brooklyn VA Hospitals.
2. DOGE, under Elon Musk, has already let employees go at the Bronx VA Hospital; there were approximately 1,000 probationary employees. DOGE has an office in the Bronx Hospital.
3. The committee is still working on the Jeffrey Hunter Award and what the criteria will be.
4. Chair Bernard Wright encouraged all veterans and their family members to participate in virtual events for veterans. These events provide a lot of information, such as health benefits, burial, etc.
5. It was suggested that the Board get involved with a petition or a protest regarding the cuts to the Veteran services.

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. Motion A was voted on by the Budget Committee rather than Transportation to ensure that the request was made on time. The

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committee reviewed the agencies' Capital and Budget responses, and even though some of the responses suggested removing the requests because they couldn't be funded, the Committee decided to leave in some of the requests anyway. Ms. Hill asked that you review page 25 of the minutes for the Capital and Expense requests.

VIII. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives:

A. 52nd Precinct- PO Stephen Echevarria:

1. Crime stats are down in all areas except Grand Larceny and Felony Assaults.
2. During Ramadan, Mosque attendees have been advised to be more cautious.
3. The "Coffee with a Cop" program will host an event at Starbucks in Target on 225th St on March 12th at 10AM.
4. Thank You to all who attended the children's book event at Chick Fil A on Fordham Road; it was a big success.
5. P.O. Echevarria can be reached at 718 220-5824 with any questions.

B. Bronx Borough President's Office - Kenny Agosto:

1. Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) Conservation on Bigger, Better Bottle Bill on Wednesday, February 26th at 7 pm. Zoom ID: 872 4187 6236
2. 2025 Borough Cultural Grant for registered 501(c)3, submit an application by March 3rd, 2025.
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5bb2b7cd7c4e40e88445105a82d20ded>
3. The African Immigration Resource Fair will be held on Thursday, March 27th, from 5 to 8 p.m. at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451.

C. Bronx District Attorney's Office - Trevon Blondet:

1. The office will have a gently worn prom dress and suit drive. Please bring clothes to 198 East 161st Street, Bx 10451. The drive is open until 4/18. Call Trevon or leave the clothes in the bin in the lobby.

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2. Workshops in schools.
 - a) Court tours are available. Reach out to Trevon Blanchet at 917-946-3438.
 - b) Hosting training in what to do if you are a driver who is pulled over by a passenger carrying a gun.
3. The Office hosted training for new District Attorneys. They covered felony trials and how to pick jurors.

D. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office - Sari Mendoza:

1. Ms. Mendoza thanked the community board for attending the Senator's Black History Month Celebration.
2. The office printed out informational palm cards on immigration. People can pick up the cards at the table.
3. A Know Your Rights training via Facebook.
4. The Syringe Exchange Program in front of the Bronx Library Center was raised. A concern was reported that more needles are going out than being returned. It was explained that this program is done to lower diseases caused by sharing needles. So far, the data suggests that it has helped.
5. The office hosted an Immigration and Housing Clinic at POTS. They assisted in filing over 60 applications for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE).

E. NY State Senator Robert Jackson's Office - Edgar Tavarez:

1. The senator introduced a bill called "Solutions not Suspensions" regarding student suspensions. This bill will combat inequities such as Kindergarten suspensions.
2. The office has "Know Your Rights" Training clinics. ICE has been in Kingsbridge Heights, and the office has obtained legal assistance.
3. To reach the office, call 212-544-0173 for assistance.
4. To sign up for the newsletter, signup@senatorjackson.com.

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F. Assembly Member George Alvarez's Office - Thania Paulino:

1. The office is hosting a Black History Month event on Friday, February 28th, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Road.
2. Please get in touch with the office at (718) 933-2204.

G. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr.'s Office - Ayanna Armstrong:

1. On February 28th, 650 Britton Street will host a food giveaway from 1 pm until supplies last.
2. Five Alarm Fire on Wallace Ave has a new Resource Center at 930 Allerton Avenue, where donations are accepted. The 738 Allerton has closed.
3. Please call the office with any concerns at 718-409-0109.
4. Free Tax Thursday is open until April 10th.

H. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office - Neil Jimenez:

1. Advocating for a 30 million bill statewide for the battery rebate exchange program to exchange dangerous batteries that can cause serious harm.
2. Advocating for 50 million for mental health clubhouses in NYS. Currently, only NYC has these clubhouses.
3. Annual Women's History Month.
4. The Assembly Member is supporting a bill that Senator Gillibrand is proposing regarding changes to the AMI. The AMI now includes the AMI of Manhattan and Westchester Counties, a change that would give a more realistic figure of the local area median income (AMI).
5. Drafting a letter to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs protesting firings.

I. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office- George Cooke:

1. The office is located at 573 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458.
2. The phone number is 718-842-8100, and it is open from 10 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday.

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3. The office hosts immigration services from 10 am-4 pm every Tuesday and tax services from Monday-Thursday.
4. Calls to 311 should be followed by a call to the office with the service number for follow-up.
5. If you have any problems with HRA or need a One Shot Deal, be sure to call the office.
6. The office is in talks with DOT and CB7 over Oliver Place.

J. Council Member Pierina Sanchez - Kimberly Lopez Castellanos:

1. Passed Intro 432A regarding After-school enrichment programs for K-12 public schools.
2. The office is open from 10 am-4 pm Monday to Thursday. Call 347-590-2874 or email district14@council.nyc.gov.
3. The office offers legal services referrals, tenant grant assistance, and help with food stamps (SNAP) and rent arrears.

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

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

M. Mayor's office: **Not Present.**

N. NYC Public Advocate's Office: **Not Present.**

O. NYC Comptroller's Office: **Not Present.**

P. Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office: **Not Present.**

Q. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office: **Not Present.**

IX. Additional Comments made by Board Members:

- A. Alfred Grant commented that Eric Dinowitz or his staff often attend our meetings but he would like to see all our representatives at more meetings.
- B. Adaline Walker-Santiago, former CB7 Chair, spoke up about her concern regarding the Veteran's programs; she commented that workshops should also be online to reach out to more Veterans and their families. Also, she expressed that we need to reach out to our elected officials and demand help during these difficult times. She recalled working with the elected officials in the past when she was chair and getting coverage on TV and in the news. She wants to know

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where they are now? She also spoke about the need for action to let the federal government know we are not happy about the changes being made.

X. Community Resident Comment:

A. Sirio Guerino asked for a show of hands of the elected officials and/or their representatives. He showed appreciation for their presence but felt the number of elected officials or their reps was too low.

XI. The next meeting is on March 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM at KIPP Bronx Charter School, 2720 Jerome Ave, near Fordham.

XII. Motion to adjourn: Barbara Stronczer made the motion, which was approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

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