



**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: | March 25, 2025 |
| Meeting Time: | 6:30 PM |
| Meeting Location: | <u>KIPP Elementary School</u> 2720 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468 |
| Minutes done by: | Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky |

Minutes:

- I. The District Manager read the meeting's Guidelines & Code of Conduct**
- II. Public Hearing/Public Session**

A. Joseph Ottomanelli: NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY)

1. Curbside Composting is Mandatory, and Enforcement Begins on April 1, 2025.
2. Buildings with 1 to 8 Units will be fined \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, and \$100 for the third and subsequent offenses; Buildings with 9 or more units: \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense, and \$300 for the third and subsequent offenses.
3. Curbside composting is free and collected weekly in every borough on the same day as your recycling.
4. You can attend an info session to learn more. Upcoming info sessions:
 - a) Thursday, March 27th at 6 pm
 - b) Thursday, April 10th at 4 pm
 - c) Thursday, April 24th at 6 pm
5. Learn more at

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/residents/curbside-composting.page>

THIS MEETING'S MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

229-A EAST 204TH STREET ♦ BRONX, NY 10458 ♦ PHONE: (718) 933-5650

E-MAIL: KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV ♦ WEBSITE: NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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6. Small food scraps, greasy paper, fruits, and vegetables can be composted. Diapers and animal waste are not allowed.
7. A question was raised about the large buildings in our community, such as Tracey Towers, not having space or a plan for adding composting bins. How will this work? Will there be specific outreach to these buildings?

B. Sandy Liriano: Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)

1. Represents the CCRB and can be reached at (646) 510-0082.

C. Yvonne Jimenez, KIPP Bronx Charter School

1. The school is accepting K-12 applications for the 2025-26 school year. Learn more at kippnyc.org/enroll, enroll@kippnyc.org, or call 929-822-4430.

D. Sharon Guerrero: 20-year neighborhood resident

1. Ms. Guerrero expressed concern about asthma in the elderly and youth.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera's Updates

- A. On Saturday, March 22nd, we hosted a Spring-Cleaning Event at PS 246. Thank you to our partners: 52nd Precinct, Senator Gustavo Rivera, 3x3 Design, Department of Sanitation, PS 246-Poe Center; Board Members: Betty Arce, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Barbara Stronczer, Gwen Thomas Steed; and Staff: Steven Ochoa and Cristiana Robles for going above and beyond.
- B. On 3/25/25, the NYC Department of Transportation notified CB7 of a Sammy's Law Speed Limit Reduction Location on Goulden Avenue from Sedgwick Avenue to West 205th Street.
- C. Bronx CB7 is collaborating with the NYC Department of City Planning to host a Land Use & Zoning Presentation on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6 pm via Zoom. Register at bit.ly/411FNrn

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IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias' Remarks

- A. Chair Yajaira announced the members of the Nominating Committee: Jesús López Jensen, Betty Arce, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green, and Tasha Andrews. Elections for the Board will be held in June 2025.
- B. The Board is reviewing parts of the CB7 By-Laws.
- C. To review the minutes see pages 11-19 for details.
- D. Bailey Houses, the NYCHA development in our district, was told they were slated to become a landmarked building. This action would have severely limited what repairs could be done and it interfered with planned renovations. What did happen is that, NYCHA applied for a Historic Tax Credit and this created the miscommunication. Bailey Houses will not be landmarked, NYCHA working out the details with Bailey Houses Tenant Association.

V. Attendance (Roll Call) by Secretary Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

- A. Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky took attendance and quorum was met
 - 1. **Present:** Leury's Acosta, Tasha Andrews, Betty Arce, Yajaira Arias, Monjour Choudhury, Kimali Corley, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Andrew Laiosa, Stephen Bogart-Lebow, Rosalie Leslie, Jesús López-Jensen, Edgar Ramos, Robin Rollan, Barbara Stronczner, Gwen Thomas-Steed, Yuleika Ventura, Adaline Walker-Santiago, Bernard Wright.
 - 2. **Absent:** Michelle Avila, Tobie Buford, Sandra Erickson, Khadija Kolya, Marcus McLarty, Tayna Peña, Esme Sattaur-Low, Momodou Sawaneh, Jake Wilson.

VI. Review of Previous Month's Minutes

- A. The board approved the minutes with edits. Motion Passes with 21 In favor; 0 Opposed; 0 abstained; 9 absent

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B. References to the lack of representation of the electeds was not included in the minutes. Concern that the community needs to partner with our electeds and jointly voice our concerns.

VII. Motion(s)

A. **Executive**, (<https://bit.ly/4kKLLwF>): A letter of support for City Intro Bill 1096, Senate Bill S7673, and NYS Assembly Bill A4639 will be sent to our Bronx Community Board Seven elected officials asking that they support the bills to preserve health care choices for retirees from city service. Intro 1096 will amend the administrative code to preserve healthcare choices for retirees from city service. The bill provides that the City must offer Medicare-eligible City retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better than those available to City retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021.

1. Motion Passed with 21 In Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained; 9 Absent

B. **Traffic & Transportation**, (<https://bit.ly/3Ft3iJs>): Send a letter recommending approval of a sidewalk cafe at Mirador Restaurant located at 44 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10468, with the following modifications:

1. Ensure the sidewalk cafe is ADA-compliant.
2. Ensure the sidewalk cafe adheres to providing a clear 8 feet clear path for pedestrians.
3. Ensure the side plan reflects an accurate number of 16 or 18 seats.
4. Motion Passed with 20 In Favor; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstained; 9 Absent

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. Reviewed the budget requests and decided to keep certain items in the request, even though the agencies suggested removal. The requests were reworded for greater impact.

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2. Discussed containerization of trash now in effect for apartment buildings with up to nine units. Also discussed composting and the poor response to the roll out for composting.
3. The committee requested a motion to target canine waste on school properties due to the serious health concerns the waste presents. It was later decided, that this would create an unfair burden on the schools. This topic will be revisited again.
4. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. Only one Yankee Scholarship application has been received. The deadline will be extended as far as the Yankees will extend it to.
2. Discussed outreach and why we have such a low number of applications. It was suspected that the new criteria of 50 hours of volunteer experience is likely the reason why.
3. Other criteria: Students must live in the CB7 area and be between 14-18 years of age. The award is \$750.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. The committee met on 3/6.
2. Metro Cards will be eliminated by the end of 2025.
3. Motion B- Recommended approval of sidewalk café permit at Mirador Restaurant.
4. The elevator at the #4 train on Fordham Road will be closed for repair.
5. The community had a large response to the ADA Bus survey and it was appreciated by the MTA. As a result, of the strong response, both the #4 train at Woodlawn and the D line at 205th Street will have elevators installed.

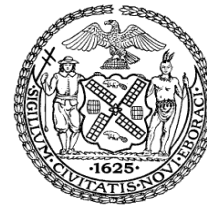
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D. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Yajaira Arias

1. Council Member Oswald Feliz has proposed to sell the old Fordham Library to a developer. He said it would be too costly to renovate and that the city wants to reduce its portfolio of empty buildings. There was some discussion and it was suggested by Adaline Walker Santiago, that the building closed since 2006 be considered for landmarking. The Board will continue to follow-up.
2. Fordham Landing South developers came and presented. All are encouraged to attend meetings and get involved. This will involve changes to transportation in our area, in addition to other impacts.

E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stroncz

1. The Citizens Committee of NY presented. They fund community groups with small grants. Applications can be found on-line. Applications open in May. It is a relatively easy process.
<https://www.citizensnyc.org/communityleaders>
2. The new head of Bronx Forestry visited to explain the changes to the tree planting process. New trees can no longer be requested. Every three years city blocks will be assessed for their tree planting needs. The Forestry staff is very small, so the work of tree planting will continue to be contracted out. If a tree needs help or branches removed, 311 can still be called.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life – vacant

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. The committee did not meet; a quorum was not met.

H. Veterans Affairs – Bernard Wright

1. Jean Hill chaired the meeting for Mr. Wright on 3/19/25. Quorum was met.

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2. The Bronx and Brooklyn VA hospitals did not close as expected last month. It was also reported that the three employees who were fired at the Bronx VA, have been rehired.
3. Jocelyn Bryce, VA Service Officer, spoke about the help with benefits that are available to the veterans and their families. See page 47 of the minutes for further details.
4. The Jeffrey Hunter award continues to be discussed; also the Bronx Week flagging event but no decisions have been made yet.
5. Next meeting: 4/16/25 at Kittay House, if you can make it, please bring a veteran with you.

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. No meeting held

J. Ad Hoc Bylaws – Andrew Laiosa

1. Meeting held on 3/10/25; details can be found in the meeting packet.

IX. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives

A. 52nd Precinct: PO Echevarria

Address: 3016 Webster Ave, Bronx, NY 10467

Email: Stephen.Echevarria@nypd.org

Phone: 718-220-5824

1. Crime Stats were up for this month compared with last year, we went from 168 Felonies to 211. It had been down in prior months.
2. Use caution when two individuals are riding on one scooter. Crimes have been committed with the non-driver grabbing bags or jewelry.
3. The Precinct Council meeting will be held on zoom, Thursday, 3/27 at 7PM.

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B. Mayor Eric Adam's Office: Alina Dowe

1. The Adams Administration's goal is to solidify NYC as the most women-forward city in the United States. This is part of the Action Plan For Gender Equity.
2. Mental Health Week-It was reported that 3,000 individuals were removed from the subway; 1,100 had severe mental health issues. The number of veterans who were helped was not immediately available.
3. A new initiative has been instituted, Baby Boxes. When Moms leave the hospital they get diapers and other items they will need.
4. Concerns about lead in the water: contact the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), call 311 and the Community Board. Ms. Dowe can be reached at (914) 446-8393; email her at ADowe@cityhall.nyc.gov

Address: City Hall, New York, NY 10007

Email: adowe@cityhall.nyc.gov

Phone: (914) 446-8393

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

1. The Harm Reduction Van has been moved from the Bronx Library Center at Kingsbridge to E. 192nd St. and Jerome Ave.
2. The Senator will be joining CB7 for a Community Recycling Day on March 22 from 11-2PM. Stop by at P.S. 246 at 2641 Grand Concourse at Kingsbridge Road.
3. "Know Your Rights" Palm Cards are available from the office. Call 718 933-2034 to receive the cards.
4. The 2nd annual Community Baby Shower will be held jointly with The Bronx Health Link on April 12, 12-4 PM at Monroe University at 2501 Jerome Ave, Call the office to RSVP.

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5. Free housing & immigration assistance is available at the office on Friday 3/21 from 10-3 PM by appointment only. Call 718 833-2034 to schedule an appointment.
6. Members of the board had expressed their disappointment that many of the electeds have not visited for some time. Ms. Mendoza shared that Senator Rivera was in Albany, therefore unable to attend.
Address: 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506 Bronx, NY 10458
Email: smendoza@nysenate.gov
Phone: (718) 933-2034

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

1. Easter Egg Hunt on 4/5 from 11-2PM
2. The Department of Buildings (DOB) will host a session for property owners on 5/16 from 2-7PM at the office. Call the office at (718) 409-0109 to RSVP.
Address: 2018 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461
Email: district80@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (718) 409-0109

E. Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office: Ann Cohen

1. "Know Your Rights" Palm cards are available.
2. Paper shredding event to be held
Address: 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
Email: DinowitzJ@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (718) 796-5345

F. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office: Jack Shaevitz

1. Currently assisting businesses affected by the fire on Jerome Ave.
2. Introduced bills to protect tenant rights.
Address: 2175 Jerome Avenue, Suite C, Bronx, NY 10453
Email: shaevitzj@nyassembly.gov

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Phone: (718) 933-6909

G. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office: Guillermo Rodriguez

1. Participatory Budgeting will be starting.
2. Free services are available for tax season.
3. Housing and immigration help is available.

Address: 573 East Fordham Road (Entrance on Hoffman Street)
Bronx, NY 10458

Email: gcooke@council.nyc.gov

Phone: (718) 842-8100

H. Congressman Adriano Espaillat: Not Present

Address: 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

Phone: (646) 740-3632

I. Congressman Ritchie Torres: Not Present

Address: 540 East Fordham Road, Suite 2A, Bronx, NY 10458

Phone: (718) 503-9610

J. NYC Public Advocate's Office: Not Present

Address: 1 Centre Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10007

Email: gwilliams@advocate.nyc.gov

Phone: (646) 952-1549

K. NYC Comptroller's Office: Not Present

Address: One Centre Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10007

Email: action@comptroller.nyc.gov

Phone: (212) 669-3916

L. Bronx Borough President's Office: Not Present

Address: 851 Grand Concourse #301, Bronx, NY 10451

Email: cannon@bronxbp.nyc.gov

Phone: (718) 590-3500

M. Bronx District Attorney's Office: Not Present

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Address: 198 East 161 Street, Bronx, NY 10451

Email: blondett@bronxda.nyc.gov

Phone: (718) 838-7649; Fax # (718) 590-6548

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

Address: 5034 Broadway, Rm. 701, New York, NY 10034

Email: etavarez@nysenate.gov

Phone: (212) 544-0173

O. Assembly Member Manny De Los Santos' Office: Not Present

Address: 210 Sherman Ave, Ste A&C, New York, NY 10034

Email: delossm@nyassembly.gov

Phone: (212) 544-2278

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

Address: 2633 Webster Avenue, 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10458

Email: paulinot@nyassembly.gov

Phone: (718) 933-2204

Q. Council Member Carmen De La Rosa's Office: Not Present

Address: 618 W 177th St, New York, NY 10033

Email: district10@council.nyc.gov

Phone: (917) 521-2616

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

Address: 277 West 231st Street, Bronx, NY 10463

Email: jklaus@council.nyc.gov

Phone: (718) 549-7300

S. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office: Not Present

Address: 2065 Morris Avenue, Bronx NY 10453

Email: mvallalobos@council.nyc.gov

Phone: (646) 574-0109

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T. Council Member Althea Stevens' Office: Not Present

Address: 1377 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452

Email: District16@council.nyc.gov

Phone: (718) 588-7500

X. Open for Board Members questions and comments:

- A. Jean Hill-Ms. Hill is concerned that we have not been seeing or hearing much from our elected officials. She understands that there is a lot of confusion with things changing daily however, she feels we need to get our voices heard loud and clear to ensure we don't lose funding or rights. She would like to hear what the plan is to fight what is happening in Washington. Ms. Hill would be interested in a rally or another planned other event.
- B. Andrew Laiosa-He is concerned that our state representatives have not raised the concern about Medicaid funding, with all the cuts from the federal government. He stated that 40% of the budget is federal money; NYS covers dental and transportation needs of Medicaid recipients. He feels we should be hearing more about this issue and what can be done to prevent cuts to this very important program.
- C. District Manager Cabrera Carrera-Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there and some of the news are exaggerated. For example, last month we thought two VA Hospitals were closing but they are not. She assured us that we will hear from our electeds but they may want to speak once they have more certainty about the information they are sharing.
- D. Edgar Ramos-Mr. Ramos wanted to recognize the elected officials that did sent representatives to the meeting. Senator Gustavo Rivera, The Mayor's Office, Assembly Member John Zaccaro, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia and Council Member Oswald Feliz.

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E. Stephen Bogart-Lebow: Reminded us of the quote that “evil triumphs when good men do nothing.” He shared that he has a neighbor whose son was picked up by immigration agents and the family has not heard from him. His family and the neighbors are very concerned.

XI. Next Meeting Date: April 22 at 6:30PM; Monroe College at Jerome Ave Bronx, NY 10468

XII. Adjournment: Motion to close made Yajaira Arias and Helene Hartman-Seconded. Meeting ended at 8:25PM.

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