



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



VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

LEURYS ACOSTA, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Leurys Acosta
Meeting Date:	June 30, 2026
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	<u>New York Botanical Garden - Ross Hall Auditorium</u> 2950 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458
Minutes done by:	Betty Arce

Minutes:

I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read

II. Public Hearing/Public Session

A. Noah Katz, President of Foodtown:

1. Foodtown is going to rebuild on the vacant lot on Bainbridge Avenue that had been home to several businesses destroyed by a devastating fire several years ago.
2. Foodtown plans to seek a rezoning change to allow for residential buildings on the land.
3. Will solicit input from the community.

B. Danielle Herbert-Guggenheim:

1. Raised a question to elected officials about public safety plans to keep the youth at Williamsbridge Oval Park safe to prevent violence.

C. Joana Oliveras:

1. Noted the absence of elected officials. "Need representatives to listen to us." Concern about 10 lights out along Mosholu Parkway. Has made 311 complaints about garbage.

D. William Stanford:

1. Provided information regarding the list of elections.

E. Gabriel Famuyir:

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1. Raised a sanitation issue: he is unable to keep the sidewalk in front of his house clean because a car with a flat tire is parked there, garbage is accumulating underneath it, and he is getting tickets. He has made numerous 311 complaints. NYPD investigated.

F. Joice Salinas:

1. Plans to fight a ticket she received from the NYC Department of Sanitation at 3 am at 2579 Bainbridge Ave. She will continue to keep the area clean.

G. Yvel Calderon:

1. Wants to know the sanitation regulations for storing trash because some seem to be applied arbitrarily. The community has worked very hard to keep the sidewalks clean in front of Bainbridge and on Poe Place. But they feel targeted by DSNY.

H. Tobie Buford:

1. Brought up the matter of the one-way conversion south on Sedgwick Avenue from W. Fordham Road to W. 183rd St. as proposed by DOT. In the future, she would like DOT to respect and listen to the neighborhood's concerns before implementing plans that affect the community.

- a) The DM updated the board that DOT will continue its plan for the conversion, removing parking from the east curb of the street on Cedar Avenue from W. 179th St. to W. Fordham Road to allow emergency vehicles to drive by if they need to go northbound. In addition to Cedar Avenue, emergency vehicles will be able to use the two-way protected bike lane, which is 11 feet wide. They will continue to monitor the conditions past implementation.

I. Kimberly Troncoso:

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1. The Oyate Group is offering summer and school year internships for undocumented students with a paid stipend. Contact Kimberly at Kimberly@oyategroup.org for more information.

J. Chad Royer:

1. Shared his experience as a cancer survivor and urged everyone to see a doctor for screenings for potential health risks. He encouraged everyone to call on their neighbors to check in on them. Thanked the board for supporting him on his health journey.

K. Jean Hill:

1. Gave a special shout-out to the community board office staff and district manager – Genesis Reyes, Cristiana Robles, and Karla Cabrera Carrera - who have worked so hard throughout the year to make board life comfortable and ensure we are well informed. Held two fantastic events that deserve special mention: the community award dinner and the Resource Fair. They work especially hard, and we should give them a special round of applause.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera's Updates

- A. Acknowledged the amazing colleagues at the CB office, Genesis Reyes and Cristiana Robles who are always open and willing to go above and beyond to get things done, and are a great team to work with.
- B. Thanked board members for their ideas, patience, and time for consistently showing up to meetings, providing feedback, speaking up, and being a great example to everyone who attends. "You are a role model for my daughter, who made a special presentation at her school, and she did it on 311! So I know she got it from the board. Thank you for your passion and everything you do independently from the community board."
- C. Special thank you to Elizabeth Figueroa of the NY Botanical Garden (NYBG) for hosting the community awards dinner on June 25th, working with the team in the office to put together the ceremony. She paid close attention to detail, as evidenced by how well the event turned out.

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- D. We recognized a lot of our community without whom we couldn't do this work – our business improvement districts, the non-profits that provide services around housing and greening our parks, and the spaces that host our meetings, like Monroe University and Tracy Towers. And we couldn't do our work without our 52nd precinct, our CD agency liaison at the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Sanitation, which may not be well liked when issuing summonses but is very responsive to complaints about illegal dumping and trash on sidewalks. And recognized board members, some of whom have provided decades of service to Community Board 7.
- E. CB 7 hosted a resource fair on Saturday, June 27th at Poe Park. Many CD agencies were present, providing useful information to the community about the different services offered.
- F. Reiterated the update by the DOT and the changes that they came to present to the Municipal Services Committee meeting about W. Fordham Road that are scheduled to take place this summer. The DM acknowledged the opposition to the changes from board members and the community, including that the local firehouse had expressed its opposition to the change, having sent a letter to the community board detailing its concerns. This update and any further information will be sent to board members via email and posted on CB 7's social media.

IV. Chairperson Leurys Acosta's Remarks

- A. Update on Joint forum with CB 5 on the opioid problem in our communities and the shared consensus on how to address the issue.
- B. New committee chairs will be selected for the coming year. Chairs who are not reappointed are encouraged to remain leaders on committees and help create a more sustainable board, so we can maintain a revolving door of leadership and knowledge.

V. Attendance (Roll Call) by Secretary Betty Arce.

- A. Quorum met (as of 6:45 PM). Present: 21 ; Absent: 9 .

VI. Review of Previous Month's Minutes

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A. Motion to approve by Chad Royer; seconded by Jean Hill. Minutes approved.

VII. Motion(s)

A. Municipal Services: Send a letter of opposition to NYC DOT on the proposed One-Way Southbound Conversion on Sedgwick Avenue from W Fordham Road to West 183rd Street.

Motion made by Stephen Bogart-Lebow. Seconded by Chad Royer.

Motion passed. Yes: 17 ; No: 1 ; Abstention: 5 ; Absent: 6 .

B. Executive: Send a letter of support for 114 East 198 BSD LLC's DOT revocable consent application for a proposed planting area, including a steel fence and concrete curb, at 114 East 198th Street, Bronx, New York 10468.

Motion made by Barbara Stronczer. Seconded by Betty Arce.

Motion passed. Yes: 22 ; No: 1 ; Abstention: 0 ; Absent: 6 .

VIII. New Business

A. Presentation of Bronx CB7 2026 NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awardees

1. Jonathan Sanchez
2. Jose Olivo
3. Katherine Guerrero
4. Leah Rodriguez
5. Victoria Pena

IX. Committee Reports

A. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Muhamed Bayo

C. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Dr. Momodou Sawaneh

D. Municipal Services – Edgar Ramos

E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

F. Veterans Affairs & Human Services – Chad Royer

X. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives

A. 52nd Precinct, Det. Stephen Echevarria

1. Shared crime stats.

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2. Fresh Food Distribution Event, July 29, 2026, starting at 11:00 AM at the 52nd Precinct.
3. National Night Out at Poe Park, August 4, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at E 192nd St. & Grand Concourse.
4. **Contact Information:** 3016 Webster Ave, Bronx, NY 10467,
Stephen.Echevarria@nypd.org, 718-220-5824.

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

1. Acknowledged Yankee Scholarship awardees, thanked CB7 for their service. Currently reviewing CB7 applications. New members will be announced soon.
2. Gun Violence Awareness Month
3. Immigration issues – Know Your Rights.
4. 2K program will be implemented in some schools in CB 7.
5. Orchard Beach New Pavilion opened.
6. Expanding public pool hours during heat wave.
7. Bronx Restaurant Week, Savor the Bronx, from July 6, 2026 to July 12, 2026.
8. **Contact Information:** 851 Grand Concourse #301, Bronx, NY 10451,
cgannon@bronxbp.nyc.gov, (718) 590-3500.

C. Bronx District Attorney's Office, Matan Kogen:

1. National Night Out at Poe Park, August 4, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at E 192nd St. & Grand Concourse.
2. Crime Victims Association Bureau
 - a) Licensed Therapists.
 - b) Advocates.
 - c) Court Tours for Groups.
3. **Contact Information:** 198 East 161 Street, Bronx, NY 10451,
KogenM@Bronxda.nyc.gov, (718) 590-6548.

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

1. The office will have the Mexican consulate the following week.

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2. Immigration support – Know Your Rights cards available.
3. The office will be closed the week of June 29, 2026. Will reopen July 6, 2026.
4. **Contact Information:** 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506, Bronx, NY 10458, smendoza@nysenate.gov, (718) 933-2034.

E. NY State Senator Robert Jackson's Office, Edgar Tavaréz:

1. Legislative Updates:
 - a) Higher education - \$200M for CUNY Critical Maintenance.
 - b) Expansion of services to public school students in foster care or experiencing homelessness.
 - c) Expansion for NYCHA.
 - d) Investment in Mitchell-Lama housing.
 - e) Fund/rebates for repairs to vacant apartments.
 - f) Increase in SCRIE, DRIE, and homeowner version.
 - g) Extension of SNAP benefits.
2. **Contact Information:** 5034 Broadway, Rm. 701, New York, NY 10034, etavarez@nysenate.gov, (212) 544-0173.

F. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr.'s Office, Evan W.:

1. **Contact Information:** 2018 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461, district80@nyassembly.gov, (718) 409-0109.

G. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office, Neil Jimenez:

1. Successful MWB Roundtable.
2. Health care moment day paired with food distribution.
3. Resource Fair at Walter Gladden Park on July 18, 2026.
4. Annual breakfast for Bronx Dominican Day Parade on July 26, 2026.
5. During the summer, launching a senior initiative to make sure older residents have the same access to information and support.
6. Will continue to offer food distribution every month; throughout the day, visit our office throughout the day for times and locations.

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7. Contact Information: 2175 Jerome Avenue, Suite C, Bronx, NY 10453, shaevitzj@nyassembly.gov, (718) 933-6909.

H. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office, Oriana Roa-Acevedo:

1. Sanchez's Office provides immigration services, mammogram resources by appointment, assistance with retrieving IDNYC, offers resources with the Groceries to Go program, and resources to receive either a new free smoke alarm or an upgrade.
2. Mobile health van.
3. Kingsbridge Armory - continuing the coordination between agencies and officials.
4. Implementation of street vendor reform.
5. **Contact Information:** 2065 Morris Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453, mvillalobos@council.nyc.gov, (646) 574-0109.

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

1. Veterans Initiative - Veterans Affairs every month on Mondays.
2. HPD will be in the office on July 24, 2026.
3. Immigration Attorney by appointment. Call the office to schedule every Tuesday; soon on Wednesdays, too.
4. Council district residents are eligible to receive \$24 Health Bucks to purchase food at farmers' markets.
5. **Contact Information:** 573 East Fordham Road (Entrance on Hoffman Street), Bronx, NY 10458, gcooke@council.nyc.gov, (718) 842-8100.

J. Council Member Althea Stevens' Office, Lisne Bautista:

1. Int 0909 - 2026 - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the creation and dissemination of diversity, equity and inclusion training for educational leaders
2. Int. 910 - A - 2026 - Our office has been hearing from small businesses throughout the city about Local Law 75 of 2009, which will require all small businesses to install rolling security gates with 70% visibility.

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These gates are very expensive, and the city did a poor job of informing people about the new requirements

- a) This bill would repeal the requirement originally set out in Local Law 75 of 2009 that, as of July 1, 2026, all security grilles installed in Group B or M buildings permit visibility of at least 70 percent of the area covered by the grille.
- b) The New York City Council is currently voting on the budget today.

3. Contact Information: 1377 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452,
District16@council.nyc.gov, (718) 588-7500.

XI. Close of board business

XII. Next Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

XIII. Adjournment:

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