



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Environment & Sanitation Committee

Chair	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	September 3, 2019
Meeting Time:	6:30pm
Meeting Location:	Bronx Community Board 7 Office
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SM Shah Mahmood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cyrill Njikeng <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwen Steed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosalie Leslie
Minutes Done By:	

Agenda/Minutes:

- **Introductions** - New members and community residents
- **Review of last month's minutes**
 - Review of minutes from past year and prior actions and achievements
 - Committee members were directed to the CB 7 website to review past committee meeting minutes
 - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb7/committees/environment-sanitation.page>
- **Follow-up from previous month**
 - Support resolution for Bronx Council for Environmental Quality for a planning grant.
 - Resolution was due by July 26, 2019
 - Committee was not able to take action in June
 - Follow up will be discussed with Board Chair
- **New Business**

The following items were reviewed and will be agenda topics for future committee meetings.

a) Adopt-A-Basket program: To reduce litter, sponsors purchase deluxe, heavier-duty litter baskets – which Sanitation teams regularly empty. In the Sponsor-a-Basket Program, businesses, organizations and New Yorkers supply pre-approved baskets to replace the City's standard design. These higher-end baskets include a logo or name to highlight the sponsor's commitment to maintaining the community's quality of life and are placed on a street corner of a major commercial street or near a major transportation hub.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/contact/get-involved/adopt-a-basket-program>

b) Department of Sanitation Enforcement- to invite DSNY to review rules and regulations for commercial and private property owners.

Of concern is the lack of enforcement as well as a need to incentivize residents and merchants to keep our streets and sidewalks clean. To that end, we will coordinate with our major business districts (Fordham, Jerome, E. 204th Street & Kingsbridge) on clean up.



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d) GROW NYC –(NYCHA only) – effort for NYCHA residents to be trained as Environmental Ambassadors & spread the word about recycling. Information to be shared with board member Helene Redd, resident of Bailey Houses.

<https://www.grownyc.org/recycling/NYCHA>

e) Invite DEP to discuss Hydrants & other environmental matters

f) Croton Filtration Plant - Committee Chair will provide updates on these quarterly meeting
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/environmental-reviews/croton-water-filtration-plant-project/execsumm.pdf>

g) Monthly Neighborhood Clean Ups

The committee discussed asking board members to volunteer their block or a neighborhood area that they deemed in need of clean up and to use the opportunity to educate neighbors about the sanitation rules and regulations. The board will coordinate with DSNY to provide necessary equipment and materials as well as collection of trash and refuse. Cyrill Njikeng will spearhead the effort and the DM has offered to design outreach materials for board members to distribute to their community neighbors. Clean ups will take place between the months of November thru June, weather permitting.

h) Underpass conditions on Kingsbridge Road (Valentine Avenue side) - Cyrill Njikeng provided background and update on the efforts to maintain the area clean and obtaining ongoing assistance from the agencies responsible for ongoing maintenance, including intervention with the homeless individuals who have taken up residence there. These include Department of Transportation. The committee considered a press conference to bring attention to the conditions at the underpass and a need for a multi-prong approach to address the problems of keeping the underpass clean and to assist the homeless.

Following the meeting, the DM informed that we did get an update from DOT at the T&T meeting. A study is being conducted to see how the landscape of the area can be changed to make it less inviting for encampments. In addition to this, the cleaning schedule has been updated to be done every 2 weeks. The board will be provided with that info. Lastly, the board was encouraged to ask residents not to pick up any hazardous materials as this may impact their health.

- Next month's meeting date – October 1, 2019, 6:30 PM
- Discussion on next month's agenda

Adjournment