



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

OCTOBER 26, 2021 GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting conducted by First Vice Chair Barbara Stronczer
Chairman was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a family emergency

First Vice Chair's welcoming remarks

DM - Ischia Bravo's Report

Updates:

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment Increase 5.9% increase
(Insert Link)

Early voting starting 10/23/21 to 10/32/21
Election Day 11/2/21 polls open from 6 am to 9 pm
Encourage all to exercise their right to vote

Grow NYC now fresh boxes at 1/2 price - available for customers shopping with SNAP
<https://www.grownyc.org/freshfoodbox>

Curbside composting has resumed - more details to be provided by the Sanitation Committee

Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) - Homeowners First Program provides \$100,000 to cover down payment and closing costs program called Home First. We need to encourage homeownership in our community.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/homefirst-down-payment-assistance-program.page>

Community Updates: Encampments at Mosholu Parkway grateful to city agencies that came together to start the eviction proceeding on the 18th and have the individual removed on the 19th. Unfortunately, the individual refused services and did come back several times back to the area. DM to follow up with Bronx Works. Encourage reporting things like this to CB7 office or DM directly.

The Kingsbridge under and over pass- the overpass has become a nuisance as well. Over a year ago with Councilman Torres one side of the underpass was closed. Now there is conversation to close the other side where the train station is located. We understand this is not ideal, but we do see the illegal drug use (going to the park and the building across the street). Short term fix to explore options and conversations will take place with the 2 nonprofits that provide clean needles in the area with Senator Gustavo Rivera (chair of health). Update will be provided as to progress there. Obtain



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St. James Park - poor conditions - Commissioner shares that the bathrooms cannot be used. Will work together with Commissioner to help resolve this issue.

Participated with some board members on a panel in the recommendation for new commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct. Jeremy Shubling was selected to be new CO. Unfortunately, we don't have the start date as they do not provide this information. Hopefully he will start soon.

Quality of Life Issue - noise, illegal bikes, scooter etc. - we do receive those complaints and they are shared with elected officials and city agencies. Encourage members to make their voices heard as the elected officials are able to pass policies, change laws and help us address these issues/complaints.

DM - Ischia Bravo - Reading of executive order and zoom rules and commands

Governor passed 2 legislation law regarding open meeting laws:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-two-pieces-legislation-boosting-transparency-state-and-local-government>

Legislation (S.1150-A/A.1228-A) Requires Documents to Be Discussed at Open Meetings to Be Made Available At Least 24 Hours Prior to Meeting

Legislation (S.4625-A/A.1442-B) Requires MTA to Publish its Data in Open Data Formats that Can Be Easily Accessed and Downloaded by the Public

Memo will be provided to all chairs as to the new laws.

Attendance taken - quorum met

Review of Last month's minutes (shared on the screen)

Motion to approve minutes by Myrna Calderon

Second by Ruth Caraballo

Motion passed with correction on page #4

Correction to read: **Committee Reports** – please see reports provided by CB7 (in email with reminders of meeting)

Motions:

Two (2) Motions will be presented by Budget Personnel & Ethics tonight.

But before presenting the motion(s) to the public, board members must go into Executive Session first.

Motion to go into Executive Motion presented by Chad Royer

Motion second by Carmen Miranda

Roll call taken to approve motion to go into executive session



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Motion passes

Members sent to break out room

DM will only be part of the first part of the executive session.

Yajaira to text DM to send members back to general meeting

Back to General Meeting:

Motion:

Budget Personnel & Ethics Chair Andrew Laiosa presents the following Motions:

1. **Motion to support the hiring of Karla Cabrera Carrera to the position of Community Coordinator at a yearly salary of \$68,000 per year.**

Motion second by Gloria Bent

Vote taken - Motion Passes

29 Yes; 0 No; 2 Abstentions

2. **Motion to increase the yearly salary of Bronx Community Board 7 District Manager Ischia Bravo the maximum allowable increase of 10% by the City per annum from the current salary \$96,611 to \$106,272. The exact figures will be determined by the City.**

Motion second by Betty Arce

Vote taken - Motion Passes

22 Yes; 0 No; 9 Abstentions - Jean Hill, Rosalie Leslie, Helene Redd

Health and Human Services Chair Michelle Avila presents the following Motion:

For Community Board 7 to send a letter to Montefiore outlining concerns raised by Montefiore NYSNA Nurses regarding staffing ratios, infection control protocols and other safety measures, conditions for psychiatric/behavioral health patients, and overall environmental conditions for staff and patients at Montefiore.

Motion second by Chad Royer

Lowell Green - Can we send a copy to The Department of Health?

Chair - elected officials are cc'd

Betty Arce - we should address the letter to Commissioners of the Department of Health as well not just to the Department of Health.

Chair - noted.



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Motion second by Betty Arce

Vote taken - Motion Passes

26 Yes; 0 No; 4 Abstentions

Committee Reports – please see minutes/reports provided by CB7 (in email with reminders of this meeting)

Motion to Close Board Business: Motion second by Betty Arce

All members voted yes to move to public session

Public Session Opened:

Council Member Eric Dinowitz:

Since elected holding District ours in the district - once or twice a week set up an outside table (weather permitting). Transitioning to indoor spaces Now looking into other spaces.

Received a lot of complaints as to the neighborhood - Allocated over \$300,000 for cleanup services for streets, parks, bathrooms. Best we know where to tell them to go because you tell us.

Homelessness - organization that we funded have hired and provide services to homeless, former homeless or recently release from incarceration

Co-sponsored and voted yes to the 5 Borough climate residency plan - help create a citywide climate adaptation plan to ensure preparedness for extreme weather in all five boroughs

<https://council.nyc.gov/press/2021/10/07/2107/>

<https://council.nyc.gov/press/>

No it in favor of Defunding the Police

Chair Veterans Committee

Summary of all of legislation/bills will be sent to DM

Vaccinations - please get vaccinated - working on having schools as vaccination sites

Working on preparing DOE for children vaccination

Businesses on Jerome Avenue - complaints of lighting working with DOT and Small Business to repair and correct issues

52nd Precinct Community Affairs - NYPD Officer Echevarria

Partnered with Daily News and City Harvest from now until January 14

Collection box for nonperishable items is designated in the front of the 52 Precinct.

52nd Precinct Council Meeting will be this Thursday.

New CO selected until then CO Alps continues to be at the helm.

Bronx Borough President's Office - Isch González

Monthly Borough President Report sent to DM and all members

Thank you to new community board members for attending orientation



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All of the Files, presentation and documents were sent to new members, if you have an issue opening the documents, please do not hesitate to contact our office. The only form needed back is the EEO form - please sign and return as soon as possible.

Department of Aging - Maria Serrano

DFTA-SCSEP Title V Program offers employment services for older adults.

Currently Recruiting Bronx residents 55 years of age or older, unemployed, of low income, 15 to 20 hours a week at \$15.00 an hour

Also looking to partner with any community organization or agencies that provide occupation training, we will be happy to work together

Contact Information: Maria Serrano

Phone: 212-602-6958.

Email: mserrano@aging.nyc.gov

Bronx District Attorney's Office -Representative Erika Diaz

Flyer and infancy virtual event 10/28/21

On Saturday, November 6 from 12 to 4 pm at Bronx CB12 will be having a Bronx reentry fair geared in providing jobs, health, housing etc. to those who have been release and are getting re-acclimated to The Bronx.

Contact: diazer@bronxda.nyc.gov

Senator Alessandra Biaggi - Representative Tyler

Senator Biaggi worked on the following bills:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s841>

Reduces emissions of air pollutants from petroleum bulk storage facilities by requiring that no person shall own or operate a facility containing an above-ground tank that does not have a shell color and roof color of either white or beige/cream; provides that such color requirements shall apply to every tank at a facility regardless of whether the tank is in active use for storage; defines terms.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s412>

Relates to gambling and the creation of a self-exclusion request for removal form.

Bills have been sent to the Governor - we are hopeful that it will be signed and made into law.

Responded to Member Jean Hill's question as to Prop 1 listed on election ballot. We need more information. DM will try to get more information to help members

Ballot Proposal 1:

Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process

This proposed constitutional amendment would freeze the number of state senators at 63, amend the process for the counting of the state's population, delete certain provisions that violate the United States



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Constitution, repeal and amend certain requirements for the appointment of the co-executive directors of the redistricting commission and amend the manner of drawing district lines for congressional and state legislative offices. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office - Rachel Ferrari

Walk through of Kingsbridge area with DM and Senator coming up this Monday to address issues previously provided by DM.

Welcome to email on Tuesday to see how everything went

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz - Representative Sam

Worked on a bill for Nursing home to display rating

Worked on a bill on making carrying Narcan legal as it can save a life

Holding yearly food drive

Introduce to make vaccine mandated 30 days after approval of FDA -

NYSNA- Jenny Xie and Nurse Benny Matthew

78 protests in Adult Care and 20 in Pediatrics at Montefiore Medical Center

Just want to say in addition we have reason to believe that this understaffing and these systems failures in the medical center have led to adverse patient outcomes and may have included avoidable deaths. Immediate intervention is critical to avoid future incidents like these.

Thank you all for your support

Resident:

Mjad Mujaahid - Resident of 355 East 194th Street - Fordham Village Veterans Residence

Last 4 weeks without an elevator (still down) and 2 weeks without hot water

We have veterans who are home bound, disabled (unable to get out, go to medical appointment, etc.) this is an ongoing issue. Urgent call for help

Building was without a Property Manager for 9 months- just got a new one

Jericho Project runs the building, but we want oversight over these non-profit organization. Our Veterans are suffering, and we need help.

Meeting this Thursday in the building lounge from 6pm to 8pm - we are inviting the public and elected officials to come to our meeting.

Pierina Sanchez - Democratic Nominee for Bronx Council District 14

Would like to help Mr. Mujaahid as well

Remind everyone to come out and vote - our community historically has a low turnout of voters. Please remind your family members, friends and neighbors to come out and vote.

Motion to Close Meeting - Sandra Erickson



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Motion second by Michelle Avila

Meeting Closed at 9:40 pm