



**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 MINUTES

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	February 27, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	<u>CUNY On the Concourse</u> Bronx Business Tech Incubator, 3rd Floor 2501 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/yhIKChykTg0
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct read by District Manager**
- II. Public Hearing facilitated by District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera**
 - A. Ms. Kimberly Kendall, Associate Dean, Lehman College**
 - 1. Welcomes everyone to the space and gives a brief overview of the programs CUNY On The Concourse offers.
 - 2. CUNY on the Concourse offers workforce training and they are an outreach arm of Lehman. They also offer various opportunities such as summer camps and connecting businesses with interns. They also share the space with the 1199 Union
 - B. Mayor's office- Alina Dowe**
 - 1. She is urging everyone to call 311 to report on issues, and forward complaint numbers to the community board.
 - 2. Continue to report illegal smoke shops.
 - 3. Funding has been restored for the NYPD. The Kingsbridge underpass is an issue the Mayor and his office is working on.
 - 4. There is a new App for parents to track children on the yellow school buses:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/transportati>

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[on-overview/whats-new/nyc-student-transportation-modernization-plan](#)

5. A reminder that the Mayor has “The Pillar “awards, and it is a good chance to nominate people who make a difference. Application can be completed online.

C. NYC Public Advocate’s Office- *Not Present*

D. NYC Comptroller’s Office- *Not Present*

E. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson’s Office- *Kenny Agosto*

1. There is a program called Big Brothers and Big Sisters where the youth are paired with mentors. So far, 900 youth have applied to have a mentor. Visit the Borough President’s website for details.
2. February is Black history month and Dominican Heritage & Independence Celebration; the Borough President hosted celebrations for both and the Borough President will be attending the SOMOS conference in two weeks.
3. The BP is hosting Fire safety training sessions in response to two fires where 17 lives were lost.
4. Office is located at 851 Grand Concourse, Constituent Services Suite 123 Phone # (718) 590- 3500. Mr. Agosto’s cell is 347 213-0375, Suite 207

F. Bronx District Attorney's Office - *Trevon Blondet*

1. The DA’s office is accepting Prom dress & suit drive clothing drive from now until April 18th.
2. Mock Trial training was given for the new District Attorney’s and three CB7 Members attended.
3. A Re-Entry Fair was held in Bronx River Houses with 36 agencies in attendance. Attendees were given help with resumes, IDs and job placements. Another fair will be held in June or July and flyers will be sent.

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4. A Youth Council meeting was held on February 2nd where 37 youth spoke with the DA about problems in the area.
5. Trevon Blondet can be reached at (917) 946-3438.

G.52nd Precinct - PO Echevarria

1. Crime stats were reviewed where robberies are up 9% for the month. The Oval Park has been a source of crime in the evenings.
2. On 3/14/24, there is a Coffee with a Cop at 3396 Jerome Ave 10-12PM at Starbucks.
3. On 3/19/24 at 11AM, there is a Senior self-defense class with Detective Rodrigo Acosta, where he is trained in martial Arts. The event is in Oval Park.
4. On 3/23/24 from 11AM-2PM, there is the egg hunt opposite of the Police Precinct & there is another egg hunt on 3/30/24 at the Oval.
5. The Citizen's Police Academy runs for 6 weeks where three college credits can be obtained. This is an opportunity to see what type of training the NYPD are receiving.
6. Call the number 718-220-5824 for information on the 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting. Next one will be held on Zoom. It is the same information as last month.

H. Congressman Ritchie Torres' Office - Not Present

I. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera - Sari Mendoza

1. A Kingsbridge underpass roundtable will be held soon.
2. HRA Fair Fares & Housing Fairs were held on 2/8 and 2/22.
3. On 3/1, from 10AM-1PM, there will be a homeowner event held in the office, please RSVP.
4. On 3/16, there will be an Immigration Fair hosted at the office.
5. A Black History Month celebration was held at Tracey Towers with a Jazz Band. District Attorney Darcel Clark attended

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J. NY State Senator Robert Jackson - *Caridad Figueroa*

1. Senator Jackson hosted a workshop called, “Every Student Deserves Small Classes.” It brought together education advocates, parents and students. It was well attended and productive.
2. The senator is sponsoring the One Fair Wage Act- Bill # 5567A, where the bill ensures fair wages and tips are shared equally; it will require that restaurant workers get a minimum wage.
3. The Met Council is hosting Housing Workshops at CUNY in the Heights at 5030 Broadway, Suite 701. Services are provided to constituents on housing and legal matters. The next events are 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/14 & 5/28.
4. All are invited to the office, at 5030 Broadway, Suite 701

K. Assembly member George Alvarez - *Not Present*

L. Assembly member Jeffrey Dinowitz - *Not Present*

M. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr - *Anna Soselote*

1. Free Tax help for individuals earning less than \$60,000 and families earning less than \$80,000. Please call for an appointment.
2. Easter events will be held on Mosholu & Pelham Parkway Greenway on 3/23 & 3/24. Details will follow
3. The Summer Annual Block Party will be held on June 22, 2024. There will be free food and games for people of all ages.

N. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office - *Franklin Mateo*

1. Assembly Member is the Co-Sponsor for the HEAT Act which allows individuals to save more than \$100. a month on heating.
2. Free Tax prep with the organization MIMIC.
3. Today is Dominican Independence Day and the office is celebrating on social media.
4. Constituents are welcome to visit for help on a variety of issues/needs. 2174 Jerome Ave. suite C (718) 933-6909

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O. Council Member Oswald Feliz

1. Councilman Feliz introduced himself as the proud Representative of District 15; from the Eastside of the Grand Concourse to Boston Post Road and 173rd Street to Bedford Park.
2. Three million dollars has been allocated for the middle part of Poe Park to make it handicap accessible, and there will be more greenery to make the park look nicer. The children's playground will be updated and on 02/28 at 6PM, there will be a zoom call with Parks to discuss options for the renovations to the playground.
3. Issues in progress:
 - a) The office is working to resolve the issue of Ghost Cars, aka abandoned cars.
 - b) There was a fire in Harlem, with seven people injured and elsewhere due to E-bikes with non-certified, unsafe batteries. Therefore, new legislation is being considered.
4. Office address is 573 E. Fordham Road near Roosevelt H.S. Immigration help is on Tuesday and Tax Help is available 2 to 3 days per week for Households earning \$85,000 or less.

P. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office - Adrian Cacho

1. Ideas are still being sought for Participatory Budgeting. People can enter ideas on-line or call the office.
2. There will be a HRA Fair Fares Enrollment event on 3/20; please call the office and reserve a time slot.
3. The office is looking for individuals to join the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB).
4. Easter Egg Hunt will be held on 3/23. Details to follow
5. Office services with help on public assistance, rent, etc.

Q. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office - Frederice Latchman

1. Contact the office for help with HRA, SNAP or HPD problems.

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2. Office is holding library hours on March 4th at Mosholu Library and at Van Cortlandt Library, off Corlear Ave on March 12th.
3. For homeowners, the office has Flood Barriers and people can come to pick some up.
4. On 3/28/24 from 10AM-3PM, NY Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) will be at the office to assist with civil issues.
5. Contact information- 250 Broadway, NY, Suite 1868. Phone number is (212) 788-7080. Email is flatchman@council.nyc.gov

R. Guerinos Against Graffiti (G.A.G.)- Sirio Guerino

1. On 2/24/24, G.A.G was able to join the Kingsbridge Road's underpass clean-up and paint over the graffiti. The Department of Sanitation, the 52nd Precinct and the MTA Police have been cleaning up the garbage for weeks now.
2. In honor of Inspector Alps and Jeffrey Hunter, dear Board member & Veteran who passed away, G.A.G created and will be the corporate sponsor for "the One Underpass at a Time" coalition. This coalition will deal with the street cleaning problems of Webster Avenue's Underpass. They anticipate cleaning twice a week. This work will hopefully start in May

S. Armando Ramos - Constituent

1. He suggested that the Board vote yes on Motion A
2. Mr. Ramos would like to see Pride flags in the district

T. DSNY - Juan Cedana

1. Effective 3/1, all businesses must have bins that have secure lids. Businesses will have a 30 day grace period, and after that, tickets will be issued. If you are not sure what bin to use, ask your private carter for guidance.
2. Bins should be set out after 8PM or one hour before closing. They can be 3 feet from the building. These rules are for perishable waste ONLY, not glass, metal or paper.

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3. In Fall 2024, residential buildings will have to follow the same guidelines too.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera closes public hearing and gives her updates

- A. The DM sent a reminder that Community Board applications and renewals are due this Friday, March 1st.
- B. The DM gave a shout out to Andrew Laiosa, Kimaly Corley, Bernard Wright and Hugo Gonzalez for perfect attendance from July 2023-December 2023.
- C. There are several City of Yes Events and she encouraged members to review information online or attend events. Some events are
 - 1. 3/17 - Housing Opportunities
 - 2. 3/27 - Missing middle Housing
- D. The office has public surplus items that can be viewed online.
- E. Office is hosting an E-Waste event at the Board office on Sunday, March 17 from 11 to 4PM.
- F. The Board is open on Monday-Thursday, 9AM-5PM and remote on Fridays and on April 1st, the new Community Associate will begin.

IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks

- A. Chair Arias strongly encouraged the attendees to apply to be a board member. Anyone 16 and older can apply.
- B. She also recognized that this month is Women's History month.

V. Attendance (Roll Call) by Chairperson Yajaira Arias: Quorum met

VI. Review of Previous Months' Minutes: Leurys Acosta motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Motion to approve the minutes by Barbara Stronczer. Minutes are approved.

VII. Motions

- A. Budget, Personnel and Ethics: <https://bit.ly/3TPiUfm>

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1. Motion A was read by Jean Hill. The Budget, Personnel and Ethics Committee voted on this, there was one abstention and five Yes votes. Board members have 20 days to respond in writing, to the Board Chairperson, The Budget Personnel and Ethics Committee and the District Manager to explain their absences.
2. Discussion: To receive this letter, Board Members have missed three consecutive meetings or 50% of the Committee meetings. Jean Hill made a motion to vote and Barbara Stronczer seconded the vote.
3. Motion A passed with 26 Yes votes and one abstention by Carlos Sosa, who wished to be noted.

- VIII. Committee Reports-** Chair encourages all to look at the minutes in the meeting packet for details, and to contact the District Manager for questions.
- IX. Jean Hill motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Barbara Stronczer, all aye in favor. Meeting is adjourned.**
- X. Next Meeting Date:** March 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM Monroe College

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