



**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:	April 23, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Scott Towers 3400 Paul Ave, Bronx, NY 10468
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read**
- II. Public Hearing/ Public Session**
 - A. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera:**
 1. The Senate passed the budget with achievements made in housing, cannabis and other priorities.
 2. His office partnered with Council Member Sanchez and IDNYC to encourage people to sign up for an IDNYC identification card.
 3. Virtual office hours open to all on Fridays. Constituents can speak to the Senator for 15 minutes.
 4. On Thursday, May 9th, his office and the 52nd Precinct will be hosting a free electronic e-waste and paper shredding event at the 52nd precinct location.
 5. His office is in 2432 Grand Concourse, 5th Floor
 - B. NY State Senator Robert Jackson:**
 1. His office is looking at setting up an office at Bronx Community College to have a more active presence in the Bronx.
 2. As Chair of the Civil Service and Pension committee, his committee made changes to eligibility to the pension where instead of 10 years needed to be vested, it takes 5 years.

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3. He and his colleagues will head back to Albany on May 6th to finalize the budget and allocate money to the district.

C. Congressman Ritchie Torres- Not Present

D. Mayor's office- Alina Dowe:

1. Mayor's Budget for 2025 has been released and a two year extension for Mayoral control for schools.
2. The Mayor and NYC Health and Hospitals will be opening 16 mental health clinics to help children with mental health issues
3. The office is launching a pilot program to help families of domestic violence get housing faster. The program will start with 100 families. Data from the pilot program will be analyzed before expanding.
4. The Mayor allocated 1200 new officers to reduce crime and shootings around the city.
5. The Mayor has created a non-profit advisory council that will work not for profit organizations around the city.

E. NYC Public Advocate's Office- Not Present

F. NYC Comptroller's office- Not Present

G. Bronx Borough President's office- Kenny Agosto:

1. The Bronx Borough President held the following events: on April 18th Borough President's 2nd State of the Borough Address <https://youtu.be/SICyMAk740U?si=XyayWkzBVKIMMz3>, on April 23rd, the office hosted a career fair in partnership with the Department of Labor.
2. Upcoming events: the office is accepting prom dress and suit donations until May 9th, and on May 19th, the Bronx Week Parade and Festival will be held at Mosholu Parkway and Hull Avenue.
3. Anyone interested in hosting fire safety training, contact their office at 718-590-3500 (constituent office).

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4. For applicants who applied to be board members at community boards, the office will be having online meetings to interview the applicants. The interviews will occur between May and June.

H. Bronx District Attorney's office-Trevon Blondet:

1. The Bronx DA held a Child Safety Fair on April 27th from 11am-3pm with many organizations in attendance and many giveaways.

I. 52nd Precinct: *Not Present*

1. They could not attend, but the DM encouraged attendees to look at the 30 day stats in the packet, to attend the next community council precinct meeting on April 25th, and attend the precinct's autism walk on May 29th at 12 pm noon at 3016 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467.

J. Assembly member George Alvarez's Office- Taiquan Coleman:

1. Taiquan Coleman introduced himself as the new Chief of Staff.
2. The budget was passed with \$31 million for mental health support, paid leave for mothers, \$500 million for development of 15,000 new housing units on state owned lands, \$347 million for gun violence prevention and \$35.9 billion for school aid.

K. Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office- Not Present

1. The DM relayed a message from their office regarding the Henry Hudson Rebate Program, residents of the Bronx are eligible for rebate as long as they have a fully funded E-ZPass and a vehicle registered in the Bronx.

L. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr.'s Office- Ana Sacerdote:

1. The office hosted a successful Easter Egg Hunt and a park clean up.
2. The budget passed and the Assembly Member is working on bill, AA9520, which gives New York the power to revoke or suspend liquor, tobacco or lottery licenses for businesses that sell cannabis illegally.

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3. More events will be coming in the summer, such as food giveaways and paper shredding.

M. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office- Franklin Matos:

1. The budget was passed and a new law was passed to protect retail workers and the Assembly Member is currently sponsoring different bills that she hopes to pass. The AM will host a Mother's Day celebration, details TBA.

N. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office- George Cooke:

1. On May 31st the Council Member will host a Mother's Day event, details TBA.
2. There is an immigration lawyer at the office on Tuesdays, by appointment only. Please call 718-842-8100.
3. The office also helps constituents with other issues, such as housing, NYCHA, HRA, etc. They can give a call at 718-842-8100

O. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office-Adrian Cacho:

1. He recommended that people join hearings to learn about the City of Yes initiative.
2. The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is reviewing applications for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, more information will be given soon.
3. Office phone # 347-590-2874.

P. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office- *Not Present*

Q. Daniel Flores - NYC Department of Small Business Services

1. Shared information on what the agency does to help small businesses, such as free legal services, job training programs, resume workshops. For more information, go to <https://www.nyc.gov/site/sbs/index.page> .

R. AJ Ramos- Community Resident:

1. Shared an obscene and vulgar comment.

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S. Sirio Guerrino - Community Resident:

1. He expressed his disapproval towards the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity Zoning Amendments.
2. He asked if there would be a Pride Flag located in the district since June is coming.

T. Eric Urquiza - West Bronx Housing

1. Stated that The Bronx has the highest number of lack of heat and hot water complaints, with CB7 being the highest in the Bronx at 19,692. These complaints can pose serious health risks to the community, especially vulnerable populations. He urges the City and elected officials to put more funding in programs that can help tenants receive heat and hot water and prepare themselves for winter later this year.

U. Francis Boyd - Community Resident

1. Stated that she lives at 2965 Marion Avenue and in her building, she and other tenants do not receive heat and hot water. She is a senior citizen and expressed interest in the program that Eric Urquiza mentioned.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates

- A.** The DM formally welcomed Cristiana Robles as part of the CB7 staff
- B.** Bronx CB7 is participating in phase three of the Civic Engagement Commission's Citywide Participatory Budgeting. The Board's goal is to collect 100 PB ballots.
- C.** The DM congratulated the top 5 youth selected to receive the NY Yankees Youth Leadership Award: Caylah Burrus , Draimely Gonzalez , Michaela Cruz , Arianna Soto & Brianna Ramos.
- D.** Bronx CB7 will be hosting the following events:
 1. Naloxone Training on April 30th, Bronx Victory Memorial Flagging event on May 4th and Woodlawn Cemetery Flagging on May 20th. The board will be participating in the Bronx week parade on May 19th.

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E. Office is open for in person constituent services, Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm; and virtually on Fridays from 9 am to 5 pm. Location: 229-a East 204th Street, Bronx, NY 10458. Get in touch with us by email and phone: kcabreracarrera@cb.nyc.gov/ 718-933-5650. Text: 929-496-0748

F. Starting on June 21st, the office will be open five days a week

IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks

A. The chair attended a Civic Engagement Commission training and encouraged the members to join these trainings as well. Link:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/civicengagement/our-programs/community-boards.page>

B. The Chair stated she is in conversation with the governor's office regarding the Open Meetings Laws, where it is likely to be extended until 2026 and a final decision for hybrid decisions is still up in the air. The governor's office has encouraged her to speak with her local elected officials to push for hybrid meetings. The board has seen participation in online meetings be higher than in-person meetings.

C. The chair said on record that Bronx CB7 is the best board in the Bronx. It may not be perfect, but it is a good community board.

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

VI. **Review of Previous Months' Minutes:** were approved with edits.

VII. **Motions A:** Traffic & Transportation: <https://bit.ly/4cWiRWw>-Bronx Community Board 7 provides a letter of support for a Loading Zone designation at Scott Tower located at 3400 Paul Avenue, Bronx NY 10468.

A. Motion made by Edgar Ramos, Seconded by Jean Hill. No discussion followed.

B. Full board votes in approval of Motion A.

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VIII. Motion B: Executive Committee: <https://bit.ly/3Jpn731>-Send a letter to the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) in support of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) easement acquisition of MTA Metro-North ROW Block 3238 Lots 50, 52, 126 and Block 3245 Lot 12.

- A. Chad Royer motion to support, seconded by Helene (Jake) Wilson. Motion opens for discussion.
- B. Members asked questions, such as what the process of daylighting looks like and where the water will travel to, and the Department of Environmental Protection's representative answered those questions.
- C. Full Board voted in favor of Motion B with 3 abstentions.

IX. Committee Reports.

A. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

- 1. Next meeting is May 7th. Agenda to follow

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

- 1. His committee joined Public Safety and Quality of Life to pick the recipients for the Yankee Scholarship. Next meeting is May 14th

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

- 1. Next meeting is May 2nd with a possible presentation from MTA.

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

- 1. The committee met on April 9th to discuss the new shelter at 2501 Sedgwick avenue. More information to come in May. The committee also spoke about squatters in the district and the rise in apartment leases scams. Next meeting is on May 14th

E. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer - Not Present

- 1. The next meeting is on May 8th.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis - Not Present

- 1. Leurys Acosta spoke on behalf of Samantha. His committee joined her committee to pick the recipients for the Yankee Scholarship.

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G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila - Not Present

1. Next meeting will be May 21st

H. Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer

1. The committee met with the Bronx Historical Society regarding the Veterans Initiative. On July 24th, the VA Black Indigenous People Of Color coalition will host a veterans resource fair. More info will follow. The committee discussed the Jeffrey Hunter award and more info to follow. Community conversation was held regarding veterans and housing. Upcoming events: Bronx Victory Memorial Flagging event and Woodlawn Cemetery Flagging event

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. The committee met in February to talk about members who were not attending meetings. The Chair read out aloud members who either resigned, did not reapply or recommitted to join the meetings again.
2. Next meeting is on June 26th to discuss the internal budget and review of board members who did not reapply.

X. Meeting is adjourned: Motion by Helene Jake Wilson; seconded by Jean Hill

XI. Next Meeting Date: May 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Monroe College King's Hall, Mintz Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468

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