



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:	New York Botanical Garden - Ross Hall Auditorium 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. Det. Stephen Echevarria, 52nd Precinct:

1. Shared crime stats.

B. 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.

C. Danielle Herbert-Guggenheim:

1. Question to elected officials present: What is being done differently at the Williamsbridge Oval Park to prevent another tragedy as occurred last year with the death of a young person killed? How to keep children safe over the summer.

D. 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.

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E. William Stanford:

1. Provided information regarding the list of elections coming up.

F. Gabriel Famuyir:

1. Sanitation problem. Car with flat tire parked in front of his house with garbage accumulating underneath. Can't clean. Has made numerous 311 complaints. NYPD investigated. Has received tickets for failure to keep gutter clean.

G. Joice Salinas:

1. Sanitation issues at 2579 Bainbridge Ave. Trying to maintain area clean. Yet received a ticket at 3:00 AM. Questioned rationale for ticket given by sanitation supervisor. Plans to fight the ticket.

H. Yvel Calderon:

1. Wants to know the sanitation regulations regarding the storage of 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 are targeted by DSNY.

I. 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, DOT needs to respect and listen to the neighborhood's legitimate concerns before putting plans into effect that impact 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 as it is 11 feet wide. They will continue to monitor the conditions past implementation.

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J. Kimberly Troncoso:

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.

K. Chad Royer:

1. Shared about his experience as a cancer survivor and urged everyone to see a doctor for screenings for potential health risks. Also make wellness calls on neighbors and people you know. Thanked the board for supporting him on his health journey.

L. Jean Hill:

1. Gave a special shout-out to the community board office staff and district manager – Genesis Reyes, Cristiana Robles and Karla Cabrera – who have worked so hard during the year to make board life comfortable, to make sure 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 showing up to the meetings consistently, and providing feedback, being outspoken, and being a great example to everyone who attends these meetings. "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

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with the team in the office to put together the ceremony. She paid great attention to detail, which was evident in how well the event turned out.

- 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, around greening our parks, and provide space to hold 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 with useful information for the community on the different services provided.
- 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 will be posted on the CB 7 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 not reappointed are encouraged to remain as leaders on committees and help create a more sustainable board so we can have a revolving door of leadership and knowledge.

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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

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, which includes 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

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X. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives

A. 52nd Precinct, Det. Stephen Echevarria

1. Fresh Food Distribution Event, July 29, 2026 starting from 11:00 AM at the 52nd Precinct.
2. National Night Out at Poe Park, August 4, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at E 192nd St. & Grand Concourse.
3. **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.

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

1. The office will have the Mexican consulate the following week.
2. Immigration support – Know Your Rights cards available.
3. 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 and 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 distribution of food.
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, making sure older residents have the same access to information and support.

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6. Will continue to offer food distribution every month, throughout the day – visit our office for times and locations.
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 ID NYC, 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 Monday.
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 farmer's 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 mandate all

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small businesses to have rolling security gates that are 70% visibility. 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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