



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Emmanuel Martinez
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, April 28th, 2020
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias

Minutes:

- I) Welcoming Remarks from Chairman Emmanuel Martinez Review of previous minutes**
 - a) Addressing of rules of order for virtual meeting
 - b) Board Operations - minutes to be submitted within 48 hrs
 - c) Importance of informing the public during Covid-19 shutdown
- II) District Managers Report**
 - a) Welcoming attendees
 - b) Rise in DV disputes – 52nd Precinct to elaborate more in their report
 - c) Price gauging within the board (fines and violations) call 311 and report
 - d) DFAC – Free Tax prepr
 - e) DEP/DOT – working at limited capacity
 - f) Construction deemed essential
 - g) Homeless Services and Affordable Housing
 - h) HRA update: Increase in SNAP Benefits /Accessibility for information
 - i) DHS – partnered with HHC Covid testing for all client and staff
 - 1) Shelter system are available to the best of their capacity providing staggered meal times, promoting social distancing and any complaints are being reported
 - 2) The City has allocated some hotels to be shelters anywhere from 200 to 700 bed available during pandemic to help those in need.
 - 3) Bronxworks continues to function in helping those in need
 - 4) Hand washing station Webster & Fordham Road (2 in the Bronx)
 - 5) Tablet distribution for families who don't have computer access in shelters



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- j) Absentee ballots: eligible voters will receive in the mail the option of submitting an absentee ballot for the primary election taking place on June 23. The absentee ballot must be submitted by June 16th.**
- k) Census - everyone should fill out the census either via online, mail or in person by 6/22/20 .**
- l) Department of Labor is handling a lot of unemployment applications: if anyone needs to file -please file online obtain a number and call follow their instructions. If any issues, please reach out to our office and we will do our best to help you through the process.**
- m) Stimulus checks: Citizens receiving SSDI/SSI/Retirees will receive stimulus check just be patient.**
- n) Antibody testing : As of 4/28/20 City MD will be conducting antibody testing.**
- o) Reminder the CB7 Board is fully operational**
- p) We will keep an eye out on gloves dumped on the streets and any complaints thereof.**

III) Committee Reports

a) Traffic and Transportation:

- 1) Traffic and Transportation Chair Edgar Ramos presented to the board Motion for letter in support for the results of feasibility study of 199th Street between Marion Avenue and Webster Avenue. The committee previously voted on the motion – motion passed with 4 yes; one committee member was absent and one abstention.**
 - During the discussion of this motion it was agreed to change the wording of the motion to “Letter of Support Acknowledging/Accepting the results of the feasibility study of 199th Street between Marion Avenue and Webster Avenue”.**
 - Board vote was taken: Motion passed 20 votes and abstention by Adeline Walker-Santiago.**



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 2) Next Committee meeting will be 5/7/20 DOT will be presenting projection for University Avenue and work implementation.
- b) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development:
 - 1) Chair Alex Karman briefly discussed their last meeting's agenda and also discussed housing project coming to our area.
 - 2) St. Mary's & Catholic Houses (2 buildings) Presentation is set for next meeting on 5/12/20.
- c) Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs: Chair Barbara Stronczer
 - 1) brief discussion on reduction in seasonal park employees due to pandemic. She will continue to reach out to Parks and obtain more information. Also, she received complaints of tree being taken down in our area and we are in the hopes that 200 new trees will be planted back – this will be monitored and provide new information in the near future.
- d) Public Safety and Quality of Life: Chair Dilletta pina
 - 1) No meeting was held. However, Dilletta stressed the importance of the census. We need to be counted without it we lose a lot of resources that we need. She urged everyone to file it out.
- e) Census Committee: Chair Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky
 - 1) Next meeting will be 5/18/20 at 6:30 pm
 - 2) Census date has been extended from July to October (10/31/20) please submit via online/mail or phone.
- f) Health & Human Services Committee: Chair Chad Royer
 - 1) No report as committee did not meet
 - 2) Briefly discussed his observation of people not practicing social distancing at Food Dynasty 24 W. Fordham Road - any reports of people not social distancing can be sent to Ischia and she will sent it over to P.O. Reveron for handling.
- g) Public Relations: Chair Denise Relf
 - 1) No new updates



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 2) **Zoom challenges for some – please reach out to her via email for a tutorial**
 - h) **Budget, Personnel & Ethics: Chair Andrew Laiosa**
 - 1) **Thanked the CB7 Chair, District Manager and Staff in their bold decision to physically shut down the office to avoid transporting of the virus. Bold decision and received unofficial and official pushback but it was for the best.**
 - 2) **Discussed budget freeze throughout the City for the remainder of 2020**
 - 3) **There will be \$4,000 reductions in our budget**
 - 4) **For 2021 there will be more cuts; no new merit increases**
 - i) **Importance of Capital and Expenses needs which will be emailed to everyone.**
 - j) **We are working on spending the budget on items like School Supplies and Cleaning Supplies.**
 - k) **With cuts the need will be bigger but we need to be smart and avoid any kind of audits.**
 - l) **Next meeting will be 5/19/20 at 6:30 PM – City Planning has been invited to attend.**
 - m) **Veterans: Chair Jean Hill was not present to provide report/update.**
 - n) **52nd Precinct Report: P.O. Reveron**
 - 1) **Overall crime is down in all aspects. However there has been an increase in Domestic Disputes (not all has been act of violence)**
 - 2) **Car burglaries are on the rise – check on your vehicle(s)**
 - 3) **Social Distancing and staying safe is key.**
 - 4) **Crime stats are on their site.**
- IV) Elected officials/City Agencies/Representatives:**
- a) **Councilman Fernando Cabrera**
 - 1) **Discussed his ongoing work in the City Council; budget cuts that will come in the near future due to the pandemic.**
 - 2) **Tablets given away to students (19,000) are left.**



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 3) Food distributions are being held throughout the district for those in need.**
- b) Senator Gustavo Rivera:**
 - 1) Office open virtually 718-933-2204**
 - 2) Holding unemployment assurance webinar 5/5/2 at 6:00 pm via Facebook live and zoom**
 - 3) Discussed his ongoing work in Senate; expansion of Medicaid and testing for undocumented immigrants; Mental health screening via telehealth in partnership with community health centers; unemployment benefits (will be retroactive); Budget City/State voted against Medicaid cuts; fighting to have rent cancelled – 90 day moratorium is not enough; wants to obtain guarantee antibody testing to avoid Covid again; Subway homelessness working on finding a solution**
- c) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:**
 - 1) Briefly discussed testing at Lehman College Parking lot and he is hosting town halls to keep everyone informed.**
- d) Assemblyman Victor Pichardo:**
 - 1) Office functioning remotely 718-933-9309**
 - 2) Working on the same issues as his colleagues**
 - 3) Resources are available in Spanish and English**
 - 4) Holding event at World Central Kitchen 4/29/20 at 4:00 PM**
- e) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez:**
 - 1) Working on the same issues as his colleagues**
 - 2) Office functioning remotely 718-409-0909**
 - 3) Essential Workers need assistance**
 - 4) Briefly discussed Nursing Home Death(s) during this pandemic which is not acceptable. A more concentrated effort to Nursing Homes is needed.**
 - 5) Educating the public immediately on testing and where to get tested is key to flattening the curve.**



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- f) Assemblyman Jose Rivera:**
 - 1) Working on the same issues as his colleagues
 - 2) Wants more resources to be provided to our local hospital St. Barnabas, Montefiore, North Central
- g) Representative from Alessandra Biaggi's office: Maris Gelman**
 - 1) Office working remotely.
 - 2) Working on the same issues as her colleagues.
 - 3) Working hard on obtaining resources to our district – her nightly newsletter sent and listed on her website.
- h) Representative from Councilman Andrew Cohen's office: Guillermo**
 - 1) Office working remotely.
 - 2) Working on the same issues as her colleagues.
 - 3) Food Giveaway at 5/4/20 at Tracy Towers 1st come 1st served.
- i) Representative from Transportation Alternatives: Amril**
 - 1) City is looking to block off city streets thought the 5 boroughs for pedestrian use only.
 - 2) City is open to suggestions as to which areas or streets to close for pedestrians to use.
 - 3) Mental Health and physical activity is necessary.
 - 4) Social Distancing is key.
- j) Representative from Literacy NYC: Evelyn Cabrera**
 - 1) Literacy NYC is holding reading programs for all during this time.
 - 2) Their resources area available for all – this week focus is the census.
- V) Discussion on next month's agenda**
 - a) Suspension of curbside composting and City Council "Community Organics and Recycling Empowerment (CORE)" Acts
- VI) Next month's meeting date: Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020 @ 6:30 PM**
- VII) Adjournment**