



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

General Community Board Meeting Minutes

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| Chair | Jean Hill |
| Meeting Date: | Tuesday, November 27th, 2018 |
| Meeting Time: | 6:30pm |
| Meeting Location: | North Central Bronx Hospital |
| Minutes Done By: | Nora Feury, Secretary |

Minutes

I. Introductions

- a) Jean Hill opened the meeting at 6:45 pm and thanked NCBH for the use of the space for the CB meeting.

II. Elected Officials/Public Session

- a) Councilman Richie Torres thanked the CB for inviting him. He then proceeded to give an overview of some of the issues he is dealing with.
 - 1. He addressed the recent election debacle where machines broke down with no technicians to fix them, leaving people unable to vote. He is referring the problem to the DOI for investigation.
 - 2. He mentioned the overcrowding in the Emergency Room at Montefiore and he is in conversation with the Hospital officials to address the situation.
 - 3. He mentioned a bill in the Council to prevent landlords from harassing tenants into moving out of rent controlled apartments. The City will be watching these landlords to protect tenants.
 - 4. Another item is that Police Officers must carry business cards.
- b) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz followed up on the election disaster noting that after the Florida elections NY did not improve its process. He expressed wishes for the old lever machines which lasted over 50 years and were dependable or easily repaired if they broke down. He spoke of proposed new machines to replace the present ones.
 - 1. He referred to the new majority in the NY Senate who will be able to pass laws on rents, affordable housing, Election issues, the Dream Act, Healthcare reform, Bail reform, heat complaints.
 - 2. All are invited to a Town Hall meeting on Thursday Nov. 29th at Vladeck at 7 pm where one can meet their local leaders to discuss community problems.
- c) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez reported on the Thanksgiving Dinner she sponsored for people who would be alone on the holiday.



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1. Her office is collecting donations for the 7 families who were displaced when a fire destroyed their homes. She is collecting clothing for men, women and children. Gift cards would be welcome. Donations can be dropped off at the CB 7 office.
 2. All are invited to the Hanukkah lighting on Monday, Dec. 3rd. All are also invited to Nathalia's swearing in ceremony on Sat., Jan. 5th at a location to be announced.
 3. The Assemblywoman is sponsoring a "Know Your Rights Forum" on Thurs., Nov. 29, 20-18 at 3401 White Plains Road at 6 pm.
- d) Claire Mcleiveighn reported on the ribbon cutting by Councilman Fernando Cabrera of the Dominican Memorial Monument which honors more than 340 Dominican men and women who fought for the US in WW II. Council Member provided a total of \$ 250,000 to CUNY and the Dominican Studies Institute for research and construction.
1. Legislation is being developed to connect the 59 CB s to the City's network.
 2. A bill will be introduced by the Council Member to provide parking permits to all CB Chairpersons. WOW!
 3. Legislation will be introduced to require the Mayor's Community Affairs to develop Community Board Institutes for all members in key areas ie: land use ,city operations, contract and personnel management, procurement, IT and other helpful areas.
 4. The Scooter Bill law will be introduced to legalize E-Scooters. They are limited to a speed of 15 mph and provide affordable and environmentally friendly transit options.
- e) Rachel Ferrari from State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office reported on recent activities.
1. The Senator sends holiday greetings and reported the distribution of 500 turkeys to needy Bronxites.
 2. He also reported celebrating a Thanksgiving dinner with Veterans.
 3. He will continue addressing the needs for the hungry in his district by collecting canned food by Dec. 10th.
 4. There will be ongoing overdose prevention training from his office.
 5. The Senator thanked all for voting for him. He is very grateful.
- f) Kenny Agosto delivered greetings from State Senator Jamal Bailey.
1. The Senator was out and about the community delivering turkeys to needy constituents. He will continue good works by sponsoring a coat drive.



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2. Call his office for more information or go see Kenny at MMCC every Wednesday morning.
- g) Miles Burnett reported Councilman Cohen's generosity with his donation to the Head Start Program at MMCC for which they very grateful.
1. Another gift to the community is the revamping of Frisch Field to become a multipurpose field. The Councilman is pledging \$ 5 million to this project. The community is looking forward to planning this project with the Parks Dept. and Mr. Cohen.
 2. Andy's commitment to the community knows no end. He is also sponsoring a Hats & Glove Drive for those in need. Donations will be accepted at his office from Nov. – Dec. 14th or at community meetings.
 3. There will be a Town Hall Forum on Thurs. Dec. 6th at 7 pm at the Riverdale Temple at 4545 Independence Ave.
- h) Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps, the new Exec. C.O. of the 52 pct. Introduced himself and gave a detailed background of his service to the NYCPD. He is happy to be in the 52 as that's where he started out as a patrolman. He is looking forward to working with the community. His priority is to see that his patrol is trained and equipped, who will know right from wrong , who will meet his expectations thereby giving better service to the residents. His remarks were warmly accepted by the audience.
- i) P.O. Echevaria reviewed the crime stats. He introduced the community partners and shared their posts and how to get in touch with them.
1. The next Pct Community Council meeting will be on 12/20 at the Rulay Lounge. All are welcome. The Christmas Float is planned. Call 718 – 220-5824.
- j) Andy Toledo, from BP Ruben Diaz, Jr., reminded members of the mandatory Sex Harassment training by Dec 14th. Call CB 7 or the BP's office for an appointment.
1. Members up for reappointment will soon be notified. Applications for appointment were available.
 2. All are invited to the Annual Bronx Tree Lighting on Dec. 6th at 851 Grand Concourse.
- k) Josh Cortez, representing the Mayor, reported on the recent snow storm making the usual excuses. There were questions from the Members and the audience about the lack of preparation for the storm and the delays suffered by the citizens many of whom spent hours on the road without any information forthcoming about the situation. He reports that the Mayor is dealing with the problem with a promise of better service.



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- l) David Cruz, from the Norwood News thanked all for the response of so many in attending the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the paper . He is requesting news stories and pictures.
- m) Nick Peters announced the availability of housing Assistance at Assemblymember Victor Pichardo's office every Thursday from 11 am – 3 pm.
 1. The Assemblyman also distributed turkeys to the community.
- n) Patricia Henry from the Fordham Road Post Office reported the need to clear up the past situations in service and the availability by the public to the post office . For more information call 718-584-3577.
- o) Katie Friedman from the NYC Parks Dept. announced a meeting to be held at St. James Recreation Center on Thursday, Nov. 29th at 6:30 p.m., where there will be an update on NYC Parks Harlem River Watershed Plan. The public input is needed.
- p) P.O. Preira NCO A from the 52 Pct. Introduced the NCO's and the sector where they are assigned.
 1. The officers shared their experiences and some brave arrests.
 2. Their cell phones were made public in order for the public to get personal and available service.
- q) Marsha Williams provided information on financial stability in retirement from the Index Universal Life Company.

III. Public Session ends/ Board Meeting opens at 7:35 pm.

- a) Attendance taken; Quorum present
- b) The Agenda and the Minutes were approved.
- c) **Motion(s):**
 1. The first motion regarding Leaves of Absence was set aside for the December meeting
 2. To spend up to \$3,000 for the annual CB 7 bus tour of Community District 7, including food and beverages. Motion approved unanimously
 3. To spend up to \$2,000 for the layout, printing, and translation into the Spanish language for the annual CB 7 newsletter. The motion was approved with the word ENGLISH to be added. The Committee will meet at 6 pm on November 27th before the General Board meeting to discuss further expenditures i.e.: Electronic Translation System. The Committee will also be informed of the “do's” and “don'ts” on allowable expenditures. The motion was approved unanimously



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4. A letter be sent to HPD, and our elected officials stating that the project slated for 257-71 East 202nd Street and 258-78 East 203rd Street, as presented, is not supported by Community Board #7. Concerns include the density of these buildings on such a narrow street, lack of any parking, and the effect a project of this size would have on City services for the neighborhood. The motion was approved unanimously
5. A letter be sent to Councilman Espinal, stating that Community Board #7 is in favor of the passage of Intro 1058. The motion was approved with one abstention from Andrew Laiosa.
6. To spend up to \$1,000 on the Veterans Brunch. The motion was approved unanimously; The Board voted to spend \$1500, not \$1000.

IV. Chairperson's Report

- a) Jean Hill reminded all about the Tree Lighting at 6 pm on Mosholu Pkwy. on Dec. 6th. The CB 7 Carolers will not be performing this year leaving many participants greatly disappointed.
- b) Jean shared the status of the Mosholu train station elevator. First, she thanked all who spent many hours obtaining signatures supporting an elevator. It appears the stations to receive the elevators have already been selected with Mosholu somewhere in the future. Jean promises that this decision is unsatisfactory and further action is to be determined.
- c) Barbara Stronczer reported that the Executive Committee concentrated on tonight's motions. She also urged all to attend their assigned Committees in order to carry on the Board's business.

V. District Manager's Report

- a) Outreach: We will take a more active role in informing the community when new development is proposed. Outreach will include but not be limited to canvassing neighboring buildings and posting in lobbies. We need to increase are community participation and input.
 1. On November 13th, 2018 CAMBA presented to the Housing Committee a development they wish to put in our district. We created a flyer and distributed to the neighboring business and buildings. The intent was to ensure community input for any projects. Graciously we had many residents attend our meeting and express their opinion. Please use this link to review the proposed project: <https://tinyurl.com/cambabronx>
- b) November DSC



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1. NYPD – Mail Box fishing is affecting our neighborhoods. We are encouraging residents to use the post office instead of the outside mailboxes.
 2. FDNY – Would like to host Fire Safety events in our District. Please send me developments and or associations willing to host.
 3. DOT – Increase in meter fees take effect in our area December 3rd, 2018. Depending on where and when you park at a parking meter in New York City, the cost and regulations vary. Hourly parking rates for passenger parking range from \$1.25 to \$7.50, and from \$5.00 to \$8.00 for commercial parking. Always remember to check the pay station and signage for specific rates and times. Effective with this rate change, the city will be divided into 6 unique rate zones. The details and location of these zones can be found on DOT's [Parking Rate Map](https://nycdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d12f03e992d741f89bd3b28d1c106dec).
<https://nycdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d12f03e992d741f89bd3b28d1c106dec>
 4. Bronx Borough President- New Board Member application:
<http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards/>
- c) NYC Council Charter Commission- The 2019 Commission — made up of members appointed by the Mayor, the Speaker of the City Council, all five Borough Presidents, the Public Advocate, and the Comptroller — has a broad mandate to conduct a top-to-bottom review and will bring its recommendations to the public in November 2019. <http://www.charter2019.nyc/>
- d) The Children's Aid is working with the Bronx Borough President on a program called the Empire State Reduction Initiative. Bronx Community Board 7 in the Bedford Park section has at least 35% of families living in poverty. The task force leading this initiative is using a community-led approach to identifying the major issues and developing a plan that can be implemented to achieve long-term impact. Put another way, the task force has sought feedback from the community about what is happening—and what they want to see happen—to counter poverty. There are seven key areas that the task force, broken up into work groups, will study, prioritize, and build a plan to address: Employment and earnings, Staying healthy, Stable housing, Education and skills, Family stability, Public safety and criminal justice, Support systems and resources. The task force will continue to collect vital information and input from community residents, particularly those living in poverty, to develop a long-term plan that puts more children, youth, and families in a position to realize their fullest



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potential. <https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/programs/empire-state-poverty-reduction-initiative>

- e) Bronx Community Board 7 and Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez have been proactive by partnering to help the families affected by the 4 alarm fire on Hull Avenue and 205th Street. The fire affected 7 families-35 people. We will be accepting donations until Friday, November 30th, 2018 at our office.

VI. Committee Reports

- a) Economic Development
1. The Committee continues to address the homeless and vendor problems in Gun Hill, Kingsbridge and Fordham. They will have a joint Committee meeting in January to include representation from NYC Agencies (Safety and Sanitation) to address the situation.
- b) Veterans Affairs
1. There was a presentation by Johnnie Williams of Help Is On The Way. He described the issues facing Veterans and how they can get help.
 2. The Veterans Brunch is scheduled for May 2019.
- c) Budget, Personnel & Ehics
1. The Committee is seeking assistance from members on spending the \$ 42,000 awarded to all CB's from Councilman Fernando Cabrera.
 2. A description of the duties of a consultant to be hired was described.
- d) Environment & Sanitation
1. An update report was given on the organic situation which appears to be at a standstill.
 2. The animal shelter in the Bronx was announced.
- e) Education, Youth & Libraries
1. It was announced that the Committee would meet in December at Fordham Hill.
- f) Traffic & Transportation
1. Edgar Ramos reported on the presentation by Kyle Thomas on the Jump Bike Pilot Program with the possibility of further expansion of the program. Jump was recently purchased by Uber who will combine the bikes with their Uber App program.
 2. Dec. meeting at tree lighting on Mosholu Pkwy.
- g) Housing, Land Use & Zoning
1. John Snider reported on the proposed housing project by CAMBA Housing Venture located at 257-271 East 202nd Street and 258-278 East 203rd Street.



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2. The Committee listened to the complaints from the residents of Bedford Park Manor about a bulk of issues. The management of the building will be invited to the January meeting to further discuss the situation.
- h) Parks & Recreation
1. The Committee received many complaints about dead trees. A representative from Forestry will attend the next meeting.
- i) Public Safety & Quality of Life
1. The Committee met and discussed safety on the Transit System. It was recommended that cameras be placed at the 205th and Perry Avenue entrance since most crimes come from that entrance.
 2. Warnings continue on the fishing of mail throughout the community.
- j) Health & Human Services
1. The Committee approved a Letter of Support for the Lehman College Speech and Hearing Center.
 2. The spread and prevention of Legionnaires Disease was discussed.
 3. The homeless and safety issues in the community continue to be a problem.
- k) Public Relations
1. Denise Reif was announced as Vice Chair of the Committee.
 2. There is a request for pictures and events to be sent to the CB to be used for the News Letter or on Facebook
- l) At this point, Jean Hill returned the meeting to the Public session to hear from Helen Redd who was inadvertently overlooked earlier.
1. She reported on the conditions at Bailey Houses and the desperate need for repairs due to lead, leaking water and many other instances of poor quality of life. She is seeking support from the CB to correct these problems.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm