



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



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

HOUSING, LAND USE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair:	Alex Karman
Meeting Date:	Thursday, June 18 th , 2020
Meeting Time:	5:00 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Teleconference
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Karman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Stronczer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edgar Ramos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Myrna Caldron <input type="checkbox"/> Edgar Cisneros <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Ascensio <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandra Erickson
Minutes done by:	Alex Karman

Minutes:

- I) Introductions
- II) Review of previous minutes
 - a) The committee unanimously approved the May 2020 meeting minutes
- III) Follow-up from previous month
 - a) Phase 1 Construction Activities: Eulis Jarratt, NYC Dept. of Buildings
 - 1) Mr. Eulis Jarratt from the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) presented an overview of DOB’s guidelines for the resumption of construction activity. He explained that DOB required construction sites to add COVID-19 prevention measures to their site safety plan and to introduce a social distancing protocol. He stated that DOB’s guidelines directed construction sites to update logs for every person working on a site to ensure effective contact tracking. He explained that DOB inspectors planned to conduct unannounced safety inspection sweeps. The first violation would result in a warning with no penalty. Subsequent violations would result in a civil penalty. Responding to a committee member’s question, Mr. Jarratt stated that every contractor should provide a hand washing station for employees where practical. Mr. Edgar Ramos stated that he recently observed a portable handwashing station at a construction site.



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Mr. Jarratt stated that DOB's guidelines would remain in effect indefinitely for all construction sites.

b) DCAS – Explain process for sidewalk cafes

1) A representative from NYC Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services did not attend the meeting.

c) Sidewalk Café: Fokkus, 138 West Fordham Road

1) The committee discussed a request for a letter of support from Fokkus Restaurant to extend Fokkus' State liquor license to the Fordham Road sidewalk in front of its building. The proprietor of Fokkus submitted its request to Community Board 7 staff but did not attend the meeting. The committee discussed the information provided by Fokkus as well as the City's proposal to accommodate restaurants and bars on sidewalks and streets this summer as NYC enters phase 2 of its re-opening from COVID-19. The committee members expressed concern about noise from restaurants and bars operating outside, especially at night. After some discussion, the committee unanimously voted to support Fokkus' application to extend its New York State Liquor Authority license to operate on the sidewalk provided that service end at 9:00pm on Sunday-Thursday and 10:00pm on Friday-Saturday.

d) Social Innovation Collaboratory of Fordham University: Lack of accessible and reliable financial institutions

1) A group of Fordham University undergraduate students presented research they planned to conduct this summer about unbanked and underbanked households in the Bronx. The students explained that as compared to the nation, a greater percentage of Bronx households were unbanked (6.5% v. 19.3%) and underbanked (20.8% v. 29.9%). To understand why, the students planned to ask a series of survey questions to Bronx households, compile the answers, and publish their findings. In response to a question about their survey



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design method, the students stated they were working with Fordham’s Dept. of Psychology to draft the research questions.

2) In addition to their research, the students stated they planned to offer free consulting to area businesses under the label Fordham Bronx Business Solutions. Among the services offered would be building a social media presence and promoting business organization. The students were soliciting businesses that could benefit from the students’ services.

- IV) Next meeting date: September 2020**
- V) Discussion on next agenda: TBD**
- VI) Adjournment**