



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

## GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Scott Tower ♦ 3400 Paul Avenue ♦ Bronx, 10468

- I) Public Session opened at 6:35 PM with the following speakers:
  - A) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
    - 1) Spoke about the state budget and a tax cut for the middle class
    - 2) Huge cuts in education will not be necessary
  - B) State Senator Gustavo Rivera:
    - 1) Stated that stronger rent laws and a more progressive tax system went through the legislature.
    - 2) He is in favor of SNUG a program against gun violence and the formation of a charitable bail organization. He is also an advocate of independent redistricting.
    - 3) Announced the development of Voices for residents to report what is happening on their street. He urged residents to join by attending a meeting on 3/2/12 at the Poe Building from 6:00-7:00PM.
    - 4) Invited everyone to a Black History Month celebration on 2/25/12 from 12:00-2:30 at St. Joseph's church at 1948 Washington Ave.
  - C) Inspector Joseph Dowling, 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Commander:
    - 1) There is a borough wide problem with Mercury Villagers being stolen.
    - 2) Three shooting incidents have taken place. The perpetrator of the shooting on 196<sup>th</sup> and Briggs has been caught.
    - 3) Crime has increased slightly.
  - D) Mr. X, community resident:
    - 1) Announced the State of the Borough Address on 2/23/12, the Bedford Mosholu Community Assn. flea market on 3/10/12, and the 100 Democrats' barbecue on 7/21/12.
  - E) Thomas Gary, Businessman:
    - 1) Spoke about "Hip Hop Hooray" his affordable entertainment company which offers bounce houses, food devices, clowns, games, and D.J.'s.
  - F) Emily Cunningham, representing Project Enterprise:
    - 1) Announced the availability of loans to Bronx business owners. Her organization loans from \$1,500-\$12,000.
  - G) George Dodsawith, Resident of Scott Towers:
    - 1) Spoke about the dangerous condition when leaving the parking lot at Scott Towers. Re-possessed cars are being lined up by city marshals along Paul Avenue. Drivers are forced into on-coming traffic when exiting the lot. He is requesting that these cars be towed elsewhere.
  - H) Kwasi Akyempong, representing KARA:
    - 1) Spoke about the future plans for the Kingsbridge Armory. He hopes that the developer chosen will meet the needs of the community.
  - I) Juton Horstman, representing City Planning:



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- 1) Announced a community workshop pertaining to the development of the University Heights Metro North Station. The workshop will take place on Sat. March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Monroe College from 1:00-4:00PM.
- J) Adela Dalto, representing the New York Media Center:
  - 1) Asked for support of a proposal to develop the old library building at 2556 Bainbridge Ave. into a training site for youth interested in the media arts. The proposal was sent to the Long Range Planning Committee.
- K) Tony Ramunno, President of the Scott Towers Board:
  - 1) Mr. Ramunno discussed the traffic problem when exiting the parking lot, as well as, the additional problem of the school buses.
- II) The public session ended at 7:35 PM and the Board Meeting opened.
  - A) Attendance was taken; a quorum was present.
  - B) The minutes were accepted as written.
- III) Executive Committee Report by Adaline Walker:
  - A) Ms. Walker announced a proposed cut of 6 percent to the board budget.
  - B) Announced the Leadership Workshop for Board members on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.
  - C) Spoke about EDC's approval of a concert at the armory without prior notification to the community board.
- IV) District Manager's Report:
  - A) Announced a public hearing on our capital and expense budgets for Wed. March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. at the board office.
  - B) Invited everyone to attend the Bronx Parks Speak-up on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at Lehman College.
  - C) Introduced our new staff person and consultants: Juan Ramirez, Marques Payne, and Spencer Salzberg.
  - D) Discussed the Mayor's preliminary budget and the proposed cut of 6% to the board budget
- V) Motions:
  - A) Traffic and Transportation Motion:
    - 1) Send a letter to DOT in support of placing a "No Parking" Sign in front of "Tender-Tots" located at 3322 Decatur Ave. The sign should read "No Parking from 7 am to 6 pm Monday-Friday" and it should be placed to allow for a 30 foot long space. The reason for the sign is to allow parents to drop off children for day care. The street is narrow and this space would allow traffic to move
      - a) The motion was approved by voice vote. There were two opposed (Andrew Laiosa) and 6 abstentions.
    - 2) The Committee voted to send a letter to DOT in support of making Decatur Ave, Hull Ave, Perry Ave and a portion of E 211 St. into one way streets to help improve the flow of traffic on East Gun Hill Road. These streets are located between Putnam Place and Webster Ave.
      - a) The motion was approved by voice vote. There was one opposed (Andrew Laiosa) and 1 abstention.
  - B) Executive Committee Motion:
    - a) To send a letter to NYCEDC objecting to the event lasting until 3a.m. in a residential neighborhood the motion was approved by voice vote.
    - b) The letter should include the following:



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- i) Lack of proper and timely notification to the community
- ii) The question of security with a ratio of 30 security officers to 3000+ attendees
- iii) Concerns about adequate toilet facilities
- iv) Lack of sufficient parking
- v) All around health and safety issues
- vi) Lack of respect to the community about notification of the event

#### VI) Committee Reports:

##### A) Sanitation and Environment by Helene Hartman:

- 1) The next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. DEP and the Botanical Garden will send representatives to discuss the flooding on Kazimiroff Blvd. near the Allerton ball fields.
- 2) There will be a meeting on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the contamination at the former Bronx New School site.

#### VII) Elected Officials' Report:

##### A) Andy Toledo represented the Borough President:

- 1) He reminded everyone about the State of the Borough address on Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2) Urged people to apply for membership on the community board.
- 3) Announced the opening of a new plant by Fresh Direct in the Hunts Point area.

##### B) Sally Caldwell represented Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera:

- 1) During the past month, the Assemblywoman attended the Bedford Mosholu Community Assn. meeting to discuss redistricting. She also met with the TWU to discuss their negotiations for a fair contract, and she met with the UFT regarding the proposed closings of 22 schools.
- 2) Ms. Caldwell reported the loss of 10,000 rent controlled apts. due to loopholes in the law.
- 3) Announced the honoring of grandparents in the 80<sup>th</sup> AD next month.
- 4) Invited all to attend the next 52<sup>nd</sup> Community Council Meeting on 2/23 at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center.

##### C) Mary Ann Rosa represented Senator Gustavo Rivera:

- 1) Presented flyers for the events announced by the Senator.

##### D) Greg Faulkner represented Councilman Cabrera:

- 1) Stated that the councilman will work for the restitution of the proposed 6% cut to the board's budget. He also stated that additional funding was needed by community boards.
- 2) Announced a free tax preparation service being offered by the councilman. It will take place on Sat. March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bronx Works, Morris Sr. Center from 9:00-5:00PM.
- 3) Council funds for not-for-profit groups are available. He urged groups to apply.

##### E) George Diaz represented Councilman Oliver Koppell.

- 1) Urged residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> district to call the office at 718-549-7300 with any problems or complaints. Reminded residents that he is available at the satellite office on Tues. and Fridays. Tel# 718-882-4000 ext. 353.

#### VIII) The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM with the board going into executive session.