



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 @ 6:30 PM

Held at: Bronx Library Center ♦ 310 East Kingsbridge Road ♦ Bronx, NY 10458

- I) Paul welcomed all in attendance, informed all about the applications for Board Membership and Public session opened at 6:35pm with the following speakers:
- A) Kawsar Ahmed, Community resident:
- 1) Representing the Bangladeshi American Association has concerns about safety in the community around Perry, Hull and Webster Avenue at East 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th and 207th Street
- B) Joseph Dowling, 52nd Pct Inspector:
- 1) Addressed the community and introduced John Wilson who will be promoted to Captain in 2 weeks and will be assigned to the 52nd Pct.
 - 2) Inspector Dowling reviewed the stats. Robberies are up, assaults and burglaries are down. Gold Chains and cell phone robberies still a problem. Also, Grand Larceny Auto is down
 - 3) This year we are up 8 crimes in the last 28 days
 - 4) There were some shootings which seem to be gang related. The PD is on top of these crimes and expect resolution shortly
 - 5) Inspector Dowling then fielded questions from the audience
 - 6) Inspector Dowling will also speak to the representatives from the Bangladeshi community to address the problems that were stated here
 - 7) The Clean Halls project situation was raised. Although changes may be coming, but presently the Inspector will assist any tenants who have concerns
 - 8) The impending bus strike and procedures for parents was discussed
- C) Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assemblyman:
- 1) Jeff reported on the new gun laws that were just approved which includes a Mental health component – a professional will refer patients who appear to be of danger to others
 - 2) Spoke about the new gun laws that were passed today in Albany. It is the toughest in the nation
 - a) Assault weapons banned or registered through proper channels
 - b) Stronger regulations on ammunition. There will be a limit of 7 rounds in a weapon rather than a capacity of 10 rounds
 - c) Purchase of guns and ammunition will be housed in computers for all time
 - d) Universal background check will be required
 - e) When First responders are shot there will be a felony conviction for the shooter
 - f) Safety storage of guns and ammunition will be enforced
 - g) The Assemblyman then fielded questions from the audience
- D) Sharon Jarvis, Bronx Library Center Director:
- 1) Welcomed all to the Library
 - 2) Has \$200,000 grant for new computers for public use



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- 3) Invites all to come in and become part of the library community
- 4) Email for tax reports is available. Help will be provided if needed
- 5) The issue of translation for foreign speaking individuals was raised. The library provides help
- E) Lowell Green, Community Resident & CB7 Member:
 - 1) Lowell invites all interested parties to a Community Workshop on January 23rd at MMCC about the Williamsbridge Oval entrances. The Workshop will be held between 7:00pm and 9:00pm
- F) Sabine Bernard, Citizens Committee for NYC:
 - 1) Helps organizations with grant writing
- G) Jane Addison, Mosholu Branch Library:
 - 1) There will be a series of workshops for opening businesses. These workshops will be held between January 29th, 2013 to March 9th.
- H) Cristiana Pena, Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery:
 - 1) Announced the Woodlawn Cemetery Activities for the new year
- I) Marlon Molina, Bronx Volunteer Coalition:
 - 1) Represents people who need assistance with immigration problems. Flyer distributed
- J) Mohammed Ali, Community Resident & CB7 Member:
 - 1) Spoke about his organization and the honors he will bestow on P.D. officials who assisted his community and for continued support with a visible police presence
 - 2) Talked about the crimes against members of his community and how he is working to help the Police Department with these crimes
- K) Stephanie Pryor, Community Resident:
 - 1) There will be a teen violence workshop on February 21st
- II) Public Session ended at 7:45pm and Meeting began
 - A) Attendance taken, Quorum present
 - B) Motion to approve Agenda and Minutes was unanimously approved
 - C) Change on the Agenda was made. There will be no Committee reports given tonight
 - 1) Motion to approve changes in the Agenda was unanimously approved
- III) The question of Board Members absences was raised because no action seems to be taken about removing the constantly absent members
 - A) Paul Foster will refer it to the Personnel Committee
- IV) District Manager Position update:
 - A) Andrew Laiosa announced that the plans taken to hire a District Manager were in place and the Search Committee working diligently to meet a deadline of March 19th to have a candidate to present to the full Board for approval
- V) District Manager's Report by Tom Lucania:
 - A) CB Membership applications are now available. Deadline to apply will be on February 8th
 - B) Borough President signs the Daily News' Gun Petition, which calls for a ban on assault weapons
 - C) The Borough President names Robert Powell to panel for Educational policy
 - D) BP Diaz hails new funding by Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development



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- E) State of the Borough will be held on Tuesday, February 19th, 2013 at 11:00pm at James Monroe High School, located at 1300 Boynton Avenue
- VI) Motion from the Traffic & Transportation Committee:
- A) The committee requests that Villa Avenue be made into a 1-way street going north from Bedford Park Blvd to Van Cortlandt Avenue East
- 1) Motion approved unanimously
- VII) Community Benefits Agreement was discussed, and the floor was opened for comments:
- A) Air rights should be retained by the city
- B) \$3,000,000 for community organizations
- C) The monitoring committee and its composition was discussed
- D) The location of CB7 in the Armory was raised
- E) After much discussion, a vote was taken to approve the CBA as presented or vote it down
- 1) Motion made to vote on the CBA with changes made tonight was unanimously approved
- VIII) Elected Officials Report:
- A) Nivardo Lopez, CAU Mayor's Office:
- 1) Spoke about gun control
- B) Timothy Tapia
- 1) Wished everyone a Happy New Year
- C) Maryann Rosa from Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office:
- 1) Senator in Albany voting on Gun Control
- 2) Free tax preparation available
- 3) College preparation workshops on-going
- D) George Diaz from Councilman Oliver Koppell:
- 1) The Department of Education is encouraging parents to apply for community education or Citywide education councils
- 2) Discussed HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)
- 3) Talked about Senior Citizens Homeowners Exception (SCHE)
- 4) Grants are being awarded by the Citizens Committee for New York City for school improvements projects
- 5) Free college preparation for Bronx Women for 30 women hoping to go to a CUNY school
- 6) Accessible Taxi Transportation
- E) Kenny Agosto from Senator Ruth Hassell Thompson:
- 1) In support of Veterans, Seniors, Food pantries, HEAP, etc.
- 2) Contact information is as follows: 718-547-8854, 917-378-5577
- IX) Meeting adjourned at 9pm.