



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

## GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Tuesday, February 18, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

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

- I) Attendance sheet on file
- II) Public Session started at 6:40 pm with the following speakers:
  - A) Deputy Inspector Nilda Hofmann, Commanding Officer of 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct:
    - 1) The Precinct is down in violent crimes but is up in grand larceny crimes; grand larceny crimes usually involve identity theft. Currently individuals are calling people saying that someone has opened a cell phone account in their name and they needed to check information. Also, people are calling saying that they are the IRS and you owe money that must be paid now. The inspector said to be careful about who you give information to over the phone. Always ask for a call back number. The IRS does not call people.
    - 2) A Block-watch training program will begin soon. As this class is full and community interest in the program is strong, another class will likely begin in the spring.
    - 3) On March 27, 2014, the Precinct Community Council will hold a meeting at St. Ann's Church (Gun Hill Road and Bainbridge Ave) at 7:00pm. A presentation on gangs will be given. The Inspector said that they would be talking with motorized food delivery people about the safe use of their vehicles.
    - 4) Help is needed in identifying the person or persons who is shooting BB guns in the Fordham Road area. Individuals can call the Community Affairs Office at 718-220-5824 and give information. Police Officer Dinoia from the Community Affairs Unit was present.
  - B) State Senator Gustavo Rivera:
    - 1) Announced the following items:
      - a) Legal Clinic on February 27, 2014 @ 6:00pm at St. James Park
      - b) Housing Clinic on February 26, 2014 at 2311 Southern Blvd. @ 6:00pm
      - c) A scam workshop is being planned
      - d) February 19, 2014 The Senator and Planned Parenthood will be on Fordham Road handing out condoms as well as information on safe sex.
    - 2) The Senator's office with advance registration is doing income tax preparation.
    - 3) The New York State Senate is holding an Earth Day Poster Contest for K-6 grade. Contest ends on April 11, 2014.
    - 4) Office number is 718-933-2034 and office location is 2432 Grand Concourse 5<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - C) City Council Member Andrew Cohen:
    - 1) His office has been dealing with snow removal concerns.
    - 2) Under the new budget, the libraries hours will not be cut and no fire stations will be closed.
    - 3) Councilman Cohen has been appointed to the Veterans Affairs Committee.
  - D) City Council Member Fernando Cabrera:
    - 1) He announced that non-profit organizations could go on line to apply for discretionary /capital funds.
    - 2) His office now has available for assistance: a domestic violence lawyer and an immigration lawyer.



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- 3) The Councilman has been working to get security cameras placed within his district.
  - 4) Councilmember Cohen announced that the NYC Police Department Web Site now has crime maps available.
  - E) Assemblyman Victor M. Pichardo:
    - 1) He stated he was committed to Pre-K funding.
    - 2) His office is located at 2175-C Jerome Ave (corner of 181<sup>st</sup>)
  - F) City Council Member Ritchie Torres
    - 1) Said hello to the body.
  - G) Jose Zacuriaz, pastor of the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church renting space at 201<sup>st</sup>. and Bainbridge Ave:
    - 1) The church is having a CPR training class on March 8<sup>th</sup> and all are invited.
    - 2) The Church is planning on having additional programs in the future.
  - H) Michael Alvaez, Chief Librarian at the Bronx Library Center:
    - 1) The library is offering a variety of programs for all age groups. Asked everyone to pick-up a flyer.
  - I) George Diaz, Community Resident & Former Councilmember Koppell's Representative:
    - 1) Thanked the community for being able to assist him as an aide to former city Council Member Oliver G. Koppell.
  - J) Ms. Ladam from Fromer Eye Center located at 3130 Grand Concourse:
    - 1) In business for 16 years
    - 2) Announced that the business was expanding with more services such as Pediatric Ophthalmology services.
  - K) Carlene Valentine of Montefiore:
    - 1) Announced that starting in July 2014 a new rapid HIV testing center for zip codes 10467 and 10468 would open.
  - L) Maria Deno from the Einstein College of Medicine:
    - 1) Can be reached at 718-430-2657
    - 2) Announced a new medical study looking for volunteers. The study wants to know how patients feel about how their doctor treated them. Participants should be 18-90 years old and have seen a doctor within the last 8 months.
  - M) Timothy Tapia from Public Advocate's Office:
    - 1) His phone number is 212-669-2511 and e-mail is [tapia@publicadvocacy.nyc.gov](mailto:tapia@publicadvocacy.nyc.gov)
    - 2) The office located at 1 Centre Street, 15<sup>th</sup> floor. [GetHelp@pubadovcate.nyc.gov](mailto:GetHelp@pubadovcate.nyc.gov)
- III) Awards Ceremony:
- A) The Chair and the elected officials in attendance as well as the Awards Committee honored the following individuals for helping the community:
    - 1) Dr. Ian Amritt for acting as parliamentarian at the Armory Public Hearing held at Lehman College.
    - 2) Nestor Montilla, Director of Corporate & Community Development Institutional Advancement at Lehman College,
    - 3) Yini Rodriguez and Jose Cruz, Volunteers from Lehman College
    - 4) President and Vice-President of Lehman College who were not present. They were recognized for their assistance at the Armory Public Hearing held at Lehman College.



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- 5) Barbara Stronczer, Director of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, for assisting in making the community better
- 6) George Diaz, Aide to retired City Council Member Oliver Koppell, for assisting in making the community better and attending 5 years of committee meetings.
- 7) John Franco who had served as a member of Community Board 7 for 17 years was honored for his years of service to the community. He resigned from the Community Board as of February 4, 2014.

IV) Public session ended at 8:03pm. and the meeting began

V) Attendance taken, quorum present:

- A) Present Members include: Mohammed S. Ali, Nilsa Cintron, Edward DeJesus, Dustin Engelken, Sandra Erickson, Nora Feury, Fidel Gomez, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Charlesetta Rhett, Khadijaha Saeed, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Dilletta Pina, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago
- B) Excused Members include: Nelson Cruz, William Francis, Bruce Kaufman, Eleanor Lundeen, Margaret Mack
- C) Absent (Unexcused): Stephanie Arthur, Walter Bell, Paul Foster, Hector Lopez, Chris Singh
- D) Members in "Leave of Absence": Gloria Bent, Dalma Cristostom-Ward, Lisa Sills-Short
  - 1) Board members who have been granted a Leave of Absence will be counted as members of the Board (Absent) for quorum purposes.

VI) Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- 1) The Board approved the Agenda for the meeting
- 2) The minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting were approved.
- 3) Due to bad weather, the December 17, 2013 meeting was cancelled. Due to inclement weather, the January 21, 2014 meeting was postponed to January 28, 2014. At the January meeting the police, elected official and the public spoke but a quorum was not present so no official Community Board 7 business was done.

VII) **MOTIONS:**

A) **Motion from the Executive Committee:**

- 1) Housing Committee and Land Use and Zoning Committee will be merged to form one committee
- 2) Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee and Youth Services Committee will be merged to form one committee
  - a) Andrew Laiosa spoke against the motion: saying less people would be involved with the Board.
  - b) Barbara Stronczer spoke for the motion; saying the committees were only going from 13 committees to 11 committees.
    - i) Motion passed 16 to 1. Andrew Laiosa voted against.

B) **Motion from Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee:**

- 1) CB7 will write a letter a letter of support for the Atmosphere Charter School which would service English As A Second Language as well as Special Needs Students who reside in Educational District Board 10.
  - a) Andrew Laiosa spoke against the motion saying the school would take up needed space for public school students and these students receive services as public school students.



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- b) Jean Hill spoke for the motion: saying Charter Schools never provide services for these specific types of students.
  - i) Motion passed 14 for, 2 against, 1 abstain
- c) Samelys Lopez presented an amendment to the motion: The Atmosphere Charter School should provide fiscal resource instruction as well as civic awareness instruction. The amendment was seconded.
  - i) The amendment failed 16 against, 1 in favor.
  - ii) The Chair suggested that Ms. Lopez talk with the Chair of the Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee, Mr. Bruce Kaufman, about her concerns for students' instruction.

**C) Motion from the Traffic and Transportation Committee:**

- 1) The Traffic and Transportation Committee is requesting that CB7 support the installation of a four way left-hand turn signal at the corner of Bedford Park Boulevard and Webster Avenue.
  - a) The Motion passed 17 for. A letter will be sent to DOT.

**VIII) Acting District Manager's Report by Tom Lucania:**

- A) With the new budget, Community Boards budgets will not be cut.
- B) The city council is looking at a bill that would require community boards to web cast board meetings and public hearings. The bill does not provide any funding for equipment or staff.
- C) The State of the Borough by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. will be on February 20, 2014 at Hostos Community College.
- D) Budget Hearing on the Mayor's proposed budget will on Wednesday March 5, 2014.
- E) Senior Free Tax Assistance Day will be Tuesday March 11, 2014 by appointment only.
- F) Grant Opportunities for specific Bronx based projects are available till March 31, 2014.
- G) Healthcare Career Training Opportunities are available for 18-26 year-olds at the Phipps Neighborhood Community Education Center.

**IX) Committee Reports:**

- A) Budget/Personnel/Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
  - 1) The committee is looking at a security system for the office. One bid has been received. Any bidder must be a city vendor. The committee is also looking at member absences.
- B) Community Relations/Intergovernmental & Long Term Planning by Mohammed Ali:
  - 1) The committee is talking about ways to improve the image of the Bronx.
- C) Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
  - 1) Not present to provide a report
- D) Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs by Bruce Kaufman:
  - 1) Not present to provide a report
- E) Environmental & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
  - 1) There will be a meeting in March to make sure all PS 51 parents have been notified.
  - 2) Individuals have been working on getting city services for animals to the Bronx. The chair asked that any problems with snow removal be called in to the office.
- F) Health & Hospital by Khadijaha Saeed:
  - 1) The committee will be presenting a meeting on Obama care.
  - 2) The chair asked people to sign up for the C-ball program.



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- G) Housing by Jean Hill:
  - 1) At the February Meeting (Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>), PRAXIS will be coming.
  - 2) The New York Time's Real Estate Section for February 16, 2014 had an article about living in Bedford Park.
  - 3) On February 25, 2014 at 6:30pm., Scott Stringer, City Comptroller, will be at Tracy Towers.
- H) Land Use & Zoning by Nilsa Cintron:
  - 1) On March 27, 2014 at the Sister Annunciata Bethel Senior Center at 243 E. 204<sup>th</sup> St., a joint meeting with Housing and Land Use & Zoning will discuss Webster Avenue concerns with area merchants and groups. All are welcome.
- I) Parks & Recreation by Margaret Mack:
  - 1) Not present to provide a report.
- J) Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
  - 1) The NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board made an outstanding presentation at the last meeting.
- K) Senior Services by Nora Feury:
  - 1) The committee met but did not have a quorum.
- L) Traffic and Transportation by Lowell Green:
  - 1) DOT will be coming to the March 13, 2014 meeting to talk about plans for the Neighborhood Slow Zone as well as the work to be done at the bus stop corner of Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue.
  - 2) The committee has begun discussing the Mayor's Visionary Street Safety Goal program. This is a plan to reduce/eliminate fatalities or serious injuries on New York City Streets.
- M) Youth Services - Vacant
- N) Ad Hoc Committee Reports:
  - 1) Awards Committee is looking for individuals to honor.
  - 2) Website/Media Committee wants to improve the web site by making it user friendly.
  - 3) The Chair said resume for the District Manager's position will be accepted until February 21, 2014.
- X) New Business:
  - A) Andrew Laiosa expressed concern about the awards presentations.
- XI) Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm. by voice vote.