



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

## GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Tuesday, January 20, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Kittay House ♦ 2550 Webb Avenue ♦ Bronx, NY 10467

- I. Opening:
  - A. The Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy 2015
- II. Public Session began at 6:30 pm with the following speakers:
  - A. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
    1. Wished all a Happy 2015. Talked about the new year in Albany
    2. June 15, 2015, NYC rent regulations laws expire. He will work to improve the rent laws
    3. He would like to see more money invested in Bronx's educational concerns
    4. He could support the governor's efforts to raise the state's minimum wage.
  - B. City Councilman Andrew Cohen's Office by Daniel Johnson:
    1. Wished all a Happy 2015
    2. Councilman is looking into having the MTA Metro Card Van/Bus visit the Mosholu-Montefiore Senior Center as well as the Sister Annunciata Senior Center on a regular schedule. A test visit was well received
    3. Recommended that all signed up for the new NYC Municipal ID card. The Bronx Library Center will be taking applications
    4. The office will help with Heat/Hot Water Complains as well as 311 and CB7
    5. Participating budget update: March-information session on projects to be selected. April-vote on which projects to be funded
  - C. Captain Korabel, Executive Office of 52nd Precinct:
    1. Reported that the 52nd Precinct on the whole had a reduction in crime in 2014 from 2013
    2. Bike accidents are being tracked better than before due to the Vision Zero project
    3. Felony Assault laws were rewritten to provide better protection for Domestic Abuse victims. Thus, there was a slight raise in Felony Assault arrests. All were invited to the 52nd Precinct Community Council Meeting for Thursday January 22, 2015 at the Children Hospital 7:00 pm
  - D. City Councilman Richie Torres:
    1. He is providing funds to have Oliver Place cleaned twice a week by a private group
    2. Working on a new law that would asset a landlord an inspection fee after a third (3) visit to a building for a complaint
    3. Working on providing money for police officers to purchase bullet-proof vests
    4. The office has an immigration lawyer and a domestic abuse lawyer available for free. Call office at 718-842-8100 for information
    5. Participating budget process is ongoing



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- E. City Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office by George Faulkner:
  - 1. Forms to apply for discretionary funds are now available
  - 2. Job Fairs: Veterans on Wednesday January 28, 2015 at Jerome Public Library and for all others on Friday January 30, 2015 at Frances Martin Library
  - 3. Office has help available for filling out tax returns
- F. State Senator Jeffrey D. Klein's Office by Jennifer Rosado:
  - 1. The Senator is working on "Invest for NY", a project to improve NY State and NYC
- G. Assemblyman Victor M. Pichardo's Office by Nestor Medina:
  - 1. Working on improving rent regulations laws. Planning on having a forum on rent regulations soon
- H. Borough President's Office by Andy Toledo:
  - 1. Applications are available for Community Board membership. Applicants must have forms notarized
  - 2. Chancellor Carma Farina will be at an Educational Forum on January 29, 2015 at Taft Education Campus, located at 240 East 172nd Street at 6:00 pm
- I. Assemblyman Mark Gjonj's Office by Nathalia Ferandez:
  - 1. Mobile office located at 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue on Wednesdays
- J. Dr. Nicole Harris-Hollingsworth, Assistant Vice President Community & Population Health, Montefiore Hospital:
  - 1. Spoke about the flu. One needs to wash hands and get the flu shot. People should use urgent care system or own doctor for treatment of flu rather than use Montefiore ER.
  - 2. Stated that Montefiore's ER staff was all certificated professionals. One could call 1-800-MD Monte for a physician referral. Montefiore has information available in at least 15 different languages
- K. Lorilet Monegro, a pediatric speech pathologist:
  - 1. Would like to start an art program to improve skills for special needs children and the elderly. She was told to speak with Health & Hospital, Senior Services and the Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Committees
- L. Lowell Green, CB7 Chair of Traffic and Transportation Committee:
  - 1. Announced that the elevators (3) were now working at the Kingsbridge Subway Station on the D Line. The street elevator is located at Kingsbridge Road and the Grand Concourse
- M. Vickie Owens, an area resident:
  - 1. 1199 retiree who lives at Tracy Towers. She is working on a Lunch Club for retirees. First meeting will be March 4, 2015 from 12:00-2:00pm. A small fee will likely be charged. Open to all retirees in the community
- N. Michael Alvarez, Chief Librarian at Bronx Library Center:
  - 1. Wednesday January 21, 2015 there will be a Job Fair
  - 2. Saturday January 24, 2015, "Baby and Me" Class is scheduled for birth-9 months. Class meets once a month
  - 3. January 24, 2015, there will be a read-a-thong. This national event



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- O. John C. Doyle, Associate Director, Department of Marking Public and Community Relations, North Bronx Healthcare Network:
1. Talked about the many improvements that have happened at NCB
  2. Invited the Community Board to a tour and/or to hold a meeting at NCB. Dr. W. Wilcox from the OB/GYN staff, talked about the re-opened Labor/Delivery service and the new improvement like the ungraded floor décor, new air flow system and the hiring of additional certified staff. Both thanked Community Board 7 and the City Council members for their support in getting the Labor/Delivery floor re-opened
- P. Aldo Perez, area resident:
1. Spoke on supporting the nurses at Montefiore and their need for more staff
- Q. Judy Sherman, nurse at Montefiore:
1. Spoke on the need for more staff in the ER as it is overcrowded. There was been a hiring freeze since September
- R. Ms. Tehmina Brohi, Citizens Committee for a New York City:
1. This organization provides grants as well as training for neighborhood groups. Contact 212-822-9563 for more information
- S. Adriana Garcia, Bainbridge Adult Day Health Care Center:
1. There will be an open House on Thursday, January 22, 2015 from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. This is a Medical Model Program that is paid for by insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. Located at 3518 Bainbridge Avenue. Information 718-653-2273 ext. 5608
- III. Public Session ended at 8:00 pm. and Adaline Walker-Santiago, Chair of CB7, opened the meeting
- A. Attendance taken, quorum present
- B. Members in attendance include: Lynette Arroyo, Alora Bailey, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Gregory Clarke, Sr., Edward DeJesus, Nora Feury, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green, Helen Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Jermaine Johnson, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laios, Eleanor Lundeen, Kevin Miner, Amjad Mujaahid, Ellen R. Ray, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago
- C. Excused members include: Mohammed S. Ali, Shanequa Charles, Nelson Cruz, Sandra Erickson, Samelys Lopez, Cynthia O'Neal Riley, Dilletta Pina, Charlesetta Rhett, Velvet Ross
- D. Absent (Unexcused) members include: Paul Foster, Carlos Gonzalez, Luis Miguel Guzman, Kevin Pellot, Khadijaha Saeed, Marcos Sierra, Lisa Sills-Short, Ruben Torres
- E. Minutes and Agenda approved
- IV. Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:
- A. Reported that KNIC signed an escrow lease on October 2014 and will be coming to the March Economic Development Committee to talk about ongoing plans
- V. Executive Committee Report by Barbara Stronczer:
- A. There was no January meeting due to cold weather conditions. Will meet Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 6:30pm
- VI. District Manager Report by Dustin Engelken:



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- A. Thanked City Councilman Torres for providing funds to clean Oliver Place. DOT will be repairing the fence at Oliver Place. DOT and Parks Departments are looking at ways to work together on the site
- B. Simply Better Homes have had a lot of Heat/Hot Water complains at buildings they manage. CB7 and West Bronx Housing will be hosting a meeting for residents of building manage by Simply Better Homes on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Sister Annunciata Senior Center (243 East 204 Street at Valentine Avenue) at 7:00pm.
- C. He and the Gun Hill Road Business Improvement District (BID) are working on the problem of vendors on Jerome Avenue. Some of the vendors are illegal and others are licensed by the city. The BID is working to improve sidewalk conditions on Jerome Avenue by providing information and then enforcement
- D. The chair reported that all Committee Minutes were now posted on the CB7 Web Site

#### VII. Committee Reports:

- A. Budget/Personnel/Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
  - 1. Will have a meeting in January
- B. Community Relations & Long Term Planning (LTP) by Fidel Gomez:
  - 1. The Chair spoke about an article in the Daily News that talked about a possible residential development on the waterfront of the Harlem River
  - 2. A member of the committee spoke on the need for other committees to submit their long term goals so LTP could work on them
- C. Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
  - 1. After a review of passed committee minutes, Ms. Lundeen is working on a list of long term projects
- D. Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Services by Bruce Kaufman:
  - 1. Working on a long term goals list which will include enhancing programs for public schools, more libraries, etc.
  - 2. The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 29, 2015 @ 6:30 pm at CB7 office
- E. Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
  - 1. Asked everyone to read the current committee's minutes about a National Alliance for Mentally Ill workshop she attended. The workshop talked about the use of animals to help people with mental illness
- F. Health & Hospitals by the new Committee Chair Gloria Bent:
  - 1. The committee has heard from the nurses at Montefiore Hospital and their concerns about the lack of staff in the Emergency Room. The committee is working on a letter to be sent to the Hospital Administration expressing concerns about the level of care at the hospital
- G. Housing / Land Use & Zoning Jean Hill:
  - 1. The chair has been informed that STAGG has purchased additional properties at 203rd Street and Webster Avenue. STAGG will be coming to a committee meeting to talk about plans for the properties
- H. Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:



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1. The work at Bryant Park located at Fordham Road and Kingsbridge Road is completed
  2. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 28, 2015 6:30 pm at CB7 office
- I. Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
1. Next Meeting Thursday, January 22, 2015 6:30pm at CB7 office
- J. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
1. In response to a past question by Paul Foster about the removal of a parking space at 210th Street and Wayne Avenue, DOT stated that the space was removed as part of the Norwood Slow Zone project. A "No Standing Sign" was installed to increase pedestrian visibility
  2. A Bus Safety Information Sheet was placed in members folders
- VIII. Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:30