



# 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, MAY 19, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Held at ◇ Montefiore Hospital ◇ 111 East 210th Street ◇ Cherkasky Auditorium ◇ Bronx, NY

- I) Meeting began promptly at 6:30 PM
- A) Community Board Chair - Adaline Walker Santiago, verbally recognized Montefiore Hospital and both Mr. Roberto Garcia and Mr. Wendell Alexis for arranging for us to have their Cherkasky Auditorium for our May 2015, General Board meeting tonight and the generous refreshments offered in the lobby for all in attendance
  - B) Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago welcomed all to the meeting. She honored the following with a Certificate of Appreciation for their work in getting the Labor & Delivery Unit at North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH) reopened; City Councilman Ritchie Torres, Public Health Systems, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, NY Lawyers for Public Interest, NYS Nurses Association, Directors Council of SEIU, Community Power North Bronx, Women Organizing Neighborhoods, Choices in Childbirth, Women's Health Services Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC) NCBH Healthcare Network, Obstetrics & Gynecology HHC NCBH Healthcare Network, Corporate Planning of Community Health & Intergovernmental Relations, New York City Health & Hospital Corporation, Community Advisory Board of NCBH, Chief Operating Officer of Kings Country Hospital, Midwifery Services of NCBH, Nursing Women's Health Services of NCBH
  - C) The Chair also recognized the members of Community Board 7's Health & Hospital Committee and both the past (Khadijaha Saeed) and the present Chair (Gloria Bent) of the Committee for their hard work in helping to restore the Labor & Delivery Unit at NCBH. Committee members are Khadijaha Saeed, Gloria Bent, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, and Alfred Grant
- II) Elected Official Reports:
- A) City Councilman Andrew Cohen:
    - 1) Attended a scoping meeting for a Skateboarding Park in the Williamsbridge Oval Park
    - 2) Attended a Town Hall Meeting on improving Mosholu Parkway- Department of Transportation Commissioner
    - 3) Polly Trottenberg and he will do a tour of the Parkway soon
    - 4) Attended the street naming event for Margaret Mack
    - 5) He gave grant money for improvements at the Mosholu Public Library and Public School 8
    - 6) Working with State officials on rent laws
    - 7) Working to get public safety officers in all schools as well as getting additional security at homeless shelters
    - 8) He was asked to support CB7 efforts to get a traffic light at Decatur Avenue and 204th Street
- III) Chair opened the Public Session, and reminded all speakers that they will have 2 minutes to speak
- A) Sharon Hollaway from Kingdom Life Temple:
    - 1) Announced a Community Health & Finance Summit for Saturday, June 13, 2015 10:00am-3:00pm at 3030 Jerome Avenue. All are welcome
  - B) Mr. X:



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- 1) Spoke for his allotted two minutes on different topics
  - C) Shanequa Charles, Community 7 Resident:
    - 1) Spoke on her company "Your Miracle Skin Inc."
    - 2) The Ms. Abbie's Halloween Extravaganza Health Fair and Block Event which will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015
  - D) Aldo Perez, Northeast Bronx Dawah:
    - 1) Spoke about the need for employment for young people
    - 2) The Building at 198th Street and Briggs Avenue should just be for veterans. He and the Board Chair are working on that objective
  - E) Sirio Guerino, Norwood Against Graffiti & Community 7 Resident:
    - 1) Spoke on Graffiti; stated it is a crime. To report Graffiti, call 311
    - 2) Lights are not working on Harris Field
  - F) Michael Alvarez, Bronx Library Center:
    - 1) NYPL.org/careers has a list of job openings
    - 2) Book Fair for all on Saturday, May 30, 2015 @ 12-6 pm.
  - G) Jane Addison - Amoyaw, Mosholu Branch Library:
    - 1) Saturday, June 13, 2015 at 2:30pm a Workshop in Spanish on Money Concerns
  - H) City Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson:
    - 1) As Chair of Public Safety Committee, she is working to increase school crossing guards. She would like to see their working conditions improve
    - 2) She would like to increase the number of police officers
    - 3) Need for more body cameras
    - 4) Ms. Gibson would like to inncrease the shot spotter program
    - 5) Councilmember Gibson would like to expand the mental health program for youthful offenders
    - 6) Ms. Gibson is looking at how low-level offenses are handed by the police
  - I) Judy Gonzalez, NYS Nurse Association and a Montefiore Emergency Room(ER) Nurse:
    - 1) Acknowledged CB7 for its efforts in getting NCBH Labor/Delivery Unit reopened. Also, thanked CB7 for its work in getting more nurses in the Montefiore ER
    - 2) Chair announced that on June 9, 2015, CB7's Health & Hospital Committee was invited to meet with Administration at Montefiore Hospital for its next meeting in TLC room 4 near Cherkasky Auditorium
  - J) Office J. Dinoia, 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, Community Affairs:
    - 1) Thursday May 28, 2015 the Precinct Community Council Meeting will be held at St. James Park
    - 2) On June 19, 2015, the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct will have an open House 2-6pm
    - 3) August 4, 2015, National Night Out will be on Mosholu Parkway
- IV) Chair Opened Board Meeting at 7:50 pm
- A) Attendance sheet in file
    - 1) Quorum present:
      - (a) Present members include Mohammed Ali, Lynette Arroyo, Alora Bailey, Nilsa Cintron, Shanequa Charles, Gregory Clark, Sr. Nelson Cruz, Sandra Erickson, Nora Feury, Paul Foster, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Carlos Gonzalez, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green,



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Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Ludeen, Kevin Miner, Amjad Mujaahid, Dilletta Pina, Ellen R. Ray, Velvet Ross, Khadijaha Saeed, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago

- (b) Absent Unexcused: Bruce Kaufman, Kevin Pellot, Marcos Sierra, Ruben Torres
- (c) Excused: Gloria Bent, Edward DeJesus, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Charlesetta Rhett
- (d) Jermaine Johnson signed in at door but did not response to roll call

B) Minutes and Agenda were approved

V) Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:

A) Thanked Aldo Perez for bringing the issue of K2 to the Board and for all his work on the K-2 Forum

B) Community Board 7 is the now sponsoring the First New York City Forum on K2 "Synthetic Marijuana" for public awareness. The K-2 Forum will be on Tuesday May 26, 2015 at North Central Bronx Hospital on June 19, 2015, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the 17th floor Cafeteria. The K2 panel will consist of the following prestigious leaders:

- 1) Dr. Patti- Chair of the Emergency Room at St. Barnabas and Keynote speaker on K2 for many years on National TV
- 2) The NYC Sheriff's Office
- 3) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- 4) Inspector Nilda Hofmann of the 52nd Precinct
- 5) The District Attorney's Office-Bureau of Narcotics

(a) They will address both the health and legal ramifications of the utilization of K2. In addition, District Attorney Robert Johnson confirmed his attendance and so has numerous elected officials. Finally, Bronx Net is covering the entire event to assure that this information is taken out to the public. In addition, several news channels will be there to cover the event

C) The upcoming Veteran's & Community Job-Career Fair, that is also the first one sponsored by Community Board 7 and other parties, will be held at the Bronx Library Center located at 310 Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458, on Friday, June 19th from 10-3 p.m.

D) The Community Board 7 Trolley ride which is scheduled for Saturday, May 23 2015 will tour our community to visit the sites we have been working on and have a future vision for. All are encouraged to attend this event, as it is our time, to go out and mingle with the members of our community and share our goals, aspirations and achievements

E) Chair acknowledged all the Board members who marched and/or handed out CB7 bags and literature about our upcoming events and about our Board at the Bronx Week Parade and Street Fair. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., strongly recognized us as we passed the Parade Stage with our CB7 Banner and he came and visited us at our CB7 table which was a nice gesture of support

VI) Executive Committee Report by Barbara Stronczer:

A) MOTION 1:

- 1) Community Board 7 will send a letter to City Councilman Andrew Cohen requesting his assistance in getting traffic lights at the intersection of East 204 th Street and Decatur Avenue

(a) MOTION passed



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B) MOTION 2:

- 1) The Economic Development Committee referred to the Executive Committee a request from the Kingsbridge Merchant Association for a letter of support for their Saturday June 20, 2015 Street Fair. The Executive Committee presented the following motion: CB7 writes a letter of support for the Saturday, June 20, 2015 Kingsbridge Merchant Association street fair

(a) MOTION passed

VII) District Manager's Report by Dustin Engelken:

- A) Saturday, May 30, 2015 Dog Day Givaway event will be held at St. James Park 12-2pm
- B) June 1-19, 2015 The Bus Lanes on Fordham Road (Major Degan Highway to Webster Avenue) will be redone with a new asphalt material. Work will be done in sections and at night

VIII) Committee Reports:

A) Budget/Personnel/Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:

- 1) The committee has been talking about the need for the by-laws to better define what an absence is
- 2) The budget is being spent down so money will not be returned to the city

B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning by Fidel Gomez:

- 1) Due to members not attending the committee meetings, the committee has had a difficult time working

C) Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen

- 1) No report was provided at this time

D) Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Services:

- 1) Chair not present

E) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:

- 1) Asked all to attend the Dog Day Giveaway Event at St. James Park on Saturday, May 30, 2015
- 2) The second Dog Day event will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the Williamsbridge Oval Park

F) Health & Hospitals by Gloria Bent:

- 1) Invited all to attend K-2 Forum on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at North Central Bronx Hospital

G) Land Use/Zoning & Housing by Jean Hill:

1) MOTION 1:

- (a) The Housing/Land Use & Zoning Committee recommends writing a letter of support for planned renovations at 2516-2530 Grand Concourse. Specifically the letter of support would include support for the insertion of a demising wall in the existing Banking Hall in order to subdivide the hall into 2 marketable spaces. The Committee supports the masonry and appurtenant repairs for Local Law 11 compliance. These elements would be subject to review and approval by the Landmarks Preservation Commission

i) Motion passed

2) MOTION 2:

- (a) The Housing/Land Use & Zoning Committee recommends that regards to acceptance of the exterior signage concepts at 2516-2530 Grand Concourse, the signage samples presented to the Committee were not appropriate for this landmark build. The



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- Committee reserves support of this item to Landmarks Preservation Commission review and approval of proposed signage.
- i) Motion passed
- 3) On Wednesday, May 20, 2015 a meeting will talk about City Planning's ideas on what should be include or not in new senior house needs. City Planning will be attending the Wednesday, June 17, 2015 meeting
- H) Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
- 1) In regards to Oliver Place, there is a need for information about the location of a sewage pipe in the center of the street
- 2) MOTION 1:
- (a) The Parks & Recreation Committee recommends that the Board send a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection requesting information on their infrastructure at Oliver Place and Decatur Avenue. We are also requesting an estimate for rerouting the infrastructure
- i) Motion passed
- 3) MOTION 2:
- (a) The Parks & Recreation Committee recommends that the Board send a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting an assessment of private property encroachment on City property at Oliver Place
- i) The following motion was tabled
- ii) Carlos Gonzales voted not to table the motion
- I) Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
- 1) Thanked Aldo Perez for his work on the K-2 forum
- J) Senior Services by Nora Feury:
- 1) The committee was not pleased about City Planning's ideas for new senior housing plans i.e., there will be no need to provide parking
- 2) The committee will attend the Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Housing / Land Use & Zoning
- K) Traffic and Transportation by Lowell Green:
- 1) Announced that the left-hand turning lights were in place on Webster Avenue and Bedford Park Boulevard. The "No Standing Anytime" signage at 3200 Van Cortland Avenue (old location of PS51) will go back to street cleaning regulation signage
- L) Veterans Committee:
- 1) The Executive Board & Chair made the following MOTION 1:
- (a) Community Board 7 shall establish the Veterans Committee as a standing committee
- i) Motion passed
- M) Website Acknowledgement & Media by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
- 1) The committee is working on a newsletter and asked that the chairs of the committees provide information on what their committees did this year
- N) Nomination by Eleanor Lundeen:
- 1) The election will be at the Tuesday, June 16, 2015 General Meeting. The term is for two years. The officers up for election are: Chairperson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer



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2) Nominations for:

- (a) Chairperson - William Francis was nominated by Paul Foster  
Adaline Walker-Santiago nominated by Alfred Grant
- (b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson - Fidel Gomez nominated by William Francis  
Barbara Stronczer nominated by Jean Hill
- (c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson - Lynette Arroyo nominated by Amjad Mujaahid  
Nora Feury nominated by Barbara Stronczer  
Samelys Lopez nominated herself
- (d) 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairperson - Andrew Laiosa nominated by Nelson Cruz  
Nilsa Cintron nominated by Carlos Gonzalez  
John Snider nominated by Jean Hill declined
- (e) Secretary - Kevin Miner nominated by Shanequa Charles  
Nora Feury nominated by Paul Foster declined  
Lowell Green nominated by Nelson Cruz declined  
Alfred Grant nominated by Adaline Walker-Santiago declined
- (f) Treasurer - Jean Hill nominated by Barbara Stronczer  
Shanequa Charles nominated by Lynette Arroyo  
Lowell Green nominated by Nelson Cruz declined

3) All candidates must sign a will to run within the next 2 weeks

4) The Committee will review all candidates to make sure they are in good standing. All candidates must have been a Board member for at least one year. District Manager stated that all current members of CB7 have been a board member for one year.

IX) Elected Officials Reports:

A) City Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office by Gregory Faulkner:

- 1) The Councilman is working on a bill that would require landlords to notify seniors if they are qualified for SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption)
- 2) Informed the body that K-2 is banned in NY State
- 3) They are looking into ways that a NYC dog tag could be used to ticket an owner
- 4) Introduced Ms. Brittany Cesarini who is the new Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs

B) Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Office by Nathalia Fernandez:

- 1) Thanked all who helped in the clean-up of Mosholu Parkway
- 2) Bronx Day in Albany is now June 15, 2015

C) Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office by Rachel Ferrari:

- 1) Announced that on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 William Francis was inducted into the NY State Veterans Hall of Fame for Community Service

X) Meeting Adjourned 9:15pm