



# 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, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Bedford Park Senior Center ◇ 243 East 204<sup>th</sup> Street ◇ Bronx, NY 10458

- I. Meeting opened at 6:35pm
- II. Welcome:
  - A. Senator Gustavo Rivera:
    1. Senator Rivera greeted the group and introduced his team
    2. There will be HIV testing on October 15 (FREE)
    3. Mammograms will be given on October 9-23 at St. Barnabas Hospital
    4. The Senator will provide Civic classes throughout the district (To be announced)
    5. The Senator has a new office at the POE Building, located at 2423 Grand Concourse (5<sup>th</sup> Floor). The office phone number is 718-933-2034
  - B. Councilman Fernando Cabrera:
    1. Soccer field is now complete at St. James Park, which was funded by the Councilman
    2. Basketball courts at St. James Park will be completed soon
    3. There is a future bill, 49 whereby CB Members will be informed of new construction or renovation in the Community Board (as of right)
    4. 9 resolutions and bills to be introduced tomorrow by Councilman Cabrera
    5. The Councilman introduced a ban on Green Lasers
    6. People requested information about the suspension of parking meters when school are closed
    7. He talked about bullet proof glass in all police cars
    8. Mentioned Grandparent day celebration
    9. Middle class affordable housing was discussed
    10. The Councilman entertained questions from the audience
    11. Homeless situation was raised and discussed. There is a lack of services and lack of housing. This issue needs to be addressed by legislators
  - C. Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz:
    1. Discussed the Reservoir and access by the public. Pilot project by DEP
    2. October 3rd and 4th, there will be guided tours and limited access of the Reservoir. Sign-up is needed
    3. Security issues were raised
    4. Shared Day is being sponsored by AARP
    5. Renewal of rent laws were slightly strengthened; increases will be less
    6. Anti-harassment laws were discussed
    7. Homelessness and housing was talked about; weakened by rent laws. One of the causes of homelessness. No increases for this year



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8. Mr. Dinowitz entertained questions from the audience
9. Lights at Harris Field was talked about
- D. Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
  1. Discussed worker rights; food industry providing resources
  2. There will be a "Tenants Rights & issues forum" to be held on Monday, October 26 at P.S.33 at 6:30pm. The address is 2424 Jerome Avenue
- E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Pct:
  1. There are 12 new officers. PO Cortez introduced the 2 new officers and their assignments
  2. Stats were discussed
  3. Wanted criminal flyers were distributed
  4. The Jerome / Gun Hill BID will be having a festival this coming Saturday from 1am to 6pm
  5. The Fordham BID will be having the festival on Sunday
  6. The precinct council meeting will be held on 9/24 at 39 West 190th Street
  7. Dilletta Pina and Jeffery hunter congratulated Police officers on National Night Out
- F. Alvin Garcia, Mayor's Office:
  1. 75000 UPK seats in the City
  2. Mayor will be in the Bronx on Wednesday
  3. City contracts were discussed
  4. There will be a forum on contracts at Bronx Community College on September 29 from 10am to 2pm
  5. The homeless situation was addressed and the Mayor's plans to address the situation
  6. Mental health and affordable housing are on-going issues
- G. Gregory Calliste, North Central Bronx Hospital:
  1. Discussed changing strategies to better serve the community
- H. Nicole Minichello, Bronx Park East Community Association:
  1. Discussed fracking around the community
  2. Announced the first annual "Walk for our Water" on October 3, 2015 at 10am at Bronx Park-Allerton Ballfield
- I. Nicole Joseph & Aneka Wynter, Montefiore Hospital:
  1. "Shop healthy" program was discussed and requests that the CB encourage local stores to stock healthy food
- J. Ruben Gomez, USPS:
  1. Spoke about complaints and services
  2. The Community Board will have a rep from the Post Office to handle complaints (Adriana Allen) will be sent into the field
  3. Mr. Gomez took questions from the audience; many of whom were disgruntled. The Post Office recognizes the problem, and is attempting to address it



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4. The delivery of K9 by the Post Office was raised. Mr. Gomez worked in the law enforcement section of the Postal Service and was able to provide information
- K. Aldo Perez, Community Resident:
1. Announced an upcoming Job Fair
  2. Talked about the need for working together to improve the community
- L. Shanequa Charles, CB Member:
1. Talked about "Justice for All", which will be held on October 10th
  2. Discussed the march in Washington and the need for people to get together to honor those who seek justice. For information, contact 347-638-9026
- M. Lowell Green, CB Member:
1. Neighborhood walk to be held on October 3rd at 10am. Meeting location will be Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway (Mosholu Parkway; #4 Train Station)
- N. Mr. X, Community Resident:
1. Talked of DA Robert Johnson who did not follow up on a crime and that the DA does not live in the Bronx. Mr. X stated that DA Robert Johnson should not be in office
- O. Michael Alvarez, Bronx Library Center:
1. Announced the upcoming Job Fair; 9/16/15
  2. Jane Addison, Mosholu Branch Library:
  3. Would like the library to have more programs and more hours for operation
- P. Alora Bailey, CB Member:
1. Health justice and equality in Montefiore Hospital. Call for action to hire from the community. Wants help from legislators
- Q. Sirio Guerino, NAG (Norwood Against Graffiti):
1. Spoke against graffiti throughout the neighborhood. Wants action to remove the graffiti
  2. Proposing more grants to cover costs
- R. Franklin Thomas, "Help USA" Homebase:
1. Issue of homelessness discussed
  2. Prevention and assistance with paying back rent and Con Edison bills for those in need was talked about. It was stated that assistance will be provided to those individuals
- S. Ricky Martinez, Community Resident:
1. Committee of 100 Democrats is planning a community event. Flyers will be ready soon
- T. Mary Fitzgerald, Montefiore Hospital:
1. Concerns about the unsafe and unhealthy conditions at Montefiore Hospital
  2. Need more nurses
  3. Wants assistance from the Community Board to petition legislators to help correct conditions
- U. Marques Payne, Bronx Chamber of Commerce:
1. Announced several Job Opportunities



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2. Ambulatory Center from 5:30pm to 8:00pm on West 205th Street and Webster Avenue on Wednesday
- V. Kenneth Wyrcht, Community Resident:
  1. Spoke on several issues and distributed informational flyers
- III. Meeting opened at 8:05pm
  - A. Attendance taken
  - B. Minutes and Agenda was unanimously approved
- IV. Reports:
  - A. Executive:
    1. Report was given
  - B. District Manager's Report:
    1. No DSC Meetings were held over the summer
    2. Mr. Engelken turned in his resignation. His last day on the Job will be October 9<sup>th</sup>
  - C. Chairperson's announcements:
    1. 11 new members were called forward by the Chair who introduced themselves and their background
    2. Adaline spoke of future projects and committee assignments
    3. The Woodlawn Cemetery concert was mentioned
  - D. Budget / Personnel & Ethics by Nilsa Cintron:
    1. Attendance at meetings will be taken seriously
  - E. Community Relations / Long Term Planning by Samelys Lopez:
    1. The Committee will meet on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
  - F. Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
    1. Vendors were discussed and the future of the Armory
  - G. Education by Marcos Sierra:
    1. Goals from past was talked about
    2. Youth Forum information was discussed
    3. Special need students in public school system
  - H. Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman:
    1. The Committee will meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month
    2. Sanitation issues are a big issue
    3. Raccoons are a problem
    4. Water rates need to be discussed and adjustments for home owners
  - I. Health & Hospitals by Gloria Bent:
    1. Issues of Montefiore Hospital and the nurse situation is on the Agenda
    2. Farmer's Market on Jerome Avenue was mentioned
    3. Breast Cancer walk will be on October 2nd
  - J. Housing / Land Use & Zoning by Jean Hill:
    1. The Committee will be meeting on 9/16 at 6:30pm
    2. Project Renewal to meet regarding a larger development than originally planned; the push is for affordable housing as opposed to higher rental units. Mixed income housing is the goal



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K. Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:

1. Read Motion
2. Poe Cottage renovation planned

L. Public Safety by John Snider:

1. Liquor Licenses were reviewed
2. Call 311 for any issues
3. Info on calling 311 can be addressed at the Community Board Level if no response from 311
4. K2 forum is in the planning stage

M. Senior Services by Nora Feury:

1. Report on Municipal ID cards

N. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:

1. Parking signs that are no longer in use should be reported for changes

O. Veterans by Robyn Saunders:

1. The following topics were talked about:
2. Housing
3. Supportive Housing
4. Career Fairs
5. Monument for veterans is being discussed
6. Ms. Saunders distributed information on Healthcare and Vet Centers

P. Ad-Hoc Committee:

1. Nominations for Secretary were made from the floor
2. Nora Feury was nominated from the floor
3. A discussion about elections ensued about the nomination. A vote was taken and Nora Feury was selected unanimously

V. Elected Official Reports:

A. Senator Jeff Klein's Office by Jennifer Rosado:

1. Discussed legislation against K2

B. Borough President's Office by Andy Toledo:

1. Job Fair scheduled for September 22nd at the Supreme Court (BOEDC)
2. Service Academy Night; Academy slots are available

C. Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Office by Nathalia Fernandez:

1. Spoke about various issues before the Assemblyman

D. Congressman Rangel's Office by Socrates Solano:

1. Voted in favor of Iran deal in support of the President
2. Government to shut down:
  - a. Planned Parenthood funding. Tea Party reps oppose funding
3. Congressman to retire at the end of his term, not before

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm