



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

## GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Tuesday, January 19, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

- I. Meeting opened at 6:40pm.
  - A. Adaline Walker presided and welcomed all for coming out on such a cold night. She made remarks about a recent crime committed in the neighborhood and how the community stood together in supporting the police in helping erase further incidents of this nature.
- II. Public Session began with the following speakers:
  - A. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
    - i. Comments on the State of the State speech made by Gov. Cuomo earlier. Some of the issues covered were the raising of the minimum wage, affordable housing including the homeless, La Guardia Airport improvement project and education funding
  - B. Councilman Andrew Cohen:
    - i. Commented on a walk he took with Councilman Richie Torres and Barbara Stronczer along Webster Ave. from E. 204th Street to Fordham Road to review economic development along that strip. The plan is to meet with merchants for their vision and to organize them into a more cohesive group in future planning.
    - ii. He mentioned his visit to Albany for the State of the State address and found it very interesting.
    - iii. The upcoming ULURP was mentioned and the need for residents to come out and give their views. Residents are also encouraged to join participatory budgeting sessions sponsored by the Councilman as a means of supporting projects important in their neighborhood. Mr. Cohen also mentioned a bill that was passed in the City Council regarding wages for Supermarket workers
  - C. Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj:
    - i. Wished all a happy and healthy New Year
    - ii. The Assemblyman commented on the State of the State address and was not happy with the budget. He also cited a need for increases in Education funded which was not addressed in the budget to his satisfaction. There were questions from the audience and the need for action about a criminal hate crime against a community youngster. The Assemblyman agreed and called on the public to cooperate with the police in apprehending the suspect.
  - D. Ron Jordan representing Councilman Richie Torres:
    - i. Ron greeted all and informed the group about some free services offered by the councilman at the office, and advised people to contact the office with any questions
      1. Filing taxes
      2. Housing attorney



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#### 3. Domestic violence counselor

- E. Dilletta Pina, CB 7 member:
- i. Ms. Pina informed the members of a new policy of Montefiore Hospital to improve patient care.
  - ii. They will become a 7 day hospital offering tests for patients on Saturdays and Sundays. The waiting time in the Emergency Room will be reported 4 times a day in an effort to reduce waiting time
- F. Elvin Garcia, Mayor DiBlasio's office:
- i. The Mayor is working with the Governor to restore CUNY cuts
  - ii. The Mayor will come to the Bronx to deliver the State of the City address on Feb 4th at Lehman College located in CB7
  - iii. Comments were made about the increase in wages and the rising graduation rate. Congratulations were given to the newly elected DA in the Bronx
- G. Michael Alvarez, NY Public Library:
- i. He discussed programs offered at the library, such as Family Literacy, School time homework for youngsters and music offerings from Jazz to Opera. All are encouraged to participate
- H. Jean Harris Persaud, Bronx Library Center:
- i. She mentioned the programs offered by the Library ie: Writing Workshops and assistance with writing novels and screen writing. These are new offerings and should be very popular
- I. Aldo Perez, Community Resident:
- i. Looking for information about a Fordham Youth Job and Resource proposal. He was referred to the Youth Committee.
- J. Elinor Larria:
- i. Thanked the Health Committee for supporting a new Health Center in CB 7 owned by Montefiore Hospital
- K. Thomas Broli:
- i. Reminder that the Citizens Committee Grants Program proposal is due on Jan. 25th.
- L. Tiffany Wheatland:
- i. Spoke about a program at John Jay College dealing with racial issues and diversity initiatives.
- M. Ashley Torres, Comptrollers Office:
- i. Announced a rally to be held on Sunday against E – cigarettes. Noted that ads are misleading
  - ii. On Feb. 4th there will be a workshop on property taxes for those who are interested
- N. Alize Beat, Outreach Manager for Big Brothers and Big Sisters out of the mayor's office:
- i. Wants referrals of youngsters who may benefit from the services offered
- O. Rachel Ferrari, from Gustavo Rivera's office:



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- i. She invited all to the Black History celebration on Sat. 1/23 . On Tuesday 1/26 from 11 - 3 hear reports from the Mayor's office ...Lawyer available for representation in Housing Court. For further information call ( 718 ) 933 – 0334
  - P. 52nd precinct report by John Dinoia:
    - i. Reported on the stats and activities
    - ii. He mentioned the Grandmothers Program where grandmothers are raising their grandchildren
    - iii. The precinct is interested in registering more participants who will be supported and honored for their unsung contribution to society. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on 1/28 at 3400 Paul Ave. (Scott Tower)
- III. The Public Session ended at 7:40 p.m./ Board Meeting opened
  - A. Attendance was taken with a quorum present
  - B. Nominations for 3rd Vice Chair were made from the floor
    - i. Jean Hill nominated John Snider. He accepted
    - ii. Nilsa Cintron nominated Andrew Laiosa. He accepted
    - iii. The election will be held next month at the General Board meeting.
  - C. An Executive Session was called to discuss a personnel matter. All non-Board members left the room during this time
    - i. The Screening Committee Report was read with all the steps taken to seek and hire a District Manager. Questions were forthcoming about details of the position:
    - ii. The candidate was introduced to the members where he spoke of his vision for the Board.
    - iii. Questions to the candidate were answered with ease and humor
    - iv. The Executive Session ended and Barbara Stronzcer made the motion to bring the name of Andrew Sanders to the full Board for approval as the new District Manager
    - v. Dilletta Pina seconded the motion
    - vi. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously
  - D. The Agenda and minutes were approved with changes to the minutes
- IV. Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:
  - A. The chairperson reported on her visit to the Bedford Senior Center where a celebration took place honoring a 100 yr. old resident
- V. Executive Committee Report:
  - A. The committee discussed the information from the Search Committee and prepared the motion for the approval of the new DM.
- VI. District Manager's Report by Tom Lucania:
  - A. Reminders that minutes from committee meetings need to be in on time
  - B. Reappointments are due Feb. 5th
  - C. Plans to work with new DM
- VII. Committee Reports:
  - A. Community Relations / Long Term Planning Committee:
    - i. Congratulated to Andrew Sandler



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- ii. Next meeting on Tuesday to continue work on on-going projects
- B. Economic Development:
  - i. Plans are on-going regarding development throughout the community
- C. Education:
  - i. Working with local youth programs
- D. Environment & Sanitation:
  - i. Congrats to Andrew Sandler
  - ii. Sanitation issues throughout CB 7 to be discussed on Feb. 9th. The focus will be on Villa Avenue
  - iii. There is no update on an animal shelter
- E. Health & Hospitals:
  - i. Next meeting to be held on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. The Committee met with Bronx Community Health Network who are requesting a letter of support
  - iii. The motion was made by Gregory Clarke, Jr. to provide a letter of support for their grant application for a proposed site to provide health services in the community providing there would be no conflict with other agencies providing similar services
    - 1. A vote was taken and the motion was approved with one abstention, Alfred Grant.
- F. Housing:
  - i. Congrats to Andrew Sandler
  - ii. Meeting Wed. 1/20 at 6:30 p.m. where there will be a presentation on mixed use in housing developments
  - iii. On Feb. 8th there will be a public hearing and discussion on the zoning ULURP by Dunkin Donuts on Jerome Ave.
  - iv. On 1/20 there will be a discussion on cluster site housing. All are invited
  - v. It was noted that the Botanical Gardens are interested in the Pioneer Supermarket site on Webster Ave. for development ( perhaps a hotel ) Keep tuned for more info
- G. Parks:
  - i. Next meeting Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. The presentation on the Putnam Trails was postponed
  - iii. A motion was presented for approval of a letter of support for the creation of a mural on the Bainbridge Ave. wall around P.S. 8 playground to be sent to the Parks Dept. for their approval.
    - 1. The motion was approved unanimously.
- H. Public Safety:
  - i. John spoke of the 3 shootings by illegal guns in the neighborhood. His next meeting will be on gun violence. The meeting will be at 6:30 where future endeavors will be discussed.
- I. Senior Services:



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- i. The presentation of Health and Safety issues by the representative from the Dept. of Health was discussed with the possibility of sharing the information with the Health Comm. for possible future collaboration on health issues
  - J. Veterans:
    - i. Next meeting Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. The need for veterans benefits, housing, employment and other resources continue to be a priority for the committee
- VIII. Public Officials:
  - A. Brittany Cesarini, representing Councilman Cabrera
    - i. Dept. of Buildings applications available
    - ii. Legislation on parking issues reviewed
    - iii. Expense budget requests deadline is 2/22 and the capital expense budget requests deadline is 3/25.
  - B. Nestor Medina, Representing Assemblyman Pichardo:
    - i. On Jan. 21st the HRA Tenants Support Organization will be knocking on doors regarding the rezoning on Jerome Ave.
    - ii. In conjunction with the Fire Dept. the Assemblyman will distribute carbon monoxide alarms on Jan 27th from 2 - 5 at the office on 2175 Jerome Avenue
    - iii. On January 28th there will be College Job Fair from 11 - 4
    - iv. On Jan. 26th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a citizens training event. Homeless Services is seeking volunteers to identify homeless persons that they may receive proper care
    - v. The public is asked to donate usable clothing to local fire houses which will be provided to families with losses due to fires
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Our next meeting will be a presentation on senior programs by Assemblyman Dinowitz.