

FULL BOARD MEETING

February 25, 2016

MINUTES

Attendance: George Rodriguez, Claris Alayeto, Barbara Alvarez, Ngande Ambroise, Maria Garcia-Baltazar, Daniel Barber, Steven Benedith, Carol Boddie, Betty Bryant-Brown, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Carolyn Chamorro, Isabel Figueroa, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Johnson, Jewels Marshall, Mohammed Mutawakil, Walter C. Nash, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Brenda Rodriguez, Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Sandra Stone, Betty Wessley, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Delores Waller-Worrell, Hakiem a. Yahmadi.

Absent: Carmen Aquino, Passyna Bula-Bula, Maura Cosme, Linda Duke, Lynda Gaines, John Lemon, Angel Lopez, Aracelis Lucero, Nellie McKay, Evelyn Munoz, Jason Ortiz, Johnny Rivera, Cesar Yoc.

Public Session

Inspector Carlos Valdez, Commander of the 40th Police Precinct said that so does everybody here know what Comstat is or has heard of the concept of Comstat. I had Comstat this morning and basically Comstat they called me down specifically if there's any increases in crime that are occurring and the 40 has had an increase in crime here to date. Basically what I said at Comstat was for the 28 day period basically since I was here we have a 50 percent increase in crime specifically robberies, assaults, burglaries and grand larcenies. I knew there was a segment in the Times Murder in the 40. At the time that the article was written we had one homicide but we were actually down at that time compared to the three that we had the previous year. The 40 is historically violent even though we had less violence last year but we try our best to keep the violence lower. Year to date we had two shootings last time I was here we had only one. During this past month we took two shootings on the 9th of February which occurred over here on 151 and Morris and unfortunately this past Monday over at St. Mary's we took a homicide. We believe that homicide was a result of a previous assault and or other homicide. There was a homicide a few weeks ago not in the confines of the 40. I told you about the shootings and the crime increases especially in robberies. What we have is the NCO officers addressing the specific sectors where the crimes are occurring. A lot of it is still youth on youth but we're also seeing that they are robberies of opportunity. Different from the last time when I was here where they were happening in a concentrated specific area it's really all over the place. Usually when we have specific areas, specific times and specific individuals that are doing it we see patterns. But we have not created any patterns recently because we don't see a commonality in the crimes that are being committed. Burglaries are another issue that is on the rise a lot of it has to do with people leaving their doors open. Sometimes it's not forced

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entry at all. There are individuals that will go down the hallway and turn door knobs to see they can gain access. Again we try to avoid this by talking to you and making sure that you secure your property and also by looking at people that habitually commit burglaries. We did lock up an individual that was

arrested many times for burglaries that he was committing at the time we caught him he had nine arrest numbers on him. When we see burglary spikes it's usually the same people and that are addicted to narcotics to sell it for whatever they can to feed their habit. Just to let you know that in every category I discussed we have a huge increase in arrests 73 percent in robberies, 53 percent in assault arrests this time last year we had 2 burglary arrests this year we had 9. The effort is there by the 40th Precinct we just have to do a little better in identifying whose doing this what are they stealing and where are they selling stuff. I actually got a location today of a business that is making deals for things that were stolen. The NCO Officers address anything from noise complaints to narcotics sales you name it that's the community Officer that the Police Commissioner wants you to know.

Questions

Bronx Health Reach

Mr. Joseph Ellis, Outreach Coordinator said that I'm with the Bronx Health Reach we are the community arm for the Institute for Family Health here to promote the NOT62 Campaign which is a call to action by Bronx Health Reach and the Institute for Family Health and Montefiore Hospital. For the last 6 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has listed the Bronx as the most unhealthiest county in New York State we're trying to do something about that and we're going to have a Town Hall meeting on April 2nd and we're asking Community Board 1 if they will sign on and join us. We will let you know more about when we're having the Town Hall meeting. We don't have the flyers in Spanish yet but hopefully by next week and we're distributing them to all the Community Boards.

City Clerk's Office of the City of New York

Ms. Jessica Fiorillo, Lobby Bureau Trainer said that I'm with the office of the City Clerk with the Lobbying Bureau. Lobbying is an attempt to influence government. Any attempt to influence government might need to be reported to our office. You spend \$5000 thousand dollars in a calendar year doing so. It sounds like it's not really relevant but it is to a lot of groups if you are with a non-profit and apply for discretionary funding, if you attempt to influence a bill, if ask the Borough President for government funding that is lobbying. If a group spends \$5000 dollars in a calendar year it has to be reported. A lot of people don't know that they're lobbying so we're offering an Amnesty period where they can come forward and report to our office and not be penalized. This is really a great opportunity and I'm leaving these brochures if anyone wants more information or if they just want to call our office. Please consider it a lot of people do great work and we don't want them fined. New York State is also offering an Amnesty period. So this is a great opportunity to be in compliance with the City and State. So if you have any questions you can contact the office of the City Clerk and we'll be happy to help you.

Northeast Charter Schools Network

Mr. John Sanchez, NYC Advocacy Manager said that why am I here today well in your packet you'll see that we're holding a Press Conference on March 3rd at 11:00 AM at Harriet Tubman Charter School.

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What's the purpose of this Press Conference? Well the purpose is that Charter Schools do not receive facilities funding from the state. There are some schools in the City of New York that are paying 50, 70

even 100 thousand dollars a month and they get no assistance and this is money that could be used for curriculum, computers, and extra resources. I visited a school in Brooklyn in which they had a pool that they couldn't renovate because they were paying \$50,000 dollars a month in rent and Charter Schools are Public Schools and what we're seeing is that things are unequal. We have a very strange process where some schools are getting help for rent and some schools are getting none and this is unfair. We encourage community leaders, parents and community stake holders to attend. So the details again it's March 3rd at 1176 Franklin Avenue and if you'd like to attend or speak you can call me at 646 – 300-5743.

Question

Ms. Maxine Davila said that last fall I was here as well as at other Community Boards talking about the United Nations My World Survey and what I found was that a lot of people were not receptive as I expected which was okay because I told everyone that I wouldn't just bombard everyone with things. I'm really here to raise awareness in education. So at the end of December I decided to completely change my outreach approach because of you'll notice what's being passed around all the details. There's going to be so much participation from civil society and they'll be having all types of surveys and consultations. If we don't know what they're about then we'll miss our chance. I really just want to again raise awareness in education so you will know what you're saying or at least know too. So I started these Newsletters with 5 boroughs wide the agenda mandates that we reach the most marginalized communities so I started out with the 10 most marginalized communities. You know just to go to the community leaders first but basically I want to get everyone involved but I can't do that alone I need your help. If you don't know what I'm talking about you're not going to help me. You all have the January issue because I wasn't able to be here last month. I do have a February issue and if you're interested I would love to email you a copy. I do have 10 copies with me here in case you can't access emails or anything but I have this signup sheet. My organization is a grassroots initiative working for a better world. I do not solicit anything I do work through partnerships there's like a website that does upload my Newsletters which is luzdavilafoundation.org.

Questions

End of Public Session

The Chairman called for the roll.

The roll was called and there were 30 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Agenda.

Motion made to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Prior Meeting Minutes.

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Motion made to approve the Prior Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously with 2 abstentions.

Chairman and District Manager's Report

The District Manager said that every Board Member received a copy of the Zika report by email and in their folders at the January Board meeting. Also everyone knows the issues with standing water. We have with us tonight our liaison from the New York City Health Department Ms. Meiling Viera-Delgado.

Ms. Meiling Viera-Delgado, Bronx Community Liaison said that my job is to ensure that all matters that are inter-government related initiatives are brought to the 12 Community Boards here in the borough. We have some concerns about the Zika Virus so this is a formal presentation that's quite lengthy but I will try to condense it as much as possible and give you the most important factors. I have flyers here in English and Spanish we also have them in Creole and French to ensure that folks are getting the information necessary. So the basic facts about the Zika Virus that we know currently is that folks are being infected south of the United States in Central South America and New Mexico that's where we have confirmed cases. A great deal of the individuals that are stung get sick that's really important to note. Why is that important to note because if you go to another country the expectation is that you use all the precautionary measures that I passed around. If you're in a non air conditioned location that you have bed nets that you spray your clothing and it is very important to note that you should wear long sleeve shirts and long pants during the day. This mosquito is very different then the mosquito that begins to sting at dusk they usually sting from dawn to dusk. So we are advising woman who are pregnant or expecting to become pregnant if they can delay travel to other countries other than in the United States. If they cannot delay travel we're asking that they visit their physician prior to leaving so that everything is okay with the pregnancy. Secondly upon returning that they also visit their physician to ensure that they're okay and the reason why this is so important is that there is a slight correlation between the Zika Virus and Microcephaly. Microcephaly is the formation in children who are born with very small heads and have developmental problems and as a result have very short life spans. The other concern is if the male travels out of the country and is stung and returns to his spouse, girlfriend whoever it is and engages in sexual intercourse they can give their partner the Zika Virus. If the female then becomes pregnant the child may have Microcephaly. So we're advising that one there's a conversation between the partners to either abstain for at least 2 weeks after the male returns or use condoms so that's the advice that we're giving. So what are the symptoms they are muscle aches, and fever similar to the flu and it has the pink eye associated with it. There is no treatment and there is no vaccine at the moment. That we continue to be mindful of our ponding water and it should be removed to ensure that we continue to reduce mosquito's because we still have mosquito's that carry other types of diseases.

Questions

Unfortunately last summer as you well know this district was struck by Legionnaires Disease a very unfortunate situation and we lost 13 individuals in this community and we had 123 people get sick. We currently have a situation here so I want to give you a little bit of history and policy as it relates to what we do when we find Legionnaires so it can live in mist and warm water. We had a situation here in the South Bronx where you had a unit dispelling bacteria into the air. We understand that Legionnaires is not a man made or created disease it's something that lives in our environment all the time. So it could be in standing water, hot water, in the plumbing it could live in your supermarket on what's sprayed on your

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vegetables. Unfortunately 80 percent of the individuals that become sick are those who have symptoms that create susceptible situations such as problems with their upper respiratory and those who have bone

marrow and different organ transplants become sick faster. I understand that right now we have a situation here that some folks are concerned about. The Department of Health when we find one case in a building or in a location we do not immediately begin an investigation because that could be that you traveled somewhere and you got sick. I cannot determine that this one illness was in this building. Now when we have a second case that's associated with the same address then you know that there's something going on in that building. So I'm going to use Community Board 1 and hope this never happens God forbid I come in with Legionnaires I go home and get treated with antibiotics and then hopefully not Mr. Loftin get sick then somebody from the Department of Health comes out and investigates and does a full fledged interview with the patient. We ask where did you go to the Doctor, where have you been, where do you live, how do you shower, what do you do and their asking both of us the same questions. If our answers correlate to the same location then that's where the investigation is propelled. But if Mr. Loftin and I don't have any correlation in terms as to where we commute and where we live then we need to figure out if something else is going on and that becomes environmental. So right now we have a situation where we have 2 cases one was originally correlated to the South Bronx outbreak and then there's another one that happened now and we know that they both live in the same location. So why weren't they associated then because the second one we didn't know about. The cost of the tests and remediation will become the burden of the property owner the City does not pay for any services rendered the Department of Health is not a service provider.

Questions

Elected Officials Reports

Ms. Farhan Hassan representative for the State Senator Jose M. Serrano said that earlier this evening I passed around our Community Board Report and the flyers for an event we're having. So first and foremost I want to thank those that came out to our annual Black History Month Event this past Monday with Congressman Serrano's office. I know our former honoree Ms. Nellie McKay came out and whoever else did from the Board we always love having you so thank you. This past month we focused a lot on providing free tax services for the entire district. We're going to end it with a free tax event at our district office this Friday and it's by appointment only the flyers are going around now. You can make an appointment to have your taxes filed for free with Ariva an organization that the City has contracted to provide these services. If you know anyone that hasn't filed their taxes yet let them know that it's completely free and they just have to call our office to make an appointment. It's from 10 to 3 so we have slots for everyone. Next month we're coming into March and we will be focusing on Immigration Services and will be partnering with the Mayor's Office for Immigration Affairs as well as the Manhattan DA's Office for free immigration legal services. I don't have those flyers with me right now. I don't know if you guys heard the Mayor's Office launched a new program basically offering free legal services for anyone who needs it so. They'll make you an appointment with the local community organization providing it and I believe its BronxWorks so you don't have to look out for our flyers in particular you can also reach out to BronxWorks offering the free legal services starting this spring. So stay tuned for those flyers.

Ms. Gloria Cruz representative for the Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said that this is our flyer for this month our address and phone number is in the back it's a lot of information but two of the things I want to highlight we have free NYCHA Legal Clinic. Anyone that has issues with NYCHA they can go there to our 116th Street office. We're working in getting it to the Bronx but for now they can go

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to 116th Street the second Tuesday of every month so they can get legal representation for what's going on in their NYCHA development. Also the Speaker was able to put up these beautiful murals and we have

one on 138th and Grand Concourse so one of these four murals was ours. Participatory Budgeting is on full swing and we should be getting to vote very soon. I encourage that you go to her website and learn about the projects that we're about to release with 2 million set aside this year.

Mr. Austin Johnson representative for Assemblyman Michael Blake said that I just have one quick announcement. We're hosting our Black History Month event this Saturday the 27th and we're honoring and celebrating African Americans. It is being held at the Claremont Neighborhood Center from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

The Chairman called for motion on the Elected Officials Reports.

Motion made to approve the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee submitted a written report and the Chairperson provided a brief overview on the following presentations.

- Radson Developments proposed affordable housing project at 869 East 147th Street.
- New York City Economic Development Corporations update on the Lower Concourse Development Initiative.

The Education and Youth Committee submitted a written report and the Chairperson provided a brief overview on the following presentations.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters hosting a Meet and Greet being held on March 3rd at Charlie's Bar and Kitchen from 6:30 to 8:30. Also to notify the Board that they're seeking Mentors from the South Bronx.
- Pathways to Education proposing a Charter High School for at-risk students in the Bronx.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Reports.

Motion made to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Old Business

The District Manager said that there was an issue on the floor last month about lighting and a letter was forwarded down to the New York City Department of Transportation to do a Lighting Survey related to foot candle throughout the district.

Mr. Ambrose was forwarded a copy of the letter sent to the New York City Department of Transportation related to his request for speed humps.

New Business

Board Member Arline Parks made a request for Fresh Direct to come before the Board and provide an update on the number of jobs they've provided for Board 1 residents.

The District Manager responded that he would have a representative from Fresh Direct come to a Full Board meeting.

Board Member Tracy A. Woodall said that the next C-Ball event was on March 15th in Community Board 10 at Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.