



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 28, 2019

Mr. Cedric L. Loftin, District Manager asked Ms. Betty Bryant-Brown to commence the meeting with a prayer.

Ms. Betty Bryant-Brown performed the prayer request.

PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Emily Allen said that I'm a volunteer with the American Red Cross and this is my colleague Ms. Adrian and she's also a volunteer with the American Red Cross. We're also AmeriCorps volunteers as well and it's like the Peace Corp which is international but we're domestic. Even though we do international deployments like in Tokyo, and Guam we're still domestic. We go to all the hurricanes we're called hurricane chasers. The purpose of us being here tonight is to sort of brief you we've left some flyers for the Home Safety Campaign and this is where we go out and install free smoke alarms. We don't care if you have smoke alarms already in your house. We're given these smoke alarms from the Fire Department. The difference with ours is that they have 10-year batteries they have 10-year guaranteed batteries and they're all free. We have the smoke alarm combinations and we also have the single smoke alarms but we have the literature on the table. We also have sign-in sheet on the table if you're interested in getting free smoke alarms.

The Red Cross we work from 28 to 32 hours a day what I'm trying to say is that we work overtime. We're an organization that never sleeps and work 7-days a week. I usually get calls at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning to attend a fire in a building to help with the families that's what we do. We're trying to make homes safer by installing alarms in every home if possible. Last year we installed over 1 million alarms this year we're trying to top it with your help in the community we can do this. Now a lot of people say I don't want you in the house because I have some sort of situation, we're not there to critique the house we're just there to say I have helped to make that home safer. Now those who are hearing impaired Red Cross has special alarms for that we have what we call bed shakers that's for a person who can't hear. We have special alarms for every situation that you could possibly imagine.

Also I want to talk to you briefly about the pillowcase and hands on CPR. Hands only this is not when you give the mouth to mouth it's a free course that we offer and anybody can take it. We also have volunteer opportunities you're never too young or too old to volunteer. In 3 years I'll be 70 so therefore I

work with Red Cross 14 to 16 hours a day. If you want to get a good workout join the Red Cross, I can guarantee you when you go home you'll feel good you'll have muscles. I didn't have muscles but I got them now. Also we have information on the table a lot of people I find have pets and a lot of people don't know what to do with their pets in the case of like an evacuation sometimes they will leave their pets behind. But we have information on how to take care of a pet in case of an emergency. We have all kind of information we have on an online store that you can take with you. The hands CPR is very important now a days and what we want to do is make sure that if you see somebody pass out on the street you can go and do the hands only and there is a song that we get in our head when doing that CPR can anybody guess the name of that song Staying Alive that is the beat when you're doing the hands on CPR. That's the beat you want to keep that rhythm going until the Police Department, the Paramedics or whoever needs to come to takeover you'd be surprised how that works. But again I want everybody to sign up for those free smoke alarms. Does everybody agree with that, you're going to agree but are you going to sign up so before we leave we want to have that page filled? I will go back in and personally put you in our data base, will make calls to ask you your availability we only come out when you say for us to come out. We don't say we got a schedule, no what is your schedule. We come out on weekends we come out on Saturday's and Sundays too so like I say we never sleep everybody understand that.

Questions and Comments

The District Manager called for the roll.

The roll was called and there were 39 members present constituting a quorum.

The District Manager called for a motion on the Agenda.

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

The District Manager called for a motion on the Prior Meeting Minutes.

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

CHAIRMAN AND DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The District Manager introduced Captain Robert Gallitelli Commander of the 40th Police Precinct and said that he would be providing a report on what's happening in the district.

Captain Robert Gallitelli Commander of the 40th Police Precinct said that so first of all it's a pleasure to be here I see a lot of familiar faces. I'm newly assigned to the 40 I got here about a month ago prior to coming to the 40 I was in PSA7 which as many of you know covers all the developments in the 40th and the 42nd Precincts. So I'm very familiar with the area, familiar with a lot of the problems in the area. Prior to PSA7 I was in charge of the Bronx Gang Squad and before that I was in Bronx Narcotics. So I've been around the Bronx for a while I love it here I had a great time in PSA7 great people great community and its now an honor for me to kind of move on to the 40th Precinct and continue to work with the community in the South Bronx.

We're off to a great start this year we have 142 crimes and that's compared to 170 last year almost a 17 percent drop off which is a huge decrease. For the year we had three shooting incidents that we're currently investigating and like I always say if we had one, one is too many three is certainly too many but last year at this time we had seven so it's also a big drop off. What I've seen so far in the 40th Precinct I'm happy with the Cops they're completely plugged in. The NCO Program is really good there and the NCO's are really involved so great work being done and we're collectively looking forward to working with you guys so thanks for having us. I'm looking forward to working with you guys so thank you.

Questions and Comments

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca said good evening everyone it's always great being here. I have the third largest NYCHA portfolio in New York. I have Jackson Houses, Melrose Houses, Adam Houses, St. Mary's a piece of Morrisania Air Rights that's just on this side of the district then on the other side of the district you have Watson and I also have some Consolidated that are three-story NYCH developments throughout my district. I have about 8-million dollar's worth of capital need in my NYCHA developments in my district alone. So what I've been doing and I try to be very realistic to my constituents. We Councilmembers have term limits we only have 2-terms so there's no way I'm going to be able to bring in 8-million dollars to address all of the needs, but I will try as much as I can to address the most severe needs of my NYCHA developments. Something that I've been very successful at is visiting my constituent's apartments what are the issues you have in your NYCH developments or in your apartments that NYCHA is not addressing and we've been very successful at that. So as a result of that I'm going to start hosting Town Hall Meetings with my NYCHA developments and my first Town Hall Meeting will be with Jackson Houses and Melrose Houses on March 11, 2019 at 6:00 PM at BronxWorks Classic Center. So if you live in Melrose, if you live in Jackson please stop by, we're going to have the General Manager for the NYCHA developments in New York he will be present. We're going to have tables where you can put in a ticket number. We're not just only going to have NYCHA there we're inviting NYPD PSA7, so we're inviting the 40 Precinct, Parks Department and we're inviting other City Agencies. Because those individuals that live in NYCHA developments not just suffering from NYCHA issues there are other City Agency issues that you may be dealing with and it's going to give you an opportunity to speak to those City Agencies.

In the City Council we've begun our Budget negotiations. The Mayor of New York presented a preliminary Budget of 92 billion dollars compared to the last Budget cycle anywhere from 86 – 88 billion dollars. So for those non-for-profits I see Destination Tomorrow here I know that the City Council we do give you funding and other non-profits in the community that are interested in getting Discretionary funding. I think that the application deadline already passed so hopefully that you did submit them at the appropriate time. But the Capital deadline is coming up soon so those non-for-profits asking for Capital dollars make sure that you submit your applications. Questions as to what qualifies for Capital dollars feel free to call my office and we'll be more than happy to explain that.

Lastly I just want to speak to you about three bills that I am working on in the City Council the first is called the 15 Percent Homeless Set Aside. As you may know and this Community Board knows we're saturated with Homeless Shelters in your communities. Last night over 63 thousand individuals slept in a homeless bed, 30 percent of homeless families in the City of New York are families who are sleeping in a shelter just waiting for that opportunity to get into an apartment. This month actually March 8th makes

three years that I've been elected in office and in the three years that I've been in office I've approved a little over 65 hundred units of 100 percent affordable housing 45 hundred units of new housing and I've preserved over 2 thousand units. I've preserved the affordability of over 2 thousand units. Something that I've noticed as the Chair of the Land Use Committee my community Ritchie Torres's community, Diana Ayala's community, Vanessa Gibson's community we're doing our fair share when we are approving new housing and when we're setting aside homeless units but something that I noticed with some of my other colleagues in other boroughs or my colleagues north of the Bronx is that they're not doing their fair share they're negotiating down the homeless set aside and as a result I put in a bill about 8 months ago which will require any Developer whether it's private land or city owned lands if you're getting a dollar from the City of New York subsidies for that building 15 percent of those units must be set aside for homeless families that are ready for independent living. It's time that we stop putting families in shelters and we start putting them in their own apartments so that they can thrive that's what this bill does. The Mayor of course was against this bill because his Housing 2.0 Plan called for a 5 percent homeless set aside. I find it odd that homeless has increased under this Mayor's watch and yet in my opinion he has turned a blind eye on the issue. As of today I have 35 co-sponsors on this bill meaning that this bill is veto proof whether the Mayor wants to accept it or not whether he wants to veto it or not it's going to pass and this is going to happen. So I will keep you posted as to how this bill moves forward in the City Council. My second bill that I wanted to discuss and I know that you've heard a lot throughout the past year lead, lead in our NYCHA developments its lead in our private developments. When a child has a blood level high with lead a Doctor is mandated to submit a report to the Department of Health which in return they go and investigate those apartments if there's lead. Landlords are held accountable the process is the landlord has the opportunity to go and check the apartment to check their paint to check their walls to see if there's lead and if they want to challenge that finding from the Department of Health they can do so 95 percent of the time when there's lead found in a NYCHA development NYCHA challenges that finding. Yet only 4 percent when a private landlord is found to have lead in their buildings they challenge it meaning that 95 percent of time that we find lead in a NYCHA development NYCHA raises a hand and says oh it doesn't exist and they just submit some bogus paperwork to the Department of Health and the Department of Health at times just turns a blind eye and that continues in that department. What my bill does is that it requires that whenever there's a challenge there has to be certain criteria's that has to be followed where NYCHA needs to prove that there is no lead in those apartments and there needs to be a quarterly report where the Department of Health provides the Community Boards a report of where lead has been found and who has challenged it. It's really to keep track of that trend to see if NYCHA is actually doing good by our constituents. It's more about putting more scrutiny to this issue, so that's the second bill. Finally the last bill that I want to bring up is called a Woman In Arts bill. In the City of New York we have 150 statues, sculptures or paintings on city owned land and only five of them are of women. In Central Park there is two dozen statues and none of them are of women but in Central Park Alice in Wonderland has a statue, the huskie dog has a statue, Mother Goose has a statue and Romeo and Juliet have a statue and so we put in a bill that will require the New York City Design Commission the ones that approve all art that's being installed on city owned land moving forward that 50 percent of all art that is installed on city owned land is of women. So this bill has major support in the City Council tomorrow March 1st starts Women's Month and this bill will be passed in Women's Month. It's important that women are recognized for what they've done in our communities and there's no better way of doing it then actually putting a live statute, sculpture or painting.

Questions and Comments

The District Manager called for a motion to approve the District Manager and Chairman's Report as presented.

Motion made to approve the District Manager and Chairman's Report as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

The representative for the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said good evening everybody. The Borough President is very concerned is beginning to see these small plots of land being gobbled up by Developers and building very tall buildings on these lots that are predominately two and three stories back. So what I'll do is get your information and speak to James Rausch our Director Urban Planning in our office and find out if he has more information on a particular project. I apologize for sounding like a broken record by now but for those Board Members who haven't taken the Sexual Harassment Training please get it done. We've been notified by DCAS that the last day that the link will be up will be on March 31st so that is the last day you can take the training. For those Board Members that are up for reappointment and have submitted their reappointment applications but have not taken the training you will not be reappointed back to the Board so it's something to bear in mind. So very quickly the Borough President last week held his annual State of the Borough address and during the address he announced the Camp Junior Program which is honor of Junior Guzman the young man that was killed last summer over at Bathgate. This is a program that we partnered up with the New York State Department of Parks and the Fresh Air Fund. It's a summer program for kids, it's a two-week sleep away program. I have flyers in the back it has the website and the phone number where you can call if you have any kids interested in applying for the program the ages are from 9 to 13. Again it's a two-week sleep away program. Also I wanted to share if you are already a community organization and you need space the Department of Education will now lend space to community organizations. So if you want to have some type of program in one of the DOE spaces or if you want to have maybe a sports program you can now fill out the application for a permit to get the space over at DOE locations. Again the program is called the Extended Use Hardship Waiver Program. I've brought flyers that will give you all the information on how to go about getting that permit. Lastly just one more program we're having a Construction Job Fair on Wednesday, March the 13th over at the Bronx Court Building there will be folks there to help you get your Apprenticeship and any papers that you need. Again I've brought flyers.

Questions and Comments

The representative for Congressman Serrano said that just a couple of updates. The Congressman started as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee on Crime, Justice and Science. So he started this position about two days ago. Right now we're working one mostly with Climate Change and secondly we're working with the Federal Bureau of Presidents mostly because of the unfair conditions that prisoners and the workers at the prisons are experiencing. So we're trying to make some sort of legislation that will help not only the prisoners but the workers have increase in safety and just the conditions that they experience on a regular. So I know that a couple of weeks ago a lot of the prisoners were here in Brooklyn were living without any sort of electricity or heating so we're working against that so that nothing like that ever happens to any of our prisoners or any of the workers that work in the prison system. Just a couple of updates on some of our events we had our Black History Month event this past Monday. But in March which starts tomorrow we're going to have a Women's History Month celebration at the Bronx Museum and it will be on March 22nd from 6 to 8 PM everyone is more than welcome to come it will be a celebration of the women in our district 15. The last thing the 2020 Census

so I know we have been having a lot of questions about whether the immigration question will be included in the census on February 15th the question was sent to the Supreme Court so we do not have an answer on that yet. Obviously the Congressman is strongly opposed to it but if it does happen we will work to find a way to see how we should address the question in our community. On a positive note for the 2020 Census they're hiring so there are thousands of jobs that will open in the district and if you guys are interested or would like to share with anyone the website to find the job positions are 2020census.gov/jobs.

Questions and Comments

The representative from Senator Jose M. Serrano said that in February we were focused on combating Domestic Violence and the importance of healthy relationships. We met with the Mayor's Office to end domestic violence and to provide resources and violence prevention strategies. Next month we're focusing on free legal services with a focus on immigration. For the schedule of the upcoming Constituent Hours please see the calendar I put on the table. In recent days we have been experiencing colder than usual temperature in New York City. If your building is not providing heat or hot water please call our office at 212 – 828-5829. Stay vigilant in protecting yourself and your families from the frigid weather and check on your elderly neighbors.

The representative from the Comptroller's Office Scott Stringer said that I have a couple of announcements today one of them is that we recently published a report that has to do with City Contracts especially if you work for a non-profit or if you have worked for the city you know that it's difficult to get the funding. Many non-profits have to start by providing services and it takes a long time for them to actually get the funding. So the Comptroller is proposing to implement a timeframe for the different offices that have to oversee the process and that's actually something that the Comptroller's Office already has implemented a timeframe for our own office but for other offices as well. The other thing is to create some kind of website that you can go and check exactly where in the process is your contract with the city and that way you have follow up because many times you expecting that funding but you have no idea even in what office it is located right now the contract. For the last part of the report 89 percent of the contract related to Human Services came to the Comptroller's Office right after the start date of the contract 89 percent. So that's why you see like the delay in this process if you need more information let me know. I believe I put some copies of the report back there if you're not able to grab a copy I can send you an email with the information. The other information that I have is a reminder and I already gave you this information last month but about the Internship Program the application deadline is March 8th it is for Undergrad and graduate students please apply. There were Workshops that started today for people that want to make business with the city. If you have any questions let me know.

The representative for Councilwoman Diana Ayala said that we have a mobile mammogram van that's coming on March 22nd to 214 St. Ann's Avenue. We also have a housing crisis where landlords are harassing people and trying to get them out of their homes by misleading them with the Rent Stabilization of their apartment they're trying to destabilize them. So we're having a Tenant Housing Resource Fair on March 12th at St. Luke's Church HPD will be there and a lot of agencies will be there to explain to you what are your rights and the will be Lawyers there. If there's anything that you need they will be able to answer those questions. We have Immigration Services once a month the last Thursday of every month you have to call and make an appointment.

Questions and Comments

The District Manager called for a motion on the Elected Officials Reports.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The District Manager said that the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee Report was in the Board Member folders and that there were no voting items.

Ms. Brenda Goodwin Chairperson of Health Human Services & Senior's provided a brief synopsis on Athena Health's presentation seeking to obtain an Article 31 designation. It is a voting item that the committee had approved to provide them with a letter of support. Ms. Goodwin called for a vote from the Board on the item.

Motion made to approve a letter of support to Athena Health for them to obtain an Article 31 designation. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed with 1-abstention.

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi Chairperson of Municipal Services Committee presented a brief synopsis on three presentations of the renaming of East 151st Street to Richard Propper Way, the renaming of East 149th Street Third Avenue and Willis Avenue to Robert A. Williams Way and for a New Liquor License Application for J Lounge to be located on 132nd Street St. Ann's and Brook Avenues. All three are voting items that were approved by the Committee for a letter of support. Mr. Yahmadi now called for a vote from the Board on the three items.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the renaming of East 151st and Third Avenue to Richard Propper Way. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the renaming of East 149th Street Third Avenue and Willis Avenue to Robert A. Williams Way. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the New Liquor License Application at J Lounge on East 132nd Street St. Ann's and Brook Avenues. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

The District Manager called for a motion on the Committee Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Tracy Woodall provided an update on the C-Ball organization activities.

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Board Member Cecil Brooks, Jr. said that tomorrow March 1st Art Beat was holding a free gala at Bryant Park to get young people off the streets.

The District Manager called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED.