



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

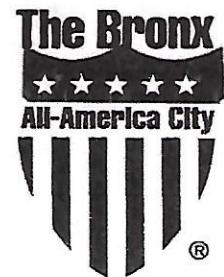
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RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ARLINE PARKS
CHAIRPERSON



VACANT
DISTRICT MANAGER

FULL BOARD

October 28, 2021

MINUTES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

The Chairperson requested that the roll be called.

The roll was called and there were 24 members present, constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson requested for a motion from the Board members to change the order of the Agenda to allow the Officer's from the 40th Precinct to address the Board.

Motion made to change the order of the Agenda. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

Detective Claudia Mera, 40th Police Precinct said that just going to give you a few highlights and if you have any questions, I'd be happy to take them. I would ask you to look at the chat where we have our contact information.

In the month of October, we had five shootings, it is two less than last year, we are lowering the numbers in shootings. We are under mandate for the vaccine, we don't know necessarily what the final numbers will be, but we do have 18 new Officers to the 40th Precinct, so in manpower they will be making up more than we have lost with the heavy influx of retirement and whatever the outcome of the mandate for the vaccine is. In front of the Precinct, we have a Halloween for kids tomorrow at 3 PM it's an annual event we're going to have some performances and candies for the kids so, if you guys could put that out, that would be great. In November any kind of food distributions that any of you guys know of we're here to support, we're happy to put it on our calendar and social media to get that out to the community.

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Officer David Lugo 40th Police Precinct said that just want to inform you guys as of Tuesday the 26th of October we had a gun arrest of a known person to have guns and we were able to collect two guns from this defendant which he was then placed under arrest and sent back to jail.

Questions and Answers

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

The Chairperson said that the next item on the Agenda is the Election of the First and Second Vice Chairpersons of Board 1. There are, only one nominee for each of these positions and we're asking for a slate vote for the two candidates for First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair. The Second Vice Chair for consideration is Ms. Addie Marrow and for the First Vice Chair position is Mohammed Sheikh. Can we have a motion to affirm these Board members in the positions of First and Second Vice Chairs.

Motion made to put the two nominees in the positions of First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair on the Board in consideration as Officers. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed with 1-abstention. The new First Vice Chair is Mr. Mohammed Sheikh and Second Vice Chair Ms. Addie Marrow.

The Chairperson said that I have a few announcements to make as part of my Chair's report. First, of all I want to ask every Board member to send an email in listing of all, of the committee's that you wish to join. We have some committee's where there is full participation and others that this is not and the condition of being on the Board is serving on a committee. So, if you can please take the time and I will be sending out an email to remind everybody, send us your committee of interest that you want to join so, that we can make sure that everyone on the Board is assigned and participating at the committee level. Second, what we want to do we heard, your concern in regards, to the issues with the technology on the website for Community Board 1. I'm also asking for volunteers from the Board whom, want to participate in the development of a website for Community Board 1. I also want to inform you that the official New York City website that we currently have is Bronxcb1 and that's the official website so that anything that we design would have to be done at the same time as updating the official website. We're in the process of updating the website with all the names of the Board members, Officers of the Board, including the committees and the name of the Chairpersons. I also want to let the Board members know that Tom Lucania, myself and Annie of all of the

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Boards, computer systems and printers and found that the systems were old and antiquated and required updates so we're in the process of doing that. So, we're ordering new hardware, new computers and a new copy machine so that you will no longer receive individual sheets for submissions from the office that will just allow us to operate compatibly with new technology and no longer receive single sheets. We also had a meeting Annie Rojas and I with Waste Management regarding air pollution complaints that we were receiving from Port Morris and certain parts of Mott Haven.

We met with principals of Waste Management who informed us that they were having problems as a result of the COVID and, also problems related to the hurricane that passed through. That there were freight trains that delivered the garbage just sitting standing still and causing air pollution and air quality issues. What they pledged to do was to address it and to keep the doors properly closed and sanitized. There were also issues relative to what they were doing around water resiliency, rebuilding the bulkheads so that if there is another significant storm the community would not have to worry about waste traveling into different parts of the district. They pledged that when they were ready to rebuild the bulkheads they would come before Community Board 1 so that there will be proper involvement with the community in the design of the waterfront and what the bulkheads should look like.

This is on the Agenda for consideration tonight and I really thank all the Board members for the survey that was distributed and really, helpful as a preliminary start in terms of us submitting a proper Statement of Needs and Community Priorities that gives, good consideration to really addressing our needs for the district. The item is on the Agenda and we asked for an extension so that we could do a really good job within the timeframe to submit a really, good Statement of Needs and Community Priorities in the district and it is due by November 12th, and we will go over it in the meeting.

Finally, I've asked Tom Lucania to reach out to the New York State Power Authority and NYSERDA to come and make a presentation before Community Board 1 around new transmission lines that they want to bring from Upstate New York and Canada down into Mott Haven. Kathy Hochol during Climate Week made an announcement that there was an RFP that was issued and the award to implement the transmission lines was awarded to Clean Path which is a joint venture between Inver Energy, and the Power Authority and the contract was awarded to Hudson Power otherwise known as Chippie and a joint venture between Blackstone and Hydro. We're in the process of asking the State Authorities to come before this Board and give us all, of the information and particulars around the project. The representation that we've seen so far is that this initiative will create approximately 10 thousand jobs statewide and bring 8.2 billion dollars in economic development investments including Developer committed investments to support disadvantaged communities. There are discussions going on but we

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Community Board 1 needs to be involved so that we can be part of the discussions and to understand how this project will impact our district. That being said the next item on the Agenda is the Public Hearing on the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests and it's a voting item. Based on the survey items we received the first priority is Housing the second priority is Health and Education, and the third priority is public safety and quality of life. So those are the three priorities we're working on. That, being said we're opening up the session at this time.

The Public Hearing was opened and the Boardmembers reviewed, discussed, and voted on each item of the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests with 2-abstentions Tracking Code 101202214C, 1-abstention Tracking Code 101202215C, and 1-opposition Tracking Code 101202217C.

The Chairperson Ms. Arline Parks called for a motion on the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

Motion made to approve the FY2023 Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for the district. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed to approve the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

Public Hearing closed.

Councilmember Honorable Rafael Salamanca said that first I want to congratulate you madam Chair on your election and I also want to congratulate the First Vice Chair and the Second Vice Chair, so congratulations.

I want to get straight to it in terms of capital dollars we passed the budget back in June and as you were talking about capital dollars I pulled up the list of this budget that took effect July 1st, I allocated 800 thousand dollars to public schools just in Community Board 1. We allocated 300 thousand dollars to MS29 for chrome books and technology, I was able to allocate 150 thousand dollars for technology upgrades at PS1, we allocated 50 thousand dollars IS5 for chrome books, IS157 we allocated another 50 thousand dollars for chrome books and PS 17 I was able to allocate 250 thousand dollars. It's important that you're going through this exercise as you know I was a former District Manager so in the Council I review the Expense and Capital Budget of the Community Board give because I know the value and effort they put into it not many of my colleagues understand that but I do and I ask that you continue doing that and if there's a project that's realistic and you think that I could put it into the next upcoming budget

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please reach out to me and I'll be more than happy help you out with the budget. You know in the Council we do street co-naming and we're going to vote on a batch sometime in December and I just want to inform you that I put in a street co-naming for Georgie Rodriguez at the corner of Melrose Avenue and 149th Street. So once I get the green light on it in December I will inform the Community Board so that we can plan an event in the Spring and invite his family and have a big event.

Then very quickly some quick information I'm beginning to plan turkey drives. I'm planning a big drive in Melrose Houses and I use the Classic Center because they have the space, we're planning on giving close to 500 turkeys at that event. Once I get that going, I will make sure that the Community Board has a flyer so that you can spread the word. Finally, just two things really exciting at least for me at the last City Council Hearing I sponsored a bill that would require the Department of Environmental Protection to create Borough Commissioner positions in all five boroughs. So Parks Department has a Borough Commissioner Iris Rodriguez, DOT we have Nirvado Lopez right, he's the Borough Commissioner, Buildings Department has a Borough Commissioner, but DEP doesn't have Borough Commissioner's and we've seen what's happened lately with the infrastructure the flooding we need to hold someone accountable and I know Effie's great, and does a great job but you know what if Effie's doing all that work then they should make Effie a Borough Commissioner or they need to create Borough Commissioner positions, I will keep you informed of that. Finally, my last thing it's a bill that got passed called the Death Certificate Bill. Many of you know I lost my dad as have thousand of family members in New York and that's from COVID in April 2020. When I got my Dad's Death Certificate it said that he died of natural causes and I didn't think nothing of it neither did my friends or family members. Back in the summer the Federal Government allocated funds to FEMA for individuals that had a family member that passed because of COVID there was funding to try to help out and pay some of the funeral expenses and so my friends and family that lost family members were trying to apply the Death Certificate did not say that their family member passed from COVID. So, to revise a Death Certificate you have to apply to the City of New York, and you have to pay a 40 dollar fee on top of the 15 dollars that they're mandated by the state, my bill waived the 40 dollar fee.

The Chairperson Ms. Arline Parks said that I would like to make a very important announcement that because I'm the Chair of Community Board 1 that have decided on the next Chair of the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee. This individual has been on the Board for a decade serving on the committee and I'm honored to announce tonight that the new Chair of the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee is Freddy Perez, Jr. He has served admirably during his tenure on the Board and his attendance on the Board and his commitment to the Land Use Committee has just been fantastic. So, in that regard Mr. Perez you are now the Chair of the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee and

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as always I am here to work with you to ensure that we continue to do the good work that it does for the district and for Community Board 1.

Mr. Freddy Perez, Jr. said I'm honored to accept the position of the committee and I fully understand the role. Rest assured that I will use every means necessary to Chair the committee along with my colleagues to the best of my ability with complete transparency and integrity. Thank you for naming me to that position.

The Chairperson Ms. Arline Parks said that so, tonight will be my last report that I give for the **Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee**. We had three presenter's and all were voting items.

The first presentation that was made and this is a voting item and it relates to something called the **Open Restaurant Text Amendment**. We had Justin Lamorella, Senior Planner for the Department of City Planning make a presentation around the Restaurant Text Amendment they needed support from the Board and we also had Nirvado Lopez whose the Bronx Borough Commissioner for the Department of Transportation. Again, this is the Open Restaurant Text Amendment.

In summary in response to the issue of COVID and restaurants being able to open sidewalk cafe's including restaurants in streets. The City Council voted to make it permanent and the particulars around the Text Amendment is to develop plans to codify design guidelines for allowing the permanency of restaurants and street cafes. One of the components is to consolidate control and accountability to the Department of Transportation. They want to change the zoning regulation to allow for permanent street cafes. The other provision is that by shifting the responsibility over to DOT, DOT will make the decision as to whom gets a license. They will receive and review the applications for consideration based on guidelines that they are now in the process of establishing. DOT is also stating that they will setup a special unit for enforcement, they will also develop specific design guidelines that will include 8-foot clean paths for sidewalks, 12-foot clear paths for commercial corridors and they will also allow setups in parking lanes except for prohibited zones like hydrants, bus stops and in No Standing areas. They are saying that they will do enforcement on sound and ensure of ADA requirements. This is the first step in the process and DOT will return to discuss the initial proposal drafted for what roadways and sidewalk cafes would look like in the district. They will be working with the City Council to enact permanent legislation and laws governing sidewalk cafes and roadway cafes. They are also on an ongoing basis asking community residents to visit the DOT website and submit comments.

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Now the committee after the presentation voted no to this Amendment and here's the rationale why the committee voted no. The concern over DOT's enforcement and issues with DOT now, no parking, traffic congestion being caused right now by DOT changes and DOT is not working with the community right now around the issues that we have. The issue of DOT's oversight of it and that there's also it appears to be not a clear process for community review and input as it relates to the permanency and selection of the sites. The other thing that is an issue for the committee was the fact that DOB no longer has oversight over these structures that are being built and it's now being transferred to DOT. So those were the concerns and let me just reiterate what are the Board's concerns the removable of existing zoning regulations and just doing that without understanding what is there, what's being removed and ensuring safety for the public. The removable or seemingly of a mechanism in place for the community to basically have meaningful input into the siting and placing of these cafes. The other one is the concern around having DOT doing a structure review and not having some linkage with the Department of Buildings. There are significant quality of life and environmental concerns that exist in this district and we didn't see how they would really address it since they're not addressing the issues that we have now. That being said are there any questions from the Board about this particular matter that we should consider before we cast the vote.

Questions and Answers

Motion made not to approve a letter of support to the Department of City Planning's Open Restaurant Text Amendment. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed not to approve a letter of support to the Department of City Planning's Open Restaurant Amendment with 24-No, 2-Abstentions and 2-Oppositions.

The Chairperson said that the next presenter was the Catholic Homes New York, and it was a request for approval for a rezoning and they were looking for a letter of support to change the zoning for a development project that's located at 276 East 152nd Street. They want to change the zoning from an R6 to an R7 to increase the height of the building that they want to develop, and they want to develop 200 units. This is not a voting item at this time because they didn't have enough information for the Board to grant a letter of support so, they are going to appear back before the committee with all the information so that we can give them good consideration on the project.

The last item as it relates to the committee report was a Mr. Frank St. Jacques from Akerman LLP and he came before the committee to ask the Board to give a letter of support so that he can renew his application to operate Planet Fitness that's located at 2914 Third Avenue and the renewal of their permit is for ten years. On this particular item the committee voted unanimously grant a letter of support so that Planet Fitness can continue to operate.

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Motion made to grant Planet Fitness located at 2914 a letter of support to continue their operation for next ten years. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi the Chairperson of the Municipal Services Committee said that I had **Westside Federation for Seniors and Supportive Housing** located at 570 East 137th Street. That was the parking lot that was part of Millbrook and now senior housing. Their asking for three spots for the ambulance to pickup their patients. I didn't have a quorum but in the conversation that day Ms. Byrne's had suggested instead of seven days they could have five days from 7AM to 7PM, so that the community would still have some type of parking from 7PM until the next morning and the weekends. A day later they came back and asked for seven days. When they first brought it to our attention, they were saying that they needed to take patients to the hospital and to their Doctors from Monday to Friday and the other two days for when they want to go out. I had a meeting with the Tenant Association President, she was okay with the five days. She has residents behind the senior building that have walkers their ramp where they would go to the curb for Access-A-Ride and things like that was taken from them. So, when I brought back the seven days, she said no that she doesn't agree with that. They're coming back next month.

The next thing was the **Jackson Avenue Bike Boulevard** that they want to put from Westchester Avenue and Jackson Avenue all the way down to 138th Street and reconfigure the streets one-way in certain areas and going down and vice-a-versa. DOT when they first met with us in June, we had said that they host a Town Hall in the community because you have homeowners, resident buildings, shelters, and schools and all of them will be impacted and you're talking about 150 parking spots that will be lost to the bike lanes. Supposedly and if Jose is still here from Diana Ayala's office, they held a Town Hall and only four people came and the four people said no. They had a second one where the Tenant Association President and four other people were on and voted no. But just this past Saturday I saw on the news that DOT is going ahead with the Bike Lanes. So, I'm asking for a resolution to send a letter to the Commissioner of DOT to stop that process until we get a new Mayor and until they come back to the community because they said that they were going to come back but they never came back.

Motion made to send a letter to the Commissioner of DOT, Elected Officials including the Mayor's Office opposing the installation of the Jackson Avenue Bike Boulevard with the concerns of the community. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

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

The representative for the Honorable Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said that first of all I want to congratulate you on this evening's meeting it really went smoothly our technical problems from last month seemed to have disappeared and I appreciate all of the work that you did this evening and a very productive first meeting for you. I just want to thank those new Boardmembers that attended the orientation. We are continuing and I think I may have sent the final one today sent the presentations to the new Boardmembers which they heard that evening from the various agencies I also sent it to the Board and to the Chair so if you feel that you want to forward it to the Full Board it's probably a good opportunity review some of the basics like conflict of interest regarding City Planning Commission and all of the resources so, there big files so I sent them separately so that your mailboxes didn't get bombarded. If the Chair feels that it's something to share with the Board that's probably a good opportunity for people to catch up with some of the works of the agencies. I will continue to work with you Madam Chair and with Annie who's done a yeoman's job in keeping the place running. I will follow up on some of the items we spoke of this evening and we will set all those meetings that you would like us to schedule.

Questions and Answers

The representative for the Honorable State Senator Luis Sepulveda said that I have a couple of notes here that I would like to share with everybody. So, due to an exhaustion of funds the Department of Labor will no longer be accepting applications for the Excluded Workers Fund. To date most of the DOL applications most of which were determined eligible. The Senator along with his Democratic colleagues are circulating a letter to request additional funds to be allocated for this critical program to those who were largely excluded for any Pandemic assistance, and as of today I believed it worked because someone who was not eligible before just had money from the DOL, so that is good news. I believe that now it will be extended to those who were excluded before for example those who might not have a social security number but ITIN from the IRS, they might be eligible now. Also, I'm happy to announce that the Workforce Diversification Project is a compilation of current job openings, trainings, classes, and internship opportunities, and more that our office becomes aware of. We have worked hard to create this project to help transition the Bronx from unemployed to employed. Each month our office will be sharing an updated link with constituents through email or by accessing the Senators website. Listings for the month of October can be found at nysenate.gov/senator/-r-sepulveda. Our district office is open now by appointment only, and if anyone wants to schedule an appointment, they can please call 718-991-3161.

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The representative for the Honorable Councilwoman Diana Ayala said I do want to announce that the Councilwoman is in the process of developing a Workforce Development Taskforce for Council District 8 and we are in the process of convening a meeting with a Jobs First organization to tackle the issue of workforce development specifically to target our youth and young adults to train and properly advocate on their behalf. We're working with various Community Based organizations that specialize in workforce development to strategize and develop best practices on how we develop workforce development programs throughout the district so, that we can properly target our young adults and youth to train them for the workforce, and example of that would be if an area hospital wanted a phlebotomist to train them in phlebotomy but at the same time to ensure that the said medical institution has jobs available for those individuals that their training has been completed. So, this is an example of the type of programming that we'd like to develop out of this Taskforce and once that has been developed, we will provide that information to you all. In addition to that we're in process of organizing and planning our turkey distributions throughout the district and once that's finalized, we will forward that information to the Community Board. Lastly, I just want to state for the record that the Councilmember while she understands the need for Bike Lanes as connectors to green spaces and an alternative mode to transportation, she does not agree with the way in which the Department of Transportation handled the situation with the Jackson Avenue Bike Boulevard Proposal. As she stated many times before the elimination of 150 parking spaces obviously is of great concern to everyone in the community and also a great concern to her. As she stated it is completely unacceptable especially when the Department of Transportation couldn't come up with an alternative to try to save those said eliminated spaces as a result of this plan. Obviously, the community deserves an alternative plan as you had stated before earlier in the meeting, we all support the need for alternative modes of transportation, but we like to do in conjunction with the involved community so that we can have a constructive and proper dialogue where these connectors should be, and this wasn't done, and this will further exacerbate the congestion throughout the community. It was totally irresponsible by the Department of Transportation in the way that they have moved forward with this proposal and the Councilmember has expressed this to the Commissioner himself. In addition, this week she had a conversation with the Mayor where she expressed her frustration and concern with this particular proposal. While I don't have any good news as to the reversal of the Boulevard Proposal, but the Mayor did indicate to the Councilmember is that while he does support the Bike Lanes and his proposal because it is a Mayoral initiative, he does agree that these types of proposals are not for every community. We should look at the community as a whole and see where these Bike Boulevards should be allocated, or you know implemented within a community obviously that wasn't done here as it was rushed. He did promise that he will have the Commissioner come back to us and discuss the issue and to see what can be done as an alternative plan. I reached out to the Administration prior to the day

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ending and they basically Said that, yet they don't have an answer as to what will be done in terms of the Jackson Avenue Proposal at this point and time.

The representative for the Honorable Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark said I just wanted to give a quick update that the District Attorney will be hosting a Resource Fair including health, housing and other services on November 6th on a Saturday between the hours of 12 and 4 at Bronx Community Board 12 at 4101 White Plains Road. Also, our District Attorney wants to host another Gun Buy Back the last one was in the 40th she wants to have one in the 47th. So, if anyone has any information and knows of a House of Worship that will allow us to hold that event there please let me know I've put my information in the chat.

The Chairperson called for a motion on the Elected Officials Reports.

Motion made to accept the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded.

Motion called and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

The Chairperson called for a motion adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED