



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Environment & Sanitation Committee

Chair	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	October 2nd, 2018
Meeting Time:	6:30pm
Meeting Location:	Bronx Community Board 7 Office
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betty Arce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky <input type="checkbox"/> SM Shah Mahmood <input type="checkbox"/> Gloribel Vega <input type="checkbox"/> Monique Weston <input type="checkbox"/> Gloria Dapaah
Minutes Done By:	Betty Arce

Minutes:

- I. Review of last month’s minutes**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Follow-up from previous month**

- a) Organic recycling – need for follow up and clarification on collection of organics from several private homes that received brown bins but have not been notified about the collection schedule.
- b) We also discussed the matter of recycling overall and whether the Bronx in general, and CB 7 in particular have improved recycling rates. It was mentioned that it appears that there are more recycling bags than black trash bags out on collection day. But clearly many apartment building superintendents face challenges of separating recyclables from regular trash.
- c) Clarification on the disposal of electronics. Currently these items must be brought to a safe disposal site or to a retailer that accepts electronics. New procedures will allow for electronics be picked up following a request for an appointment to 311. Request for curbside collection of electronics is currently available only in Staten Island and Northern Brooklyn. Expansion to the rest of the boroughs will be rolled out at a later date.

IV. New Business

- a) Review of past topics to determine future agenda items.
 - 1. Bronx Animal Shelter – discussion on the need for a full-service animal shelter in the Bronx.
 - Proposed site at Bartow Avenue still a contentious issue. The committee members & community residents present expressed support for an animal shelter in the borough. We discussed



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

possible alternatives, none of which are as viable as the current proposed location. We continue to explore options if the Bartow site is not approved.

- CB 10 and the Bronx Boro President have voted down the Bartow site. City Planning Commission has approved the site.
- City Council to hold public hearing on Oct. 9

2. Community Clean-up.

- We were only able to coordinate one event.
 - Proposal to coordinate monthly community clean-ups throughout the district: Adopt-a-block
 - Board members will be invited to nominate their block or a block they feel needs attention
- b) The DM shared information about the HPD Zombie Homes Initiative
- Requires property owners to maintain vacant homes with mortgages that are 90 days or more delinquent and are physically distressed.
 - Many are concentrated in Bronx CBs 3, 4, 6, & 12 with CB 7 not too far behind.
 - Zombie homes not maintained are usually garbage and rodent infested and can pose a public health risk.
 - There is significant undercounting. HPD is creating a citywide database of zombie homes and residents can file complaints with 311.
- c) Two community residents brought matters regarding issues in their respective neighborhoods – trash that was dumped near Van Courtlandt Park has not been picked up; a hydrant needs a magnetic lock. The DM will follow up with DSNY and DEP.

V. Next month's meeting date: Nov. 6 at 6:30 pm

VI. Discussion on next month's agenda

- a) An invitation has been extended to the executive director of the *New York City Environmental Justice Alliance* - he is checking his availability
- b) Organics Outreach

VII. Adjournment