



General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Board Members Present: Daniel Porro, Sadie Marie Davis, Julio Quiñones Jr, Lorenzo Van Nest, Abunoham Rahman, Alizia McMyers, Brent Woodie, Chandra Moore, Victor Cordero, Antoinette Vereen, MD Alauddin, Mitchell Halpern, Nellie Santiago, Lashei DeLeo, Ram Halder, Robbin Kelly, Sarwar Jahan, Sharyn Brown, Angel Martinez, Shante Chamblee, Wajied Hakim, Kristine Garcia, Henry Pelayo, Juan Torres, Lena Johnson

Meeting Start Time: 7:05pm

Note: The District Manager began the Public Session. Moment of Silence was had for any dearly departed.

Public Session

1. Siddharth Motwani, Greenway Coordinator- Bronx River Alliance on the East Tremont Safety Improvement Project
The East Tremont Link in the West Farms neighborhood of the Bronx is a critical project that rebuilds the combined intersections of East Tremont, East 177th Street, Devoe Avenue, and Boston Road that was initially planned by The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). This project has been funded since 2008 but has faced a series of delays in 2015, 2018, and 2022. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) has yet to break ground on this project and no official start date has been announced. The request is for CB9 to sign on to the coalition letter of support to local elected officials and DDC Commissioner. In addition, there is a petition circulating in support at: bit.ly/tremont177 or <https://p2a.co/VO68QtO>
siddharth.motwani@bronxriver.org
2. Isabelle Leyva, New York Civil Liberties Union Organizer
The NYCLU has been documenting the SRG's violence against protestors since 2020, and along with more than 50 organizations, launched a campaign to disband the unit in January of 2022.

Established in 2015, the Strategic Response Group is a volunteer unit tasked with policing protests across New York City. The unit is made up of officers with disproportionately high rates of misconduct complaints, and racial bias. Infamous for its abuse of protesters, SRG officers are trained in militarized crowd control tactics, which they regularly deploy against non-violent protesters and community members.

NYCLU would like CB9 to work with their coalition to address collective concerns and potentially assist CB9 in issuing a resolution of support for the campaign.

3. Gregory Hernandez, Executive Director of The Bronx Independent Cinema Center
Mr. Hernandez is a video producer and film maker who is the Director of the newly established Bronx Independent Cinema Center and this organization is looking to bring an independent movie theater back to the Bronx and provide teaching, workshops and lesson plans within the film and television industry. <https://www.bronxindependentcinemacenter.com/>
greg@bronxindependentcinemacenter.com

Note: DM Rivera began the Business Session

Business Session

Elected Officials Report

1. Daisy Nuñez, Office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez.
 1. We held our first townhall last month in Co-Op City. If you are interested in watching any of our townhalls you may subscribe to our newsletter to receive updates and be notified. You may also search us up on Youtube or Facebook @RepAoc to see our recorded livestream if you were not able to watch the day of the event.
 2. Next, the Congresswoman attended the State of the Union last week and she was joined by our District Director as her special guest, who grew up in the district and who is an organizer for Muslim-American and Bangladeshi-American communities.
 3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced more than \$83.7 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address emerging contaminants Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), in drinking water in New York. This investment, will be made available through EPA's Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program and will promote access to safe and clean water in small, rural and disadvantaged communities while supporting local economies. Please reach out to our office if your organization is interested in advocating for these grants in our district.
 4. The NYC Department of Youth & Community Development reached out to our office to invite us to recommend constituents interested in joining their local Neighborhood Advisory Boards. Please let me know if you are a constituent of NY-14 and would be interested in serving on your local Neighborhood Advisory Board. This role will entail identifying afterschool and other social service funding needs in the community to disburse NYC's allocation of the federal Community Services Development Grant.

If anyone has any questions feel free to reach out to us! I will also add links for the aforementioned information and please follow us on social media @RepAoc for updates and events!

Important Links: Contact the office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, you can reach us at 718-662-5970 or on our website at ocasio-cortez.house.gov. Our Co-Op City office is now open for walk-ins 9-5pm on M-Th. To be notified about our next town hall, please sign up for our newsletter to get updates:

- English Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>

- Spanish Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>
Submit a casework request: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency>
Legislative comments and general questions: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact>
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@repaoc8965>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/repAOC/videos>

2. Comptroller Brad Lander's Office

The comptroller will be having a black history month event "the Economic Impact of Black Empowerment" on February 28th at 6pm at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building

3. Office of Assembly Members Kenneth Burgos office

AM Burgos Testimony re: ConEdison's transmission pipeline:

- <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId=%7BB530ADD2-ED68-4E0B-9F9F-4B9BEB41E7BB%7D>
- <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/no-con-ed-rate-hike-for-fracked-gas-expansion-in-the-bronx?source=twitter101>

People who want to get involved can contact our office. We are in the process of doing a walkthrough in the park with community members, and the Bronx is Blooming to bring more awareness to this situation or can either email at: Floresm@nyassembly.gov

4. The Bronx Borough President launched the Bronx's first-ever online Community Board application available in English and Spanish. The deadline to apply is March 3rd. March 1st, is the State of the borough where the Bronx Borough President outlines her vision for 2023 and highlights from 2022 with a focus on economic development, health, gender equity, eliminating the digital divide, and more. On February 16th - The BP will be having a Dominican Heritage Event and on February 23rd. The BP will be having a Black History Event.

5. Council Member Salamanca has 2 new legislations that the council member introduced to the committees; a monthly buyback program which is when individuals who have a firearm can bring it into the precinct and they could surrender it for compensation and there won't be any legality and they won't have to identify themselves; and then the 50/50 raffle, which is where, if you bet on a professional sports, 50% of it goes to a nonprofit partner, and 50% goes to a winning ticket holder. The CM Office is still at 170 Southern Boulevard doing constituent services, Mondays and Tuesdays they have immigration lawyers that come in and on the 23rd they'll be at the Bronx Zoo for a luncheon. If anybody wants to RSVP for that, the email/link to RSVP will be in the chat, anybody could RSVP for it.

District Manager's Report

- As per DM Rivera the 43rd Pct just welcomed a new Commanding Officer who will be conducting meet & greets throughout the district. CB9 DM was involved in the selection process. Former CO Keiyon Ramsey has moved on to Transit.
- Board Members have been receiving email from DM Rivera in reference to initiatives and things that are going on in the district. Recently this included a notice of extension on the Unionport Bridge, which is the bridge that is between Community Board 10 and Community Board 9 where the old Whitestone Movie Theater was located.
- In terms of service requests, it's business as usual, handling them as they come in. As a reminder, if you have any issues, please call and leave a message or email us, and we'll start tracking the issue and contacting the appropriate agency. Any items that require additional assistance are added to our District Service Cabinet Meeting agenda. The DSC

is the meeting that we have every month with all the city agencies and local chiefs of the district to discuss service delivery and service request and we pretty much work together to problem solve.

- All committee minutes are summarized and published on our website.
- Other than that our office is business as usual as well, Monday to Friday, 9-1 the office is open for constituent services. The staff goes to lunch and works remote after 1pm.
- Meetings will continue remote next month as per the Mayor's extension. Calendars with remote access information will come out shortly
- Office renovation is going well, all our camera systems and the TVs are set up. We are waiting for computers, electronics and projectors screen to go up with the vendors. So probably another 23 months. The time has been extended in the past but this is a hard 23 months because the ball is rolling.
- DM Rivera is going to start meeting with board members in person or via phone to get a sense of the vision for the future and our committee chairs, et cetera. Board Member check in will be taking place within the next month or 2, as is usually done at the beginning of the year.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington.

2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is by Chair Mitchell Halpern.

CB9's Land & Zoning Committee will be hosting a York Studio Phase 2 presentation at a future meeting. A public hearing and GB Meeting vote will be held for this item.

4. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera.

As per DM Rivera this committee is in need of a Vice Chair and the Executive Team will be looking to fill this vacancy.

4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Shante Chamblee.

5. Social Services minutes were tabled by Chair Daniel Porro.

The Committee Chair expressed his gratitude to those who helped him edit the letter to elected officials regarding city agencies' long wait times, the need for emergency housing, among other items.

6. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera.

Note: DM Rivera reminded everyone of the next general Board Meeting taking place on March 16th which will most likely contain a voting item. Board members will receive more information before the meeting.

Angel Diaz put motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by BM Monique Farrington.

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 PM

OFFICE INFO

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