



## **General Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

**Present:** Miriam Sanchez, Md Alauddin, Ram Halder, James Tynan, Brent Woodie, Elizabeth Angeles, Mitchell Halpern, Robbin Kelly, Daniel Porro, Chiene Joy Jones, Sadie Davis, Tywana Bush, Shante Chamblee, Lashei Deleo, Monique Farrington, Lena Johnson, Wajied Hakim, Victor Cordero, Alizia McMyers, Tenisha Morrison, Angel Martinez, Anne Johnson, Sinade Wadsworth, Sharyn Brown, Kristine Garcia, Lorenzo Van Ness, Abunoman Rahman, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Henry Pelayo, Loretta Masterson, Andrea McLeod, Lenora Easter

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:30pm

**Note:** The Public Session was commenced.

### **Public Session**

1. Effie Ardizzone DEP- The amnesty program, authorized by the New York City Water Board, will only run for 90 days, from Jan. 30, 2023, to April 30, 2023. To receive amnesty and confirm eligibility, or for more information, customers should visit DEP's water amnesty website or call (718) 595-7000. There are nearly 200,000 DEP customers with delinquent water bills, owing a combined \$1.2 billion, and approximately 85 percent of that debt is from residential properties. For customers with a seriously delinquent balance of more than \$1,000 for over a year, DEP will offer three amnesty options: If 100 percent of the principal bill is paid, 100 percent of interest will be forgiven; If 50 percent of the principal bill is paid, 75 percent of interest will be forgiven; or If 25 percent of the principal bill is paid, 50 percent of interest will be forgiven. Customers who owe less than \$1,000 are still eligible to receive amnesty on 100 percent of their interest if they pay their total bill.

### **Elected Officials Report**

1. Bronx DA, the 6th Annual Child Safety Fair. The goal of the child safety fair is to educate children about safety and wellness via learn and play. This year's Fair will take place on Saturday, April 15th at the Baychester Community Center located at 1220 E. 229th Street, Bronx, NY 10466 from 11-3:00 p.m. BXDA 2nd Annual Prom Suit/Dress Drive, from March 1st until April 21st. Accepting clean, non-ripped teared or damage clothing. The clothing can be dropped off at 198 East 161st Bronx, NY 10451. The bin is in the lobby area. Re-Entry Fair will take place on April 19th from 12pm-4pm. The Fair will be at

Hostos Community College Building C. The goal is to provide necessary resources for criminal justice impacted individuals, letting them know they are not alone, get them connected with organizations/individuals who shared their same journey in returning home. BXDA is hiring for different positions throughout the building. A link can be provided to those who are interested in applying.

2. Senator Nathalia Fernandez, The Senator is still up in Albany with many other electeds working to pass the budget at the end of this month. Last week, our office partnered with other elected officials from the Bronx to host a virtual budget forum where organizations and funding request to their elected officials. The office is still temporarily located at the Riverdale office, 3190 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY till the end of March. Most likely mid-April will be moving to the new office located at 3853 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465. Phone number will still be the same at 718-822-2049. If you have any constituent requests, please call the office at the number above.
3. Congressmember AOC, The IRS quickly moved forward with taxpayer service improvements by hiring over 4,000 people to provide more help during 2023 tax season on the phones with the Inflation Reduction Act monies which resulted in improved customer service, processing times and expediency overall. Having a student services fair to showcase the resources available to students through the district office. It will be on Monday, March 20th from 4 PM to 6 PM at Renaissance High School Auditorium, 3000 E Tremont Ave, Bronx, NY 10461. You can register with the link below. 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 the office 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. The office is currently hiring for an intern at the district office. To apply please fill out an application on website which (link below). If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out. Below are the links for the aforementioned information and please follow on social media @RepAOC for updates and events! Links: Contact the office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, you can reach us at 718-662-5970 or on our website at [ocasiocortez.house.gov](https://ocasiocortez.house.gov). The Co-Op City office is now open for walk-ins 9-5pm on M-Th. [https://ocasiocortezforms.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=30&Preview=true&utm\\_campaign=700-517](https://ocasiocortezforms.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=30&Preview=true&utm_campaign=700-517) 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-subscrib>. 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> Internship Application: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/internships>
4. NYC Comptroller, Comments on New York City's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2023 – 2027. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander released a report on the Adams administration's preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and testified to the City Council about the short- and long-term outlooks for the City's economy and finances. The report on the FY 2024 Preliminary Budget includes

the Comptroller's office's economic forecast and analysis of budgetary risks facing the City of New York, including updated analysis of the cost of collective bargaining agreements and the provision of services for asylum seekers. The report is available here. Understaffed, underserved: Impact of Staff Vacancies on Agency Performance Employee retention and recruitment for City agencies continue to be areas of concern as the City of New York engages in the annual cycle of setting the City's financial priorities. As a follow-up to December's report, Title Vacant, the Comptroller's Office compared staff vacancies as of October 2022 to the Preliminary Mayor's Management Report (MMR) released in January 2023, which provides a snapshot of the City's performance on metrics related to its agencies' core missions. If you would like to view our report, which includes performance outcomes for agencies with high vacancy rates and recommendations, please feel free view our report here. Accounting for Asylum Seekers: Overview of City Budgeting and Contracting to Provide Services for New Arrivals. In a new analysis, New York City Comptroller Brad Lander detailed the City's budget and contracts on services to date for asylum seekers who have arrived in large numbers over the past 11 months. At a City Council hearing, the Comptroller called on City officials to focus on scaling up efforts to transition New Yorkers out of shelter and into permanent housing, as well as coordinating efforts to help new arrivals apply for asylum and work authorization. The report provides the first transparent accounting of known contracts and makes new detailed data available for download. Annual Report on M/WBE Procurement: FY22 Findings and Recommendations. The Comptroller's Annual Report on M/WBE Procurement found that the City and its agencies are still falling abysmally short of goals to contract with diverse businesses for goods and services. In Fiscal Year 2022, Black-owned vendors received under 2% of the value of City contracts, while Latino-owned firms fared little better. In total, just 5.2% of the value of all new City contracts and purchase orders registered in Fiscal Year 2022 went to certified Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (M/WBEs). In addition, there were several other key findings including: M/WBEs continue to win only a small share of the value of City contracts. Disparities among M/WBEs remain stark. M/WBEs win contracts that are much smaller on average. Few City-certified M/WBEs do business with the city. Subcontracting and M/WBE compliance processes are paper-based, opaque and ineffective. When M/WBEs do receive contract awards, they are not paid on time. If you would like to view the entire report and recommendations, please read here. If you would like to see a full list of reports and statements from the Office of the New York City Comptroller, you can visit our website.

5. CM Amanda Farias, the District Office is offering family law clinics the last Mondays of the month, WSCAH SNAP Enrollments Last Tuesday of the month, Immigration services every Wednesday, LiveOn NY- March 30<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming events, Friday, March 17th: ATAX Castle Hill Tax Prep ○ Monday, March 20th: ATAX Castle Hill Tax Prep ○ Friday, March 24th: ATAX Castle Hill Tax Prep ○ Monday, March 27th: Urban Justice Family Law Clinic ○ Tuesday, March 28th: West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) ○ Thursday, March 30th: LiveOn- NY. Updates from City Hall, Council Member Farias attended a number of budget oversight committee hearings including but not limited to Transportation, Finance, Sanitation, and General Welfare. Later this month she will be attending budget hearings for Consumer and Worker Protection as well as chairing her own budget oversight hearing for the Economic Development Committee

which will be held on Thursday, March 23rd. Budget oversight hearings are important because they give the Council the opportunity to review finances with every City agency. Passed, Council Member Farias' resolution recognizing February 21 as Mother Language Day in the City of New York to honor the importance of the Bengali/Bangla language to Bangladeshis everywhere and to promote the acceptance of linguistic and cultural diversity in our communities (Res 474). Passed, Council Member Carr's bill that would authorize the New York City Banking Commission to recommend, and the Council to adopt, an interest rate that would be applicable to the property tax arrears that accrue while an eligible property with an assessed value of \$250,000 or less is the subject of a valid payment agreement plan with the Department of Finance. Eligible properties must be the primary resident of the homeowner(s) whose total income does not exceed \$200,000 (Int 524). Council will pass Council Member Farias' bill to offer ferry service to high school students at a reduced fare of \$1.35! (Int 236) Council will pass Council Member Farias' resolution recognizing the month of Ramadan annually in the City of New York and celebrating the significant role of Muslims in the multicultural fabric of NYC communities. Save the Date: Friday, May 19th- Silent Disco at Castle Hill Playground. Friday, June 2nd- Movie Night Under the Stars at Soundview Park. Saturday, June 10th- Family Day at Caserta Playground. Friday, June 16th- Movie Night Under the Stars at Clason Point Park. Saturday, June 24th- Family Day at Soundview Park. Friday, June 30th - Movie Night Under the Stars at Parque De Los Niños. Saturday, October 21- 2nd Annual Fall Festival at Soundview Park

6. Bronx Borough President, On March 1st, 2023, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson delivered her first State of the Borough address at Manhattan College, outlining the accomplishments made by her administration in 2022 and unveiling a bold strategic agenda for 2023. With the theme, "Borough of Opportunities," emblemizing the future ahead, Borough President Gibson announced new initiatives in education, health, public safety, tourism, and other areas to move the borough forward in a new direction. For the first time, introducing the People's Choice Award for Bronx Week! Asking residents to nominate a Bronx educator to be recognized among other Bronx Hall of Fame inductees. The application is live on [ilovethebronx.com](http://ilovethebronx.com). On March 7, 2023, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson hosted a Civic Engagement Summit in the rotunda of Bronx Borough Hall featuring a panel of elected officials and youth leaders discussing the importance of civic engagement, civic leadership, and ways students can get involved in their communities. She was joined by panelists, Chief Democracy Officer of the Civic Engagement Commission, Kathleen Daniel, New York State Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, New York City Council Members Althea Stevens and Eric Dinowitz, and Orangel Mejia, Government Affairs' Executive Secretary at College of Mount St. Vincent. Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson will join the Garifuna Coalition USA, Incorporated, to host the 15th Annual Garifuna Heritage Month Celebration on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at the Bronx County Building's Rotunda located at 851 Grand Concourse. During the ceremony, Borough President Gibson will issue a Proclamation announcing March 11, 2023, to April 2, 2023, as Garifuna Heritage Month, in observance of the 226th Anniversary of the Forcible Transfer of the Garifuna People by the British from their Ancestral Homeland of St. Vincent "Yurumein," (presently known as St. Vincent and the Grenadines) to Central American in 1787. Upcoming Events March 9

Garifuna Heritage Celebration March 16 Women's History Month Celebration March 22  
Irish Heritage Celebration March 30 Greek Heritage Celebration.

### **ULURP**

- York Studios, 1400 Story Avenue- John Batista and Frank St. Jacques gave a spoke about and gave a presentation on York Studios. The studio was established in 2012, York Studios is one of New York's newly qualified motion picture and television production facilities providing a broad range of production and media related services to the entertainment industry. Today, York Studios successfully operates its 40,000 square foot Maspeth campus in Queens, NY, in addition to the recently completed 175,000 square foot Michaelangelo Campus (Phase 1) in the Soundview section of the Bronx. The production campuses offer the creative industry with state-of-the-art facilities, services, and expertise that can accommodate productions of all sizes and complexities.
- Proposed Development, Michaelangelo Campus Phase 2
  - Four-story, television and film studio building
  - Five new studio stages, accessory space, and offices
  - 181,306 square foot (0.67 FAR)
  - 60-foot building height
  - 140 accessory parking spaces
  - One-acre waterfront public access area along the Bronx River, accessible from Story Avenue and Lafayette Avenue

**Vote:** BM Mithcell Halpern put a vote into motion regarding the ULURP for York Studios (1400 Story Avenue). The vote count was 29 votes in favor out of 29. No one abstained or voted against.

### **District Manager's Report**

- OSHA training registration is on April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>, the training will be held for 6 Saturdays from April 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting adjourned: 7:48pm**

#### **OFFICE INFO**

District Manager William Rivera - [wrivera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:wrivera@cb.nyc.gov)  
Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email [bx09@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bx09@cb.nyc.gov) - Website [nyc.gov/bxcb9](http://nyc.gov/bxcb9)  
Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM