

THE CITY OF NEW YORK THE BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



Community Board #12 (The Bronx) 4101 White Flains Road The Bronx, New York 10466

Website: www.nyc.gov/bronxcb12

GEORGE L. TORRES, II District Manager

BOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 25, 2018

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board #12 (The Bronx) for October 25, 2018 was called to order at 7:30 PM at Town Hall, 4101 White Plains Road, The Bronx, by the Chairman, Mr. William Hall. Those wishing to participate was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman introduced Councilman Andy King

The Councilman wished Peace and Blessings to everyone. He informed everyone that his office is looking to relocate in the very near future to a bigger location so that they may be able to engage the community better.

They will be hosting a Martin Luther King event on January 15, 2019. Councilman King is an Ambassador for Real Men Wear Pink. He stated that cancer does not discriminate and he encouraged all women to stay strong and to strive to survive. He also encourage all men to go to the doctor and get themselves checked. He will be hosting an event tomorrow at 32 BJ and encouraged everyone to attend. They are located at 25 West 18th Street. Mr. Ray Jones Jr. will be in attendance. On November 2, 2018 he will be honoring Veterans in Co Op City Einstein Loop. The Councilman stressed that it was important to remember the men and women who put themselves on the line every day for our protection. His office will be hosting a turkey give a way in November. The dates will be provided later.

He thanked the Board for all of their assistance.

II Approval of the Minutes of September 27, 2018

Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker and seconded by Mr. Robert Hall to approval of the minuets of September 27, 2018 as printed with any necessary corrections. Motion passed 25 Ayes and 1 Abstention.

The Chairman wished Ms. Ortiz a speedy recovery.



III Matters Arising From These Minutes

There were no Matters Arising From the Minutes of September 27, 2018.

I Guest Speaker: Jeremy Kabinoff, Acting Superintendent, Community School District 11

Ms. Johnnie Goff, Board Member informed everyone that the Acting Superintendent was supposed to attend tonight but due to a family emergency he will not be able to attend. At this point Ms. Goff introduced Mr. Cecil Joseph and Mr. John Perkins.

Mr. John Rodriguez informed everyone that he has been an attorney for 31 years. He is promoting a Mute Court along with Judge Elizabeth Taylor for youth who show an aptitude for the law. It is his desire to develop young minds and keep them busy. His purpose for working with Ms. Goff is to promote professional activism in youth. He will be back at a later date to give additional information and updates.

V District Managers Report

See Attached.

Mr. William Hall informed everyone that he is very pleased with the work Mr. George Torres, District Manager is doing especially with the new technology and construction.

VI Report of the Bronx Borough President

- Borough President Diaz Called for Increased Computer Science in Public Schools
- Bronx DA Darcel D. Clark, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Announced \$900K Grant to Address Domestic Violence in Bronx
- Bronx Borough President Diaz and Bronx Residents Rallied Against Mott Haven Jail Site
- NYC Parks Breaks Ground on \$3.4 Million Makeover of Parquet De Los Niño's Ballfield and Running Track
- Bronx Borough President Provided \$2.5 Million to CUNY Campuses
- The New York Public Library Breaks Ground on a Bigger, Better Van Cortlandt Branch in the Bronx

Upcoming Events:

Bronx Annual Pumpkin Fest Halloween Spectacular, Wednesday, October 31st from 4:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M., Location TBD

IV Good and Welfare/Community Speaks

Jhovanny D. Pauagerman/Business Owner

Mr. Paduagerman inquired who make the decision of where, when and how much affordable housing is made in the Bronx?

Ms. Krystle Cox/Resident

Ms. Cox is attending CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies to obtain her Master's Degree with a focus on Public Administration Policy. She is in her final semester and working on her Capstone Project. The Capstone Project will contribute positively to the Bronx and the City. She has developed a survey and requested that everyone take the survey. The objective of the survey is the police and policies especially in the 47th Precinct after the NCO Program was introduced. All findings will be shared with the Precinct and community.

At this point the Chairman introduced Police Officer Chuck Alexander (Sector Adam) and he provided brochures and flyers regarding different events.

Mr. Kiko Mobka/CCNYC

Mr. Mobka informed everyone that his organization offer grants to PTA, Block Association etc. up \$3000 for neighborhood improvement.

Mr. Russell LeCount/Bissell Gardens

Mr. LeCount congratulated Mr. Hall on receiving his Doctorate. Mr. LeCount stated that Bissell Gardens is about 5 blocks from Barnes Avenue to Baychester Avenue.

Bissell Garden was formed about 30 years ago and they run different programs in the garden. They produced over 1000 pounds of vegetables which was donated to POTS. Bissell Gardens have space available and are trying to grow their organization. The garden is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year. There is a hot house in the garden.

Mr. LeCount is requesting street sweeping on Barnes Avenue from East 241st Street to Baychester Avenue. This is an M1-1 district and there are a lot of trucks parked on the street and the body shop is using the street for their own private parking. He is requesting enforcement. On Holland Avenue between Gun Hill Road and Magenta Street he is requesting that trees be planted. Mr. LeCount request that the Board write of support on behalf of Bissell Gardens to our elected officials. He introduced Ms. Phyllis Donaldson, President of Bissell Gardens.

Mr. Alan Belle/B&B Urban

Mr. Belle is trying to develop the lot on East 211th and East 212th Streets on Barnes Avenue. The lot was used to store carnival equipment in the past. They want to build 170 apartments within 2 buildings. They include a mix of housing with 30% formally homeless families, 50% affordable

and 20% middle income. They used this formula when building 2700 Jerome Avenue and a project on East 162nd Street. He invited everyone to visit their other projects. He is request support from the Board.

Mr. Hall Smith/Resident

Mr. Smith has been a NYC Carpenter for 17 years and has lived in this community for 35 years. He informed the Board that Murdock Avenue between Edenwald and Strang Avenue has become a drag way. He is requesting a Speed Hump. Mr. Hall further stated that he resides on Nereid Avenues and they keep digging up the area. He has caught flat tires and he cannot find parking. And sometimes they start working at 7:30 A.M. and even on the weekend. At night there is a lot of noise from when cars travel over the plates.

Ms. Veronica Chery/Graduate Student

Ms. Chery is a graduate student at the CUNY School of Health. She stated that she would like to see our local food establishments donate the food instead of throwing it away. She would also like to see those that participate celebrated. She provided some statistics. She informed everyone that there are companies that will pick up the excess food for free. She is requesting a letter of support.

Ms. Venus Carey/Resident

Ms. Carey informed the Board of her loud neighbors who throw parties especially in the summer. These parties sometimes last 9-12 hours. They usually start around 6:00 P.M. Sometimes the Police Department reports that there was no disturbance when there clearly is. She has counted at one time over 70 people in the yard. The location is 825 East 214th Street.

Ms. Christina Ramirez/Resident

Ms. Ramirez is complaining about noise at 921 East 241st Street. The parties start around 9:00 P.M. and end at 6:00 A.M.

Mr. Winston Walker/Resident

Mr. Walker reiterated the complaints about loud parties at 921 East 241st Street.

Mr. Martin Lawrence/Resident

Mr. Marin inquired as to what type of housing is being built on East 241st Street?

Mr. Karl Stricker responded that 50% will be affordable and the other 50% will be market rate with stores on the first two floors.

At this point Community Board 12's distinguished guest and representatives were introduced by Mr. John Isaac, Second Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Ivan Nedds, Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz, wished everyone a Happy Holiday. He provided literature especially Voter Registration Cards. He also provided heat sheets and contact information.

Mr. Brian Melford, Councilman Andy King, provided everyone with flyers for the Veterans event, Alzheimer's Awareness event, Coat and Turkey giveaway. He also encouraged those residents with noise complaints to contact the Councilman's office. He thanked everyone who participated in the Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach. He urged everyone to get checked and reminded everyone that Richard Roundtree died of breast cancer.

Mr. Victor Martinez, NYC comptroller office, informed everyone that the Comptroller is proposing to MTA to reduce the fare to \$2.75 for the Metro North for in city trips and to increase the stops.

VII Committee Reports

Housing Committee

See Attached.

Health and Human Services Committee

Mr. Carl Lanzano stated that it is his opinion that people that bring down the community have more rights than people who do right by the community. Mr. Lanzano encouraged everyone to attend the Community Board meetings because of the technology these meetings can be seen all over the world.

He further reported that Dr. Amanda Parson gave a report at the Montefiore Hospital Advisory Board regarding diffident health issues. These presentations can be accessed online. He gave a brief outline of some of the items discussed.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mr. Anthony Borras reported that their objective was to follow up on Capital Projects. Agnes Heywood Park is 68% complete. It should have been completed in December but due to changes it will be a year from now. Edenwald Houses Basketball Court is currently in procurement with an estimated completion in 2020. Wakefield Playground is currently in mid procurement with an estimated completion of March 2019. Shoelace Park is currently in procurement with an estimated completion of June 2020. Bronx River Bikeway is half way completed and should be completed November 2018.

Transportation and Capital Projects and Public Safety Committee

See Attached.

Motion made by Mr. John Isaac to accept the Report of the Transportation and Capital Projects and Public Safety Committees Report. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker and seconded by Dr. Burke to write a letter of support to the Taxi and Limousine Commission to renew the licenses of Laconia Dispatch. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Shirley Tripico, new Board Member.

IX Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

X New Business

There was no New Business to discuss.

XI Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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TOTAL BOARD MEMBERS QUORUM NUMBER TOTAL PRESENT

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VOTING SHEET COMMUNITY BOARD 12, THE BRONX

DATE 10/25/18

MOTION NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ALLAKPO, FRANKLIN	NP	A	P			
BENITEZ, JUDITH	NP	NP	MP			
BENNETT, EGERIA	PA	A	A			
BLOOMFIELD, HILARY	A	A	P			
BORRAS, IVAN ANTHONY	A	P	A			
BORSOTTI, CARLA	NP	MP	NP			
BROWN-ALLEN, MARLENE	NP	A	A			
BROWN, VICTOR	A	A	A			
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD	A	M	A			
BRYAN, NORBERT	A	A	A			
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A = AYE N = NAY NP = NOT PRESENT ABS = ABSTAINED R = RECUSE

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The CITY OF NEW YORK Borough of The Bronx

COMMUNITY BOARD #12

4101 WHITE PLAINS ROAD THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10466 TELEPHONE: (718)881-4455/6 FAX: (718)231-0635

COMMUNITY BOARD #12 (THE BRONX)

Committee Meeting Report Form

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Transportation & Capital Projects and Public Safety
DATE OF MEETING: 9/25/2018
LOCATION: CB 12
Claudia Powell, Michael Felfer, Alfredo Figueroa.
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MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:
MEMBERS ABSENT UNEXCUSED:
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GUEST: New Laconia Radio Dispatch, 3934 Laconia Avenue, Bronx, NY
Bronx, NY
AGENDA: Base Operating License Rehenal.
MOTION/ RESOLUTIONS PASSED: Yes No
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PEQUESTED COPY OF LETTER FROM
47 PCT AND COUNCILMAN AND ICHAS OFFICE PRIOR TO OK TO ISSUE RECOMMENDATION LEASE FROM NOTES: CB 12.
NO RESPONSE NEW LACONIA DID NOT ATTEND.
(KATHLEEH BROWN) Shows UP W 7:10PM WATA
(LETTER STATING MEETING STARTED W 7:30)
OWNER OF CAB BASE)

Respectfully Submitted: 792518

The CITY OF NEW YORK Borough of The Bronx

COMMUNITY BOARD #12

4101 WHITE PLAINS ROAD THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10466 TELEPHONE: (718)881-4455/6 FAX: (718)231-0635

GEORGE TORRES, DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY BOARD #12 (THE BRONX) Committee Meeting Report Form

NAME OF COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC + BUSINESS SVC.
DATE OF MEETING: NOV. 13, 2018
LOCATION: CB 12 4101 WATTE PLAINS ROAD
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: FELIX M. ROLDAN, MICHAEL FELTE
MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: MARY MCCLOUD
MEMBERS ABSENT UNEXCUSED: NICOLE WEIR, FRANKLYW ALLAKPY
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ATTENDANCE SHEET

WILLIAM HALL
CHAIRMAN

DATE: 10/25/1/5

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TOTAL BOARD MEMBERS QUORUM NUMBER TOTAL PRESENT 46 <u>24</u>

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VOTING SHEET COMMUNITY BOARD 12, THE BRONX

DATE 10/25/18

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ALLAKPO, FRANKLIN	NP	A	A.			
BENITEZ, JUDITH	NP	NP	NP			
BENNETT, EGERIA	PA	A	A			
BLOOMFIELD, HILARY	A	A	P			
BORRAS, IVAN ANTHONY	A	P	A			
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BROWN, VICTOR	A	A	A			
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD	A.	M	A			
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A = AYE N = NAY NP = NOT PRESENT ABS = ABSTAINED R = RECUSE

District Manager's Report October 25, 2018

Good evening Board Members I will be brief this evening as I have already spoken for our District Budget needs presentation. We received some wonderful news and I hope I do not jinx it by speaking about it. We were informed that work will commence next week on restoring the walls and floors in our Carriage House. We are very excited by the news and I hope that all the work is done in time for our next Board Meeting.

I would like to discuss some housekeeping items first. Last month I asked Ursula to pass out a sheet requesting specific information from you including your date of birth in addition to the best way to get a hold of you. Not everyone filled it out. I have asked Ursula to get the information from you tonight. Please make yourself available. There is a very specific reason for the requests. I will speak to it in a moment. Secondly, each of you should have received letters from the Borough President's Office regarding EEO Training. Some Board members have already taken the training module in our office. I understand from the letter there are several ways to take this training class. Please avail yourselves to taking this training. I understand that it must be completed by December 14th which is only a few weeks away.

I spoke last month with regards to making this space more accessible and a true community resource. I mentioned last month that IdNYC has taken up residency in our small conference room until November 11th to get people to sign up for municipal ID. Please encourage your friends and family to sign up for this valuable City resource. This weekend the Speaker of the State Assembly, our Assembly member Carl E. Heastie will hold a Day of Justice with the Bronx Defenders. This will be an information session and opportunity for anyone that may have questions on NYCHA, School Suspensions, Fair Chance Act, ACS Know your Rights, Immigration and concerns about criminal records and work opportunities.

I do not like discussing politics and elections in this public space. This is a City building and I try to keep our focus on the community issues relevant to our role in that conversation. Community Boards are non-political. That being said there is an issue which I would like to raise that will be up for a vote in the November election. Every registered voter in this City should have received a voter guide from the NYC Campaign Finance Commission. It is my understanding that you will be able to flip your ballot and vote on three ballot proposals. Two of the ballot proposals impact community boards. Ballot proposal Question #2 deals with the creation of a Civic Engagement Commission. Ballot proposal #3 would amend the City Charter to impose term limits on Board Members. It would also require the Borough President to seek out community people with more diverse backgrounds and add language to the appointment process and reporting requirements related to those appointments. The Voter Guide gives you both the pros and cons of each ballot proposal. I would recommend that you seek these guides out and read up on it. It is not my or anyone else job to tell you how to vote other than to say that you should exercise your civic duty and vote.

Finally, I would like to recognize Tollyne Dickerson for receiving the United-Federation of Teacher's Backer Scheintaub Award which is being given in recognition of her outreach efforts for union members. Tollyne will be recognized on Sunday, November 4th at the UFT's Teacher Union Day Awards in Manhattan. She will be presented the award by Michael Mulgrew who is the President of the UFT. Please give your fellow Board member a hand in recognition of her achievement.

Conclusion

Today marks my 1,180th day as your District Manager or 3-years, 2 months and 23rd day of my tenure here. I look forward to each and every day at the Board.

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Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. October 2018 Community Board Report

BP DIAZ CALLS FOR INCREASED COMPUTER SCIENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In a new report, Borough President Diaz urges both City & State to increase efforts in tech education'

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has issued a new report, "Programming New York City Students for Success," which outlines an expanded view of computer science education in New York City public schools.

"New York has a long way to go when it comes to providing students with adequate and equitable computer science learning options," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. "If we are to prepare our students for an ever-changing economy, we have to do more to expose them to a robust computer science curriculum."

The report offers multiple recommendations to expand and improve computer science education in New York City schools, such as increasing the overall number of class hours required for computer science learning in city schools; creating a standard computer science curriculum and working with educators and industry leaders to keep it up-to-date; and enacting a project-based requirement for computer science education as a requirement for high school graduation. These recommendations are designed to address the gender, race, and socio-economic gaps in access to computer science education.

The full report can be read at https://on.nyc.gov/2Nq9tNC.

"Given our Borough and our City's place as a leader in education, workforce development planning and tech hub development, we must ask the following question: 'How do we educate our students today in computer science and technology so they can be best prepared for the jobs of tomorrow?" said Borough President Diaz. "It is my intention to answer that question in this report, and to spark a conversation on how this City and State can provide a path forward on the equitable creation and implementation of a rigorous computer science curriculum in every school."

BRONX DA DARCEL D. CLARK, BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR. ANNOUNCE \$900K DOJ GRANT TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN BRONX

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. today announced that the Bronx has received a \$900,000 award from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to address domestic violence.

District Attorney Clark said, "We are pleased to have received this award which will be put to use immediately during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, towards our Strangulation Initiative to prevent intimate partner fatalities. This \$900,000 award, to be granted over the next three years, represents a partnership among my Office, the Borough President's Office and other agencies to address this most serious problem plaguing the Bronx. Our county has had the highest rate of domestic violence homicides among the City's five counties."

Borough President Diaz said, "It is important that we do all that we can to provide domestic violence survivors with the resources and opportunities to get the assistance they need. This grant will allow for a more coordinated response to strangulation incidents, an incredibly common form of domestic violence that requires more attention. My office is proud to partner with District Attorney Clark on this important initiative, and I remain committed to working with providers across the borough and the city to both reduce domestic violence and to build awareness for the resources available to its victims."

The grant is awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women's "Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program" to the Borough President's Office and is a joint project with the Bronx District Attorney's Office, Safe Horizon, NYC Department of Probation, the New York City Police Department and the Anti-Violence Project.

The goals of this Grant project are to help high risk victims of domestic violence manage their risk, to hold offenders accountable, and to reduce the number of domestic violence homicides in the Bronx. This will be accomplished through a coordinated, community response among domestic violence community-based victim service providers and civil, legal and criminal justice entities.

High-risk victims of domestic violence will be identified and offered services and interventions at the earliest point possible. Program case managers will coordinate with family court, police, prosecution, and probation to identify and work with high risk victims. As part of this project, the Office will work with partners to identify domestic violence victims with highrisk lethality factors, such as strangulation.

The grant provides funding for personnel and training for the Office's Strangulation Initiative, which is the only program of its kind in the city. Created by the Domestic Violence Bureau, it is a joint program with Bronx Detectives that educates victims of strangulation on the increased risk of a deadly incident, as well as the medical impact strangulation can have on the body.

When a report is filed regarding DV Intimate Partners involving a charge of "Obstruction of Breathing" or "Strangulation" and there is a delay in the arrest, the case is immediately assigned to a DV prosecutor to engage with the victim, refer her/him to our Crime Victims Assistance Unit, and begin case file paperwork so charges can be brought upon arrest.

BP Diaz + Bronx Residents Rally Against Mott Haven Jail Site

Elected officials, local groups, residents rally before public hearing at Bronx Courthouse

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and dozens of community members rallied today outside the public hearing for Mayor de Blasio's proposed Bronx jail site, united in opposition to the unjust plan.

Mott Haven residents and leaders spent years fighting gangs and drugs, bringing the neighborhood to the brink of a turnaround—only to have the City propose a jail in the middle of their residential community. The new jail – at 320 Concord Avenue – would also kill a community-based plan to continue recent progress by building affordable housing and a supermarket on the site.

"The Mott Haven community was neglected for decades by City Hall as gangs and crime ran rampant. Now, after the people of Mott Haven fought and clawed to get their neighborhood to the brink of a turnaround, Mayor de Blasio wants to punish us with a jail and add to inequality in our borough," said Arline Parks, CEO of local affordable housing provider Diego Beekman Mutual Housing Association. "We will show up to hearings about the jail. We will show up at the City Council. We will show up at City Hall. We will not let the City burden another low-income community of color."

After the rally, dozens of jail opponents testified against the site at the public hearing.

"I unequivocally support the closure of Rikers Island. However, this is the wrong site to build a new jail, period," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. "The administration must come to the table and engage with the community in a meaningful way as part of a process that better meets the stated goals of jail reform and restorative justice that this city seeks to support. Presenting this site as a fait accompli has the potential to undermine necessary reforms to the criminal justice system."

Numerous criminal justice and social justice organizations have called for the City's new jails to be located as close as possible to the courthouses in each borough to reduce transportation times for inmates, families, and attorneys; to ensure a more efficient criminal justice process, and for public safety reasons. The Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform specifically advised that new jails should not be placed "in residential areas". The Bronx site is the only proposed site in the four boroughs not close to a courthouse.

NYC PARKS BREAKS GROUND ON \$3.4 MILLION MAKEOVER OF PARQUE DE LOS NIÑOS BALLFIELDS AND RUNNING TRACK

NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, today joined Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and students and staff from I.S. 123 to break ground on the renovation of the ballfields and track at Parque de los Niños.

"We are excited to break ground on the next phase of this project. The renovated ballfields and running track will provide key recreational amenities for this community," said **Commissioner Silver**. "Coupled with the revamped playground that we opened in July 2017, the upgrades we are making will transform Parque de los Niños into a world-class park."

This \$3.4 million project to reconstruct the softball fields and running track was funded with \$2,000,000 from the Borough President, \$800,000 from the City Council, and \$672,000 from the Mayor's office. The improved Parque de los Niños will feature a new synthetic turf mini soccer field and an all-weather running track. Additionally, the project will reconstruct two of the existing ball fields with new skinned infields, natural turf outfields, ADA compliant dugouts, and a drinking fountain.

"I have had a strong connection to Parque de los Niños going back to my time in the New York State Assembly. This park is a critical hub for the Soundview neighborhood, and the nearly \$3.5 million I was able to provide this project from my capital budget will help renovate athletic fields and keep this community active and healthy. I thank the Department of Parks & Recreation for their partnership on this wonderful project," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**

The reconstruction of the softball fields and running track is designed to seamlessly integrate with Phase I of this project—funded by the Borough President and the Mayor's Office— which revamped the playground and seating area of this park. The upgraded playground reopened in July 2017. Phase II is slated to be complete by late summer 2019.

BP DIAZ PROVIDES \$2.5 MILLION TO CUNY CAMPUSES

As part of his FY2019 capital allocations, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announced today that his office will provide \$2.5 million in funding to projects at the borough's three City University of New York college campuses.

"Education at all levels is a top priority of my administration," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. "I myself am a CUNY 'two-fer,' having graduated from both Lehman College and LaGuardia Community College, so I understand just how important it is to keep our public colleges operating at a high level. I am always proud to support CUNY any way I can, and with this funding we can provide critical upgrades to our three Bronx CUNY campuses."

This year's projects include \$1,000,000 to build smart classrooms at Hostos Community College, \$750,000 for gymnasium renovations at Bronx Community College, \$500,000 to install new seating at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts and \$250,000 for network and technology upgrades in 220 classrooms at Lehman College.

Since 2009, Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. has invested \$15,642,000 in capital funds towards higher education across 29 projects.

This year, Borough President Diaz's office has provided \$23,250,000 in total capital dollars across 81 projects. Since coming to office in 2009, Borough President Diaz has provided \$271,897,000 in total capital funding to 806 projects.

The New York Public Library Breaks Ground On A Bigger, Better Van Cortlandt Branch in the Bronx

Elected officials and community members help kick off construction at a ceremony at the site of the new branch, set to open in summer 2019

The New York Public Library broke ground this morning on a new, larger Van Cortlandt Library in the Bronx.

New York Public Library President Anthony W. Marx and Van Cortlandt Library Manager Peter Pamphile were joined by City Council Member Andrew Cohen, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr, and State Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz at the ceremonial groundbreaking at the site of the new branch at 3882 Cannon Place in the Bronx.

The new 5,800-square-foot branch will be more than double the size of the current Van Cortlandt Library, and offer dedicated spaces for teens and children, a community room, and flexible spaces for a variety of uses. It is expected to open in summer 2019.

"It is clear that the Van Cortlandt community loves its library, and we are so proud to give this growing community the branch that it has long wanted," said New York Public Library President Anthony W. Marx. "The new library — part of an unprecedented amount of capital investment in our branches — will be more than double the size of the current branch, and offer the flexible spaces and amenities that this community needs. We thank our partners in government for their generous support in making this important, long-awaited project a reality."

The new \$8 million branch — designed by Andrew Berman Architects and informed by community surveys and public meetings as part of the Library's "Building for You" engagement program — will feature:

- Flexible community spaces for a variety of uses
- Expanded space for children
- A new dedicated space for teens
- More computers and laptops
- On-site programs, classes, and workshops for all ages
- An adult reading room and separate community room

- Charging stations for personal devices at tables
- Multiple public restrooms and a water fountain

The Library purchased a site for the new Van Cortlandt Library in 2017, understanding the the community had outgrown the current one-room, 2,700 square foot branch at 3874 Sedgwick Avenue. The branch has been located there since 1968.

Despite its limited size, the current branch saw increased circulation and program attendance in Fiscal Year 2018, and received nearly 60,000 visits.

Understanding the need for a bigger branch, City Council Member Andrew Cohen, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr, State Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, and State Senator Jeff Klein jointly allocated \$2 million for the project.

"The Van Cortlandt Village community has eagerly anticipated this new, state-of-the-art library branch, and I am thrilled to be here today with so many of my colleagues for this important ribbon cutting. The new Van Cortlandt Branch Library will provide the readers of the Northwest Bronx with a tremendous new facility, and I am proud to have provided \$500,000 of my own capital funding towards this wonderful project. I would also like to thank the New York Public Library, Council Member Cohen, Assembly Member Dinowitz and State Senator Klein for the partnership on the development of a new Van Cortlandt Branch Library," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

21st century structural upgrade on the surface, at its core this project is also a major investment towards the enrichment of the 21st century minds of our community."

"Libraries are an integral component of all communities, especially here in the Northwest Bronx. A new Van Cortlandt Library facility is a welcome change in the Van Cortlandt Village community and this is a tremendous use of a partially developed site which had been languishing for a decade, not to mention that the current facility is 50 years old and has seen a huge increase in usage in recent years. I am proud to have secured capital resources from New York State for The New York Public Library is currently working on over \$600 million worth of capital projects across its system, including several projects in the Bronx, such as the Van Cortlandt Library, the expansion of the Woodlawn Heights Library, and full renovations for Hunt's Point and Melrose Libraries, among others.

Upcoming Events:

Bronx Annual PumpkinFest Halloween Spooktacular

Wednesday, October 31st 4:30pm-7:30pm

Location TBD

For additional information call 718-590-3522 or lroldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov

Community Board 12 Sign-In Sheet

Date 10/25/15	Sign-In Sheet
ELECTED OFFICIALS	
HONORABLE RUBEN DIAZ JR	
HONORABLE BILL de BLASIO	
HONORABLE ELIOT ENGEL	
HONORABLE JEFFREY KLEIN	
HONORABLE JAMAAL BAILEY	an R. Larrier
HONORABLE JEFFREY DINOWITZ	IVAN NEODS
HONORABLE CARL HEASTIE	
HONORABLE ANDREW COHEN	
HONORABLE MARK GJONAJ	
HONORABLE ANDY KING	Drax Melord
HONORABLE RITCHIE TORRES	
HONORABLE JIMMY VACCA	
HONORABLE DARCEL CLARK	
REPRESENTATIVES/GUEST Victor Martinez - 1	JYC Comptroller

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COMMUNITY BOARD 12, THE BRONX SPEAKERS SHEET PLEASE PRINT

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Board Meeting

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, THE BRONX SPEAKERS SHEET PLEASE PRINT

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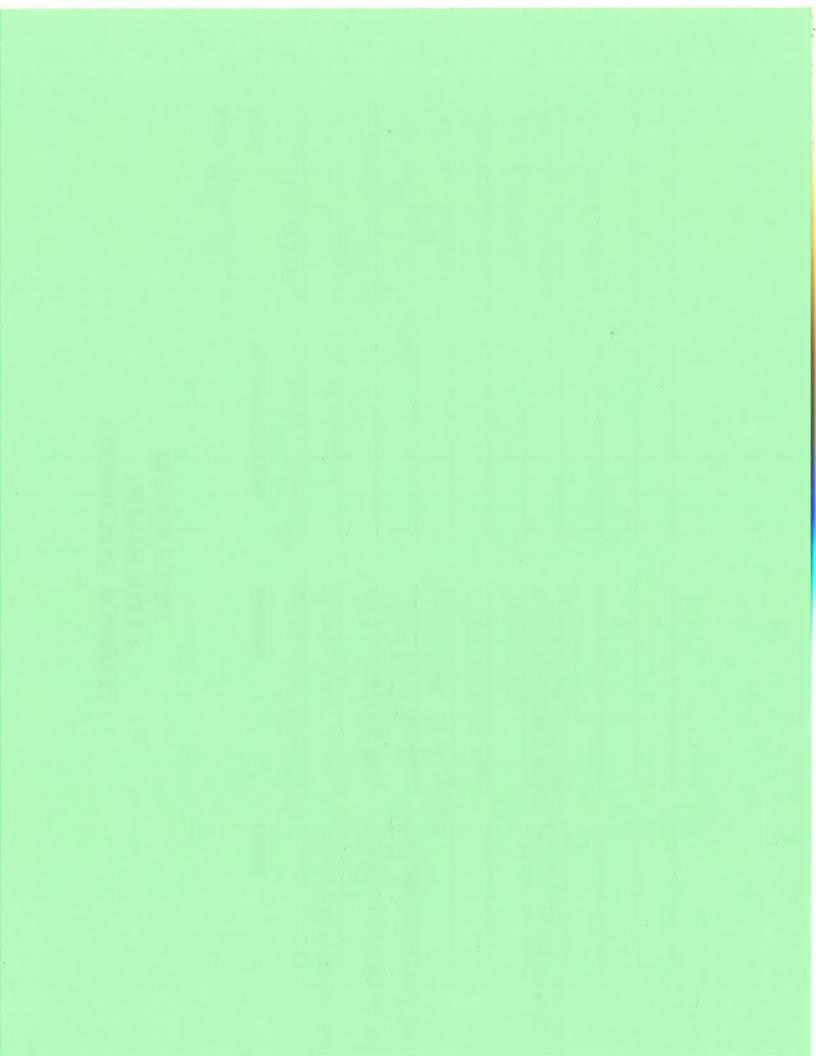
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