



## COMMUNITY BOARD 5

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, *Bronx Borough President*

Dr. Bola Omotosho  
*Chairperson*

Kenneth Brown  
*District Manager*

**Community Board Five  
General Board Meeting Minutes  
Webex Video Conference  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

- **Community Board Five Board Members**
- **Attendees:** A.Caballero, , J.Curiel, N.Graham.Jr., L.Deng, R.Gonzalez-Jimenez, M.Heath, B.Lawrence, T.Mims, B.Moore, Dr.B.Omotosho, J.Parra, F.Ramos, L. Reyes, P.Rojas, M.Rosado, S.Rudolph, C.Shorter, C.Westbrook, and P.Stewart.
- **Absent/Excused**
- E.Acosta B.Akumah, P.Blanco, A.DeJesus, G.Medina, E.Morris, R.Perez, and J.Pope
- **Welcome:**
  - Opening Prayer by Nero Graham, Jr. (Board Member)
- **Quorum: 6:24 pm**
- **Approval of Minutes:**
- April's Minutes Approved by Angel Caballero and Cheryl Westbrook/ Patricia Rojas. [15(Yes)/0(No)/0(Abstain)]
- **Chairperson: Dr. Bola Omotosho**  
 Reports: I want to thank the members for last month when I was absent.  
 The month of May 11 is part of Bronx Week. The Bronx Borough President acknowledges board members serving longevity in Bronx Community Board Five. There are from Board Five; Angel, Basil, and me. We want to say a big thank you to the Borough President. The board that the community had seven great candidates, each fully qualified to be an assistant, and they're willing to serve this community. And as of today, I signed up for the final, the number one candidate joining us through the motherboard process. She's on point also a former Board Member. Very familiar with the community, have extensive experience working with various Elected Officials in the past, and diligent in the community and a resident of our community. I don't think we can add any better candidate than that to the community assistant today in the culture systems position. As Ken mentioned, it will be much heavy lifting when it's out for now once the big Thank You.

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- **46<sup>th</sup> Precinct New York City Police Department Inspector Potkay**

- Reports: For the 28 days, we're up one crime, 179 versus 78 or 1.1% murders; we are down one versus two rapes. We are down four versus one of all those four rapes. Every rape is a big deal, but they're all known to have DV incidents and robberies; we are down 28 versus 31 or 9.7%. Felony assaults were up slightly, 64 versus 59. We are up five or 8.5%. All five of those are domestic-related. Burglaries were down 12 versus 19 or seven or 36%.

Grand Larcenies, we are down 53 versus 56 minus three; grand larceny autos, we are 17 versus nine, we're up eight; most of those were up seven versus one in Sector Boy covers West Tremont Avenue to Fordham Road from Grand Concourse over to Webster Avenue; Grand Larcenies autos are taking place. Do not leave your keys in the car; do not leave the car running when you go to the store. You're getting a lot of that people to think it reasonable to go in for two minutes, get a coffee at Dunkin Donuts or something, and then they come back outside, and the car is gone. We are down five versus six for the 28 days. On 2323 Walton Avenue, that was a robbery gone wrong; unfortunately, it looks(perpetrator) like a gun went off by accident, and the poor victim was hitting the back of the head. We're getting much help from downtown. We're getting to Sergeant 16 police officers every day, seven days a week. They're there from 4:15 pm to one in the morning every night. In addition to that, we get overtime modules. We get to overtime. The modules have been started, and eight cops work primarily from 530 at night to two in the morning. Sometimes we keep them a little late, until three in the morning. They are their strategic locations which are reviewed every week, and then. I can't say enough good things about our neighborhood safety teams. We have one sergeant, five cops, and our public safety team, which added to one sergeant, five cops. They've been doing a phenomenal job. We are up 70% This year in gun arrests. Just last week alone, we had firearms removed from the streets. It's truly making an impact. We have had a terrific run with these guys, and I can't say enough good things about them. They're out there every day. They conduct themselves professionally. In addition, we've been trying to focus on the quality-of-life issues to 311 calls. I've been out there every night, specifically on Fridays and Saturday nights, where I don't get many of our complaints, people playing music, drinking, and whatnot. We've had the NCOs, in addition to patrol, making a big, big difference and cutting down too much, and I'll be the first to admit we have a long way to go. Please, I urge you to keep calling 311. Let us know if you have an issue. There's a group playing music. We have hours in the morning, which is unacceptable because I know people must sleep. There's the elderly, and there are young kids, I agree. I live in the city, and this is unreasonable to have someone blasting music from three, four, or 5 am. We've been making a significant effort with that. But that's all I have for my report this month. Thank you all for having me. And I'm more than willing to take any questions that you might have.

- **District Managers by Ken Brown Report:**

Reports: Good evening, everyone. On May 31, this morning, I made significant progress toward returning a farmer's stand. About five or six years ago, there was a farmer's market in the district on an aqueduct walk. We've had a community food box hosted by Morris Heights health center every Wednesday that will terminate on the 29th and in its place. A farmer stand will open on the corner of the university and Burnside Avenue, where that gas station used to be. And that is a mini farmers market. There's going to be one table which will have produce from local farmers. And as opposed to the community food box, where you must pay \$20 and get the bag of groceries the following Wednesday. You can purchase things there. We are happy that we will be able to have farm-to-table produce available in the district next month. On the weekend of May 22, Bryant Park, on Saturday, a performance, a dramatic reading by middle school playwrights that entered a contest to be able to have their plays performed. Next week to

talk about how we can bring that kind of programming to the desperate will require funding, so I'm going to have a preliminary conversation with them. Hopefully, on the 22nd, we could bring some programming into the district. For those who may recall our community assistant, we have begun a concluded hiring or interviewing process for a community assistant. So that'll be the third full-time person to come into the office. I shouldn't be calling her tomorrow, I think Saturday. Then we should be fully staffed up once those wheels turn. the JARC for those may be keeping score at home. The Jerome Avenue proper revitalization collaborative is one of the principal commitments that came out of the Jerome Avenue rezoning in 2018, and the dark dedicated to a district-wide county boards forum and five economic developments. The intention was that since new development will be coming into the district because of the rezoning, further action should be purposeful, benefit the residents here already, and try to mitigate any harmful effects of gentrification, particularly in the economy and workforce. One of the other things that JARC has been successful in is being able to engage around banking issues. But for those of you that may recall, Amalgamated Bank had a branch on Burnside Avenue, they pulled out, has been instrumental in holding their feet to the fire. We continue to have ongoing dialogues with them, they will offer financial services, and we're in the long and painful process of trying to bring in another branch. I believe we've had conversations with the People's Bank of Glory. They're talking about bringing a mobile van, which will hopefully develop into something substantial.

- **Voting Items:**

1. Affordable Housing Development at 2322 Valentine Avenue -letter of support: Reports: A letter of support to provide new housing facilities for vulnerable individuals; mental, developmental, or intellectual disabilities in our district. I believe they are on the line with us at the committee's recommendation that we support these projects so that they can move ahead and that's the due process with the city. I will ask for a motion and somebody who can then have further discussion on it before we do a roll call vote. Motioned made by Angel Caballero and Seconded by Juan Parra. [18(Yes)/0(No)/0(Abstain)], Motion Passed.
2. ULURP Application for 2017 Grand Concourse- Letter of Support. Reports: The request was to have a 30% Ami and BronxPro. Settlement to accommodate our request from the board, meaning that with 10% of the unit, which is out of the default units, we're going to have three units. With the 30% AMI, we met our requirements, and the executive's recommendation, after further discussion and the update from BronxPro is to support this project. Motioned made by Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez and Seconded by Juan Parra. [18(Yes)/0(Nay)/0(Abstain)], Motion Passed.
3. ULURP Application for 1647 Popham Avenue / 30 West182nd Street – Letter of Support.

Reports: Two sides combined. It needs a letter of support. And this has to do with extreme 47 Palm Avenue and 30 West 1/82 Street; this same approach they made a presentation, and past 30% Ami was requested. They obliged as well. This is also another two small units, and each has 17 units. The one on top is 17 units. And this is something that I believe was presented to the household as well. It made the request, and Sandra Alex is the sponsor of this project. We needed to include units below that 30% AMI, and they all came back saying yes, we could work with CB five. Motioned made by Angel Caballero and Seconded by Pooi Stewart. [18(Yes)/0(No)/0(Abstain)], Motion Passed.

4. Open Meetings Law Resolution

Reports: Good Evening, everyone. My name is Belinda Lawrence. We had to talk with the board members. We've had several conversations, including the executive committee, about the decision to have the meeting this Evening. We had decided that it would not be the meeting would be canceled for the month of June. After careful deliberation and looking at everything on the table, including the fact that we did not have a quorum in the month of May, it was not considered an official meeting and had so many voting items that have had time restrictions and sensitivity to it. We wanted to exercise our right within when it comes to the bylaws and the latitude as a community board must make decisions to move the meeting up one week further. It will generally have it every month. When it comes to the last session before we get to the summer holidays. We would have it a week earlier, not only for the summer, but we do this for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In effect, we're not stepping out of the norm, but we just wanted to highlight that and bring that to everyone's attention. Utilize the fact that we have this one last day as announced and declared by this New York state governor that today is the last day to have virtual meetings. We decided in the best interest of the board as far as voting items and having the capacity as far as a quorum to vote. Motioned made by Belinda Lawrence and Seconded by Angel Caballero. [18(Yes)/0(No)/0(Abstain)], Motion Passed.

5. High Class Limousine and Car Service Base License Renewal – Letter of Support

Reports: The high-class Bronx limousine and car services. This is to renew their base license. Yes, they come before us every three years, but due to the pandemic and everything we said, we heard that they did reach out on December 14, 2021. They did say they tried, and it was a failure. But I asked, and the committee asked is that as we brought it to the executive board is that if we can continue to give our support, and the committee recommended that it moved to the Executive Board and the executive board do what they must do to the entire board to give them the letters of support to renew their base license in the limousine service. They served five boroughs of the city of New York, and most residents are from New York Bronx. And they've been in service since 1997 serving us, and they still are thanks again. Motioned made by Nero Graham Jr. and Seconded by Angel Caballero. [14(Yes)/0(No)/4(Abstain)], Motion Passed.

6. Union Radio Dispatch Limousine and Car Service Base License Renewal – Letter of Support

Reports: The Union Radio Dispatch is a limousine and car services company located on Featherbed Lane and Macombs Road. Every three years the company comes to the Board for a renewal license to continue to service the community but due to the General board Meeting being pushed up to today they were not able to do a presentation. The letter submitted was dated May 25, 2022, and the Board Office received and stamped it in June. They served five boroughs of the city of New York, and most residents are from the Bronx. I spoke to Lula Daniels who vouched for them as well as the former secretary on the Board Thomasina used them as well. And they've been in service for years helping the community. Thank you. Motioned made by Nero Graham Jr. and Seconded by Theresa Mims. [13(Yes)/0(No)/5(Abstain)], Motion Passed.

7. Charter High School for Law and Social Justice – Letter of Support

Reports: I just wanted to let you guys know that there was a presentation for the education committee regarding a letter of support for a charter school to expand its program to the School of Law and Social Justice. It met the exhibition with many questions the presenters were able to answer the questions. They also invited the board, the community, and anyone who wants to visit the site, the school; they could, you know, can, you can, reach out and set up a time so we can tour the school. They talked about community, a need for our students to understand the law, involved with social justice. I think what was so great about the presentation they gave was that this is something we need in our community. We don't have schools that focus on law and social justice. I would ask every one of my fellow board members allowed to vote point was on the call along with law lawyer Laura Reyes. They practice the three Ds. They disclosed, discussed, and did not vote and recuse themselves. I want to thank them for doing that. But I would like every board member to know to support the letter of support for the School of Law and Social Justice to expand their program in our community. They set people in the community kids in the community to apply, just like with any lottery or anything. Those of us that have children assigned to that process. It follows the standard approach but prefers kids in our community board. If anyone has any questions, you know, or wants to talk about it, you know, feel free. Motioned made by Jaqua Curiel and Seconded by Theresa Mims. [16(Yes)/0(No)/0(Abstain)/2(Recused)], Motion Passed.

- **Public Session**

- **Elected Officials:**

- **Honorable Pierina Sanchez, Council Member District #14**

Reports: Good evening, everybody. I've been on for a while. I've been following the meeting so far. Thank you all for being on. Thank you all for being on the community

board. This is my first time being on this side of receiving applications and re-applications, and it is a testament to you all, giving your time to do this. And it is my privilege to enable you and push you to continue. It's thanked you so much for that. I just wanted to share a few announcements and updates. It's been an enormous day, and I came closer to 7:15 or 7:30 because yesterday was such a big day that we passed the New York City budget. New York City Council voted on a \$101 billion expense package to fund the city's programs in the city of New York. There are so many things that were that were in that budget. Many items are just required from last year or from, you know, statute. The way schools are funded and the way departments work, a lot of that is in stone, and you cannot have much influence over it because it's from the 70s when the city faced a fiscal crisis, and the state did take a lot of our jurisdiction away and set a lot of it in stone. But notwithstanding all of that, we were able to push for some record investments in the things I think you all care about the most and certainly that I care about the most. I think the biggest wins in this budget are youth services and education. We secured 100,000 slots for the summer youth employment project, which is excellent for the summer, but we also confirmed 1000s of places for year-round youth employment. So that will be helpful, and I'm going to be making sure that we're fighting to get those dollars in here so that our young people can access those jobs and training opportunities because we have some of the highest out-of-school rates. The young people are out of work, so there's a lot for Youth Investment. We got pay parity for daycare and particular education providers. Many different services will get hit and I was arguing. I was like, no, you need to make this. You need to do this for district 14, and we were very successful in a lot of this. I'd also like to highlight that we were able to get more funding for the city for FHEPS. You know that my office is down the block, where I'm Burnside at Morris, and the thing that people come in the most about is housing and so securing more funding for the FHEPS voucher is going to allow more people to have these vouchers and find apartments. Now discrimination is still a huge problem. And so everyone here, everyone here, I cannot tell you how many times a week I get the question, or somebody gets the question. Do you have a list of people who accept vouchers? That's not a question it can answer because it is illegal not to receive a coupon. Any landlord, any homeowner, and any building owner, you must accept the voucher. It's a human rights violation if you do not because money is money. And no, it's always historically been used as a source to discriminate against certain applicants and not use the vouchers. If you come across that, please tell us about it. And we'll certainly follow up. The Attorney General's Office also prosecutes that kind of offense. So lots of money for youth services. I spent a good amount of money on housing, although not everything I wanted. I wanted to see \$4 billion in the budget for building and preserving housing across the city of New York. We did not get that, and I will continue to make a stink about it so that we can get it next year. I want to share with you and drumroll, please, because this is new information that we were able to get significant funding for our community. I secured a **7-million-dollar** investment for the Morris Heights Health Center to build a new community facility that would be an integrative health and wellness center on West 183 street; the total project funding is 51 million. This is the last bit of money that they need. And you all know when at Third Street and Morris, you know what it's like there, this will be impactful. They will come to the board and to community events, which I have asked them to do to collect feedback from the community about what exactly folks want to see and where and how. You

already know I'm pushing for Youth Services. I'm going for basketball, a basketball court, and things like that. They'll help more young people stay off the street and into productive things. I also secured \$5 million for the Kingsbridge armory development project, which is early seed funding, so that we can get set up a little bit and see it for ourselves. People are not allowed into the armory because there's debris, and it's falling apart. As I asked the city, too, as a commitment, New York City says that you are committed to redeveloping the armory and with us providing the seed funding and opening the arsenal to the community so that we can all re-envision it together. We got that after a lot of late-night calls and pushing and all of that. So those are some of the big local wins. I was delighted to see Ken this morning and other members of the community board five. I saw Pooi, we had the groundbreaking, and of course, Dr. Bola had the groundbreaking for the Morton Avenue playground, which you all know came from the Jerome Avenue rezoning. Part of what we all need to do, and I'm going to be inviting you all as a community board probably in September, but I'm going to be getting an update from the city from all the investments that were committed in the Jerome rezoning. We'd love to see you at the groundbreaking; there's also Galileo and many steps streets. Many different capital projects and programs were promised to our community through the rezoning when I wasn't on Board Five. We'll be following up on that, but congratulations to you because you helped secure that new playground, and it's a beautiful new space. And then lastly, just a couple of things I want to put on your radar in terms of events and mark your calendars, mainly because this is the last meeting, I won't be able to tell you again. So we're going to have HPD in our district next week is scheduled for June 23. Whether it is a tenant or neighbor with HPD issues with hot water, HPD will be there for tenants and homeowners, with Homeowner assistance programs. HPD will be there to answer questions on the 23rd, and I'll send Ken more info, but please mark your calendars. This last time we're organizing a peaceful neighborhood, and that's going to be **on June 27**. I think I also mentioned this last time; we're going to be doing a block party on Morris Avenue between Burnside and one at first **on July 30**. We hope to see a lot of you there tabling and dancing.

And finally, you always save the best for last; know the most important for later is that we will be renaming one of our streets for Miss Thomasina Bushby, a longtime leader in the community board five and more. It's heightened so much that I feel like she was involved in everything, and I knew her forever and now see that she was essential to many of us. We were able to secure that and get it through, and right now, the event is tentatively planned for July 23. So please mark your calendars for that. I would love to see you as we honor her and her family that day. Thank you so much, Dr. Bola. Those are a few updates, and always happy to take any questions from folks.

- **Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77 Office Report:** Everyone, my name is Stephanie Portillo. I am the Deputy Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner. I want to notify you before summer breaks of some events we are having throughout the summer and for this month. We are partnering with Councilmember Althea Stevens's office on two occasions. One is a Juneteenth event **on June 17** in Mullaly's Park. There'll be a basketball game, food, games, and raffle prizes.

Then, on June 25, we have a skate party at Mullaly's Park again. And we're inviting everyone to come out and skate and enjoy an afternoon in the park. **On June 26**, the assembly member is having a community wellness day at Joyce Kilmer Park from 9 am to 2 pm. There will be a Bootcamp and a Zumba course there. There will be yoga and healing drum circles from 9 am to 2 pm. And starting July, we are going to be having mobile office hours. We will be hitting different spots in the district every week to make sure that you know we're hitting every part of our district and hearing the concerns throughout the community, and that is going to be starting in July, July 5 Tuesday. **On July 5** we are also doing park cleanups every week starting in July, on every Thursday. We will be choosing a different park in the district to do cleanups. I'll send all these fires over to campus so he can share them. And then, every Friday, we'll partner with New York City parks to provide movie nights throughout the district. And that's it for now. We are also planning our Back to School Fair, which will be in August. It's a long way away, but August 20 is the tentative date. But keep a lookout on our social media, and I'll share the flyer with Ken, of course. Our office hours are through six, Monday through Friday, and we're located at 910 Grand Concourse Avenue, suite one j k. And you can contact our office at 718-538-2000. If you have any questions or concerns or want to follow up on any issues, thank you. Have a good evening.

- **Honorable State Senator Gustavo Rivera District #33 Office**

**Reports:** How's everyone doing? Good afternoon. Hi, so I want to share some legislative updates concerning Senator Rivera. He's proud to have passed 51 bills on the floor this session, 35 of which passed both houses, such as Senate Bill 5024 D, titled Law, named after the daughter of a constituent who drafted the bill with our office. This bill would enhance childhood lead poisoning prevention measures by requiring annual lead release disclosures until six and to ensure families are aware of their rights when addressing lead exposure. Senator Rivera knows that there are many streets safety issues which is why he is proud to have co-sponsored the bill that has passed both the Assembly and the Senate for New York City to have complete control over the school seven-speed cameras so that they can operate 24/7 and address some of the dangerous spinning all hours of the day. And that is the Senate that is carried by Senator Rivera's Senate Bill proud to share that we, the Senate, have passed the strict gun safety laws in the nation during the last week of session and Albeni. The state budget included 30 million for gun violence prevention and intervention programs. The Senator has allocated as much public safety funding as possible to our local violence interrupters such as BRAG. We want to ensure violence prevention in the community, as we've seen shootings increase over the past weeks. I'd also like to share a couple of events. Senator Rivera provided hundreds of homes COVID test kits to constituents. We could also sign members for free smoke alarm donations from the Red Cross. If you are interested in a COVID test, don't hesitate to get in touch with our office at 718-933-2034. We're happy to coordinate a time to pick up COVID test kits. I'll also leave my information in the chat. We continue to assist with screening three applications, and I want to let you all know that the Snap-On-demand telephone eligibility interviews will resume **on June 1**. And lastly, if you can need anything else if you are currently facing evictions, be sure to get in touch with our office immediately so that we're able to assist you. And that is all, thank you very much. Have a good day.



*Adjourned at 8:20 pm.*

**The next General Board Meeting will be held on September 28, 2022**

*Prepared and submitted by Ms. P. Stewart  
Secretary of Bronx Community Board Five*