



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

**General Board Meeting
Minutes**

December 11, 2019

Board Members Present:

E. Acosta, B. Akumah, F. Amato, P. Blanco, T. Bushby A. Caballero J. Curiel, H. Esteban, R. Gonzalez N. Graham, Jr., M. Heath, B. Lawrence, K. Lewis, T. Mims, B. Moore, Dr. B. Omotosho, J. Parra, E. D. Perry, M. Rodgers, C. Rosario, S. Rudolph, C. Shorter, P. Stewart, C. Westbrook, R. Whetstone.

Absent:

A. De Jesus, M. Rosado, F. Ramos-Guareno, D. Maldonado, G. Medina, J. Perez and L. Reyes, R. Owusu

Excused:

K. Jabouin, D. Perez, Dr. M. Brown, S. Markland-Suwareh (Leave of absence)

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairman, Dr. Bola Omotosho.

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
Telephone (718) 364-2030 * Facsimile (718) 220-8426 * bx05@cb.nyc.gov

Serving these Neighborhoods:
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

- Board Member Nero Graham, Jr. said the opening prayer.
- A prayer was dedicated to Angel Caballero's mother.
- Every fourth Wednesday of the month is a General Board Meeting.
- The minutes will be posted on-line.
- Minutes must be completed within two weeks of the General Board Meeting.
- Board Members voted to proceed with the Executive Session.

Approval of Minutes:

- Last month (November 2019) meeting minutes were approved with corrections. Corrections were noted.
 - Motioned by Nero Graham and seconded by Frank Amato and Third by Professor Thomasina Bushby (6:29pm)
- **Chairman's (Dr. Bola Omotosho) Report:**
 - Attendance taken by Dr. Omotosho.
 - Executive Session was held.
 - Please look at the enclosed for NYC Complete Count Fund: Awardees
 - Some of the "Elected Officials Representatives" left during our General Board Meeting in November. The Board directed the District Manager to write a letter to elected officials complaining about lack of attendance.
 - **Quorum present: 6: 28pm**

District Manager's Report

- ***Kenneth Brown, District Manager*** highlighted the following items in the report
- On November 13th 2019 at the District Service Cabinet meeting the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fire Department distributed 200 spray caps in our district through the HEAT program.
- Community Boards 4 and 5 are working closely on the Jerome Avenue Rezoning employment network.
- Those who are interested in "Citizens Committee for New York City Neighborhood Grants", please go to this site at www.citizensnyc.org/grants. There are offering up to \$3000 in individual grants.

Voting Items:

- **Executive Session – Legal/ security matter:**
 - Motioned by Nero Graham, Jr. Seconded by Marsha Rodgers.
- **Letter of Support: Bronx Pro:**

- Bronx Pro withdrew their request for a letter of support for an early work permit on Saturdays.

Presentations:

- Mr. Ubaldo Santos (**Burnside Jerome, Tremont Merchant's Association (BJT)** Merchant Association, President)
 - Welcomed all the Board Members.
 - Mr. Ubaldo Santos (BJT Merchant Association, President) has been working to build Burnside Avenue along with the merchants for 35 years.
 - Within these years, many organizations have been supporting our Burnside Avenue such as the 46ⁿ Precinct, Community Board 5 and Davidson Community Center. Special Thank you to Angel Caballero.
 - Many Grant Programs are supporting our Associations.
 - The neighborhood has drastically changed for the better in support of the community.
 - For example, more street lights installed on Burnside Avenue to keep the place safe, merchants has increased, which welcomed a greater variety.
 - The community has been supported by volunteers, donations, backpack giveaways to families and recently DOT has installed the Link kiosks along Burnside Avenue for the community to make calls, receive free Wi-Fi and provide the local news and weather.
 - In order to develop or make a positive impact to Burnside Jerome, Tremont Merchant's Association, we need as much
 - supporters, volunteers, grants and community.
 - Thank you all for supporting the Burnside, Jerome and Tremont Avenue's Merchant's Association.

- **Ms. Shana** is one of the merchants of Burnside Jerome Tremont Merchant's Association and she spoke on behalf of her Boutique's Business:
 - The business has been running for 10 years.
 - She is so thankful to all the support by Community Board 5 and the 46ⁿ Precinct to help her business go smoothly.
 - Also the Community Board 5 helped her to resolve previous violations.

- **Mr. Clifford Whaley** is one of the merchants of Burnside Jerome Tremont Merchants Association spoke on behalf of his Barber Shop on Tremont Avenue which has been running for 16 years.
 - My family has been supporting me in this business as far as the community, I have also been supported by the 46ⁿ Precinct and the Community Board 5 members in the Bronx.

- **Mr. Xavier Rodriguez** is speaking behalf of Burnside Jerome, Tremont Merchant's Association

- Welcome Board Members and Community.
- Dr. Bola has brought the attention of the media to Burnside Jerome, Tremont Merchant's Association. This is how we got the Burnside Jerome, Tremont Merchant's Association to be well known and part of the rezoning.

I-Mentor Services: Absent

- **Public Session**

Sallie Smith (Resident):

- Welcomed the Board Members and the community.
- Mentioned Mr. Clifford Whaley has been in the business and volunteers for a year or two as a barber.
- Concerned about parking space on Morris Avenue's BronxWorks Senior Center. The space is limited and must be brought to the attention of the community board.
- Request for a permit to drop-off senior citizens at BronxWorks Senior Center on Mondays to Fridays.
- Senior citizens who are getting off at Morris Avenue need a safe place to discharge.

Shanequa Charles (Executive Director- Miss Abbies Kids/Human Trafficking Task Force)

- Welcomed the Board Members and the Community.
- Born and raised in the Bronx.
- We build a healthier and more sustainable Task Force for the children.
- We are to discuss a Town hall Meeting about Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence for the safety of children, the meeting is held at 1826 Arthur Avenue Bronx NY. You are welcome to join us to fight the rights for all children in our community.
- We also offer a workshop for children to learn how to represent themselves in the Family Courthouse.
- You can come visit our website at missabbieskids.org for further information.
- We opened three programs for all children to learn how to handle complicated cases with their own families.
- Take this opportunity to educate yourself and learn more.

GinCarlos Andrade (New York Department of Health)

- Welcomed all the Board Members and the community.
- We have programs that worked with food retailers, 70 Bodegas and community organizations.

Carlos Rosario (Resident)

- Number of Coordination and Banners will be provided at the Council Borough House for those who interested please come to the Bronx Court House to join us to implement the law.
 - There are 75% between the age of 16-25 (35 members), 85% between the age of 50 or under who get involved in politics.
 - Since the Rezoning has drastically changed, board members and the community have involved, which makes the difference.
 - Collaborative event foundation came to the conference in 2019 along with the committee board members to present, creating for the youth to join in the community at the age of 18 and above.
- Frances Rodriguez (New York State Parks/Roberto Clemente State Parks)
 - Greetings Board Members and Community
 - Introduced the new Manager of New York State Parks/Roberto Clemente State Parks and she comes from Syracuse, New York.
 - Our New York State Parks/Roberto Clemente State Park is offering space for all children, teens, adults to enjoy the programs we have.
 - Children can come in to play basketball on our Indoor/outdoor courts.
 - Free programs are available for all ages in our location. Those of you who are interested, please come to our office at New York State Parks/Roberto Clemente State Park. (Offering nights and days)
 - December 22, 2019, we are offering holiday presents for all the children (under age 20). Come and join us. There will be music playing and dancing activities and much more.
 - The fitness center, which will have a big screen TV on the wall. If you are interested to join us, please look forward onto this event in our office. Opening in January 2020.
 - Our State Park has started the "Junior Camp" of this year (2019) and we will resume for 2020 in the summer. Those who are interested to start an early application/registration, please go to our office for further details. It was a huge success this year.
 - We have received Graffiti in our park; please respect the State Park in our community.

- **Elected Official's Report**

Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor

- **Representative is Katrina Asante**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and community.
 - I am the new Bronx Borough Director of the Mayor's Office.
 - We are relying on all individual needs.
 - We also rely on all elected officials to support the community.
 - We are making sure all elected officials attend the General Board Meetings to give support or hear some of the community members' voices.
 - My email is Kasante@cityhall.nyc.gov or call me at the office 2127886732 or Work No. 347-955-7714.
 - I represent Community Boards 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

Honorable Jumanee Williams, Public Advocate

- **Representative is Brian Polanco**
 - Greetings all Board members and community.
 - Born and raised in Parkchester - Bronx.
 - I am the representative for the Public Advocate for the communities of the Bronx. If you need help, please reach me at bpolanco@advocate.nyc.gov or 212-669-2200

Honorable Ruben Diaz, JR., Bronx Borough President

- **Representative : Absent**

Honorable Vanessa L, Gibson, Council Member District #16

- **Representative is Nereida Gomez**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - The Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (MCCAP) is a statewide program that provides essential assistance to low-income seniors and people with disabilities in accessing health services and reducing their Medical costs.
 - The NYPD Luncheon has been offered for almost 3 years. This year we will again be honoring all officers, including all the 9-1-1 operators and also all are welcome to join this event on Wed. 18, 2019 at Bronx Community College in Colston Hall.
 - We are also welcoming all the community to join our Three Kings Day Celebration on Friday, January 10, 2020 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

- **Honorable Ritchie Torres, Council Member District #15**
- **Representative is Nanette Alvarado**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - We will be giving out 500 turkeys to needy families at the end of the month (November).
 - If you need help please reach me at 646-656-0853

- **Honorable Fernando Cabrera, Council Member District #14**
- **Representative is Russell Cheek**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - This is my first time attending Community Board 5 General Board Meeting.
 - This community (CB5) is very diverse, attentive and engaged.
 - I am looking forward to 2020 to join all of CB5's General Board Meetings.
 - If you have any questions, please reach me at 347-586-6453 or email me at Rcheek1040@gmail.com

- **Honorable Victor M. Pitchardo, Assembly Member District #86**
- **Representative is Carolina Valenzuela**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - We are closing our office during the holidays on
 - Friday, December 20, 2019 until January 06, 2020
 - You can reach me at 718-933-6909
 - We had a Turkey Drive and gave out 650 turkeys last month to a Senior Center and other organizations; it was very successful.
 - Those who are interested in a Grants Information Session, we have information about it and also the non-profit organizations' information. To apply, please reach out to our office, we can email you individually.
 - Those who needs access to the Grants for Non-Profit Organizations, you can reach out to your District Manager (CB5).
 - Every Thursday, the TSU Specialist comes to our office located at 265 East 184 street, 1892 Andrew Avenue Bronx NY
 - Immigration- Help with Citizenship processing also available at our location on January 31, 2020. There is no need to sign up.
 - Our office is located at 2175C Jerome Avenue Bronx NY 10453

Honorable Michael Blake, Assembly Member District #79

Representative is absent

Honorable Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member District #77

- **Representative is Sharon Williams**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - We are closed right after Christmas until New Year's Day.
 - We host the NYC Tenant Support Unit every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11:00am to 3:00 pm at our office
 - Our community Office is located 910 Grand Concourse Bronx NY

Tel: 718- 538-2000.

Honorable Gustavo Rivera, NY State Senator District #33

- **Representative is Hennessy Reyes**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - On December 16, 2019 we are hosting a License to Drive event:
 - Allows for issuance of a Standard Permit and Driver License without regard to legal presence status.
 - The only class permit/licenses that can be obtained are D, M, E and non-CDL, class C.
 - DOES NOT allow for issuance of a Standard NDID or CDL
 - Must show to achieve 6 points, if you need more details, it is included in the packets provided. It is also available at the DMV website.
 - Our office will be closed December 18, 2019 to January 01, 2020. We are reopening on January 02, 2020.
 - You can reach me at reyes@nysenate.org

Honorable Jose Marco Serrano, NY State Senator District #29

- **Representative is Jose-Ramon Perez-Lopez**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - This month we will have:
 - The NYC Tenant Support
 - The Legal Aid Society
 - The United States Census 2020
 - For more information, please call our office at 212-828-5829
 - There is a Grand Opening of the PSS High Bridge Gardens Senior Center
 - We are closed on December 20, 2019 until New Year's Day.
 - You can reach us at 212 828-5829

- **Honorable Jose E. Serrano, Member of Congress District #15**
- **Representative is Absent**

- **Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress District #13**
- **Representative is Maximo Javier (Left)**

Honorable Scott Stringer – NYC Comptroller

- **Representative is Khaihi**
 - Greetings to all the Board members and the community.
 - I just got into this job 2 weeks ago.

- If you are facing any issues we are here to help you out with such matters as public services
- Please reach out to us at kniang@comptroller.nyc.gov
- 212-669-3916

- ***Honorable Darcel D. Clark, Bronx District Attorney***
- ***Representative is Absent***

- **Committee's Reports**

- The minutes for this month is in the packets
- The Yankee scholar's application is out, please be aware with the datelines.
- Cheryl Westbrook (CB5 Board Member) mentioned the Yankee Scholarships.
 - Please give this out to your neighbors or friends during the holidays
 - Please mention the criteria or requirements to the qualifications.
 - Jaqua Curiel (CB5 Board Member) mentioned that this a short deadline (January 03, 2020).
 - Board members must vote for the candidate.
- Bola Omotosho (Chairman) mentioned that there is an Immigration Committee meeting tomorrow at Davidson Center.
 - Land Use Committee Meeting is on January 18, 2020
 - Cultural Committee Meeting is on January 18, 2020
 - Education Committee Meeting is on January 7, 2020
 - Executive Committee Meeting is on January 8, 2020

- **Old Business**

- NYC Complete Count Fund: Awardees –it is in the General Board Meeting Packet.
- 2020 Census
- Bronx Walk 250K
- Good Shepherd services

- **New Business**

- Frank (CB5 Board Member) mentioned Landlord civil court.
- Shenia (CB5 Board Member) mentioned CableVision's rising prices.
- Optimum customers are struggling with the contracts. Residents in zip code 10453 have no other option for internet service provider
- 180 Davidson Avenue has been abandoned for a long time
- PS 304 interested to know if it can be remodeled for the children and community to get access in the park.
- Some of the residents came to the meeting to discuss the rebuilding of the park; Basketball Court or monkey bars.

- We still need more comments on how to restructure the abandoned park.

- **Announcements**

- None

- **Meeting is adjourned**

8:48 PM.

Prepared and Submitted by
Ms. Stewart
Secretary of Community Board 5