



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Emmanuel Martinez
Meeting Date:	December 15, 2021
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias

Minutes:

Public Session:

District Attorney Office – Representative Erika Diaz

This coming Saturday – Gun Buyback Event at Butler Memorial United Methodist Church located at 3920 Paulding Avenue
 Flyer will be uploaded and shared with everyone
 Will provide more information as to Project Hope as requested
 Better way to reach more communities Gun Buyback information being shared with all of the boroughs and Westchester
 For more information, please feel free to reach out.
 diazer@bronxda.nyc.gov (929)361-7273

Bronx Borough President’s Office - Ruben Diaz Jr.

Salutations – Happy Holidays!
 The end of tenure is coming to a close. Say thank you to all for working with me, advice, being patient, understanding that I could not be there in person all of the time, but my staff was there. Thank you for all the accomplishments. The pandemic hit us hard. Felt tremendous loss.
 Prior to the pandemic - we were heading in the right direction (housing, parks etc.)



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

The narrative of the Bronx was being recognized and respected.

The loss of Jeff and Carmen has been tough, but we are bronxites and we are resilient.
You don't get paid but you care.

New wave of leadership with new borough president #14, Vanessa Gibson the best is yet to come.

This is not a goodbye but see you all soon. Happy Holidays to all.
It's been a blessing being the Bronx Borough President.

Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez

Happy to join tonight - thank you for working with me this year
CB7 has been amazing.

Thank you to Ischia and Emmanuel for all of the work that they do.
Please get vaccinated or get your booster shot.

Toy giveaway at Lexa Bar this Friday – stop by take a picture with Santa and drink some hot cocoa

Office will be closed 12/20/21 through January 3, 2022 – available via email

Look forward to the new year. Let's make 2022 bigger and better.

Tel.: 718-409-0109 district80@nyassembly.gov

Councilmember Erick Dinowitz

Wonderful Tree lighting event – thank you for all that came out.

Local matters - office and Mosholu Community center hosting a coat drive through 20th, if you have a gently used coat that you don't want or need you can drop it off at my office or at MCC from 9:30 am to 5: 00 pm.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Also collaborating with the American Italian Foundation at MCC – Free Mammogram Bus on 1/15/22; Free, no copays, no residency restrictions – Please call for an appointment.

Following up on a light study on Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway

Did a walk through with the BID and Commissioner

BID lighting is not so good there - customers don't want to come shopping at night or employees want to stay working. Trying to get more and better lighting for safety reasons

Clean up - keeping our neighborhood neat

Bulb planting but also have crews to clean up streets and gratify removal etc.

If you have an area that needs cleaning up please contact our office.

Legislative updates:

Education bills co-sponsored publish attendance in schools and vaccinations in schools

Co-sponsored translucent license plates covers – now illegal

Complaint review board - reform bills - I am not a police abolisher.

My first bill - prime sponsor

Changes the city charter to change the term veterans - Veterans receive city services regardless of discharge status

I introduced today - Bill introduced to CFB voter guide to include everything on the ballot - Judge's referendum. Move us forward as a voter to make an educated decision

Helene Redd - has a question

What bill do you have for veterans' who have been incarcerated and come home? What do you do to give them their benefits back?



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Erik Dinowitz: Huge diagram with the Vets who are incarcerated, who suffer from PTS or have been dishonorably discharged. I secured funding for support for discharge status upgrade.

Access to a lawyer and get honorable discharge and other federal benefits.

Helene Redd - How would your office help a person in that matter?

Erik Dinowitz: Connect those Vets to those organizations to help them obtain their benefits or help with their discharge.

Erik Dinowitz: I attended joint meetings with Mental Health and Addiction Committees - is another ingredient and piece of the puzzle to help out veterans.

Senator Gustavo Rivera – Representative Rachel Ferrari

The senator celebrated his birthday last month.

On his birthday wish was the right to a commercial lease - small businesses are coming back.

One of the priorities for the new year is to help business owners in knowing their rights on their leases. If you know a business owner, we would love to hear from them as to their needs.

Office will be closed after 12/17/21 and will be working remotely for the most part. Happy Holidays. Next year is going to be busy and productive.

Senator Alessandra Biaggi – Representative Tyler Wong

Last month Senator helped distribute 600 turkeys and 1000 food produce items

This Thursday Senator Biaggi will be visiting family centers including Safe Horizon Bronx Advocacy Center during the holiday season.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Governor Hochul signed Senator Biaggi's Bill S760 – coop reserve mortgages

Senator Biaggi introduced S750 - Inspector General office additional safeguards for transparency

Happy Holidays

Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Updates: had a meeting with DM Ischia Bravo -- discussed a lot of the issues and needs of our community.

1. The old Fordham library. We are in the process of reopening the library. \$5 million dollars for renovations (first and second floor); Looking forward to having meeting with Community - Community center is needed in the region
2. Poe Park on Grand Concourse - \$4 million to renovate and improve one of the corners (192nd street of the park) Looking to beautify that section of the park.
3. Sanitation is a big issue. Complex additions services that are needed by the sanction department garbage dumping problem
4. Public Safety along Fordham Road - working with NYPD State Legislators to modify state laws
5. Office is located 573 East Fordham Road. Full time tenant lawyer (housing or other issues) on staff. Office is open in person Mon thru Thurs for services - No appointment needed.

Happy holidays

Resident: Amjad Mujaahid - thank you for coming to the tenant meeting last night.

Unrelated: Kingsbridge underpass - substance abuse and uncleanliness.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Do you have any plans other than to have it closed out?

Councilman Felix's response: that has been a challenge for many reasons. Addiction research some resume services. Other problems state law prohibits NYPD to engage in with individuals who are walking around with those items. In front of the school which is not acceptable. We have been on top of Sanitation to keep the area clean.

Process of closing the underpass. Sanitation getting involved – is helping but how much helps. We have been in contact with all of the agencies to resolve this problem

Resident: Amjad Mujaahid: Why close the underpass? Why go that route?

Greater good of the community – to keep it open. Vital way to get to the D train.

Why come to that conclusion?

Councilman Feliz: It's been a challenge. What happens when an individual does not want any of the services which can be provided and given to them.

NYPD has it listed as a public safety hazard.

What has been the MTA's response to the closing of the underpass?

Councilman Feliz: MTA agreed. Closing it down or temporarily. Maybe a year or so.

MTA had success in other areas when closing underpasses. Really tough decision.

Conversations are still ongoing.

District Manager Ischia Bravo - more than just closing the underpass.

We are trying - a little over 3 years with this issue. Temporary fix.

Conversations are taking place with agencies and organizations like Project Hope to help in trying to resolve or bring resolution to this issue.

Mahnoor Jaura of ICNA Relief



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Emergency with Covid 19/ lack of food

Food insecurity and lack of resources that nonprofits

Bill 2103 - Introduced by Senator Helen Rosenthal – large food retailer to report excess food so that the excess food is distributed to communities in need.

Thank you and Happy Holidays

mahnor.jaura@icnarelief.org, 914-863-1649

William Cannon – Community Health Worker Supervisor at Reserve Inc.

Reserve Inc. now has a presence within CB7 here to join efforts to provide health services and vaccination information to the community.

Want to do this in partnerships with stakeholders in CB7

We can communicate with assistants and provide referral to community health workers and hiring people from local zip codes.

Provide Covid 19 and Vaccination information

Look forward to working with all of you.

Community Health Workers will be out in the community providing information and assistance to anyone.

Office is located: 2432 Grand Concourse Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10458 929 321-3235

wcannon@fedcap.org Follow us on Facebook @ReServe Health Initiatives.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Solomon - resident of Mosholu Parkway – Cuny School of Public Health

Bill 574 - faculty to take measures to minimize waste food and help the environment

Approximately 3.9 million of waste food is collected every year. We need bill 574 to pass in order to stop the waste.

Jean Hill- Tenant Association at Tracey Towers



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

We are doing the covid shots at Tracy Towers

Building 40 take elevator to first floor to Community Room A. - Pfizer Moderna, JJ
This Saturday 12/18 from 9am to 4 pm and another date on January 1/8 - booster shot or
first shot it is available to you. For booster shots bring your original card. We want
everyone in our area to be healthy and safe.

Closing of Public Session 7:31pm

Meeting conducted by Chair Emmanuel Martinez
Last Board Meeting for Calendar Year 2021

This year has been a difficult one with things slowly opening up
Going through our level of hardship in the community, we have been resilient, and we
will continue to do the work. Thank you to board members who have worked throughout
this year. This is how we move our board forward. Thank you for the effort that everyone
has put in this year.

District Manager Ischia Bravo's Report/Updates:

Process of hiring staffers, we recently started the interviewing process for Community
Associate. Department of Homeless Services - Annual Homeless outreach survey will be
held in January - volunteers needed. Outreach to the homeless January 10 PM to 4 AM.
Can request to be with a buddy if you don't want to be alone.

Thank you to all of the sponsors of the Tree Lighting - the event was a huge success.
Thank you to POTS for providing the community with housing, heat, food stamps
information and services.

Thank you to PS8 – Table with parents providing information



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Thank you to Celia Cruz High School and Williamsbridge Oval Park Dance School for their performances.

Thank you to all of the members who were there early (as it was cold)

Pictures will be a part of DM's Report

DM - Ischia Bravo - Reading of executive order and zoom rules and commands

Board Business:

Attendance taken - quorum met

Review of Last Month's General Board Meeting Minutes

Motions:

Chair Emmanuel Martinez presented: Motion to Accept Last Month's Meeting Minutes:

Motion second by Barbara Stronczer

Vote taken: 27 Yes; 0 No; No Abstentions

Motion to move Executive Session

Motion second by Chad Royer

Motion presented to go back to General Session

Chair Emmanuel Martinez presented: Motion to Approve the hiring of Jade Guzman for the position of Community Associate at yearly salary of \$45,000.00

Motion second by Barbara Stronczer

Vote taken: 26 Yes, 1 Abstention

Committee Reports:

Health - Michelle Avila



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

No meeting held in December

Parks - Barbara Stronczer

Thank you to everyone who came out to at the tree lighting

Special thanks to Ischia and Elizabeth for helping out behind the scenes.

It was nice to see everyone in person than on the screen. Nice turn out from the community and members.

Traffic & Transportation - Edgar Ramos

Individual who had ideas and presentation as to
MTA is willing to look at this presentation.

Question as to signage at D train Station at Fordham Road – confusing.

MTA will take a look at the signage and information will be provided.

Any concerns related to transit please call 511 (concerns with transit property)

Hopefully in January DOT and MTA will provide updates on all upcoming projects.

Environment & Sanitation - Betty Arce

No meeting held in December

Veterans - Chad Royer

No meeting held in December

Public Safety - Victor Saldana

No meeting held in December

Budget Personnel Ethics - Andrew Laiosa

No meeting held in December



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Other Questions and Concerns:

Lowell Green – How is mail picked up? How are phone calls taken? Answering Machine DM response – we have a report with the mailman as to collecting the mail.

Google number was set up. Issues with Answering machines. We need to obtain a vendor and as we know that process is not so easy.

Jean Hill - We have new board members – we don't know who they are. Can photos be placed on the screen or have them pop in occasionally to be seen on camera?

DM – we can work on a meeting where we can ask all members to join and meet each other.

Chad Royer - Memorial for Jeffrey Hunter

Can the board do something in membrane of Jeffrey

Chair – we can set up a walk toward the monument at Mosholu Parkway – pay respects.

Adhering with all guidelines.

Discussion in placing a plaque at CB7 in memory of Jeffrey Hunter and Carmen Miranda. Best to hold a memorial after the holidays.

Motion to Close Meeting - Emmanuel Martinez

Motion second by Yajaira Arias

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year 2022!

Meeting Closed at 8:40 pm