



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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Emmanuel Martinez
Meeting Date:	February 22, 2022
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias

Minutes:

Reading of Guidelines and Meeting Code of Ethics

Elected Officials:

52nd Precinct - P.O. Echevarria

Increase in crime over the last 28 days.

Robberies, murders, assaults, high increase in grand larceny and burglaries.

Everything is up in crime. This is a borough and city problem.

In the homicides 2 arrests have been made.

Next meeting will be February 24, 2022 at 7 pm.

Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit - Paula Caquias

We’d love to submit a Proclamation for Veterans Hospital since it will be turning 100 years. pcaquias@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Bronx District Attorney's office - Erika Diaz

Greetings – no new announcements to report.

If anyone has issues or concerns, please feel free to reach out at diazer@bronxda.nyc.gov; (929)361-7273.

Senator Gustavo Rivera Office Rachel Ferrari

Office is now open for community assistance

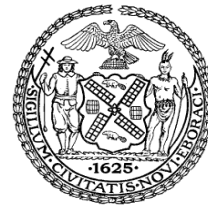
Happy Black History Month

If anyone has issues or concerns, please feel free to reach out at 718-933-2034 or grivera@nysenate.gov.

THIS MEETING’S MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:
229-A EAST 204TH STREET ◊ BRONX, NY 10458 ◊ PHONE: (718) 933-5650
E-MAIL: IBRAVO@CB.NYC.GOV ◊ WEBSITE: NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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Senator Alessandra Biaggi - Tyler Wong

On March 3, 2022 - Senator Biaggi will be joining Senator Julia Salazar on a forum to discuss sexual assault in the prison system. More information to be posted in the following days.

The Senate passed Senator's bill, S410A, last week. This bill would establish the Minority Coordinating Council of Asthmatic Affairs to assess the asthma risk factors for minority citizens in New York, identify existing barriers to quality asthma treatment and care among minorities, develop action steps for addressing care issues, and launch a state-wide asthma awareness campaign.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s410/amendment/a>

Please contact us with any questions or concerns: constituentservices@senatorbiaggi.com or call us at (718) 822-2049.

Assembly Member Natalia Fernandez Office - Odis Guerrero

Free Tax Prep Services beginning on March 3, 2022 to the community
If anyone needs at home Covid test kits – we can provide them as well.

Please reach out to our office at fernandezn@nyassembly.gov or call us at (718)409-0109.

Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia Office – Odis Valerio

Open House – Thursday, February 24th from 4-7pm at 2175 Jerome Ave Suite C, Bronx, NY. We are looking forward to working with Community Board 7.

For any questions or concerns: valeriod@nyassembly.gov; 718-933-6909.

Assembly Member Jeff Dinowitz Office - Frederic Klein

Aware of con ed increase – urging the community to file a complaint with the public service commission. To file complaints to the Public Service Commission:

<https://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/755C4F39A58C924C85257B2F0067FCA5>

Cash for metrocards – machines often not working, please let us know we can contact MTA.



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This is the bill we have been trying to get signed that would better represent utility NYS:

<https://www.nysfocus.com/2021/12/08/hochul-veto-utility-consumer-advocate/>

Please send us your experiences filing complaints with the Public Service Commission about high ConEd bills, MetroCard vending machines that aren't taking cash, and hateful graffiti in parks: DinowitzJ@nyassembly.gov.

In CB8 Anti-black graffiti was found in parks. This is unacceptable. If the community comes across anti hate graffiti - please let us know we will try to rectify.

Update: Bainbridge water main replacement will be completed in Fall 2022.

Assembly Member Jose Rivera - Charisse Suarez

Office is open.

Offering free notary services

Available to help community with utility areas

State Police are hiring – if anyone is interested in applying, please contact our office.

Councilmember Pierina Sanchez

Updates: wrapping 2nd month in office.

Office is closed for now, but we are looking forward to the grand opening next week at 2065 Morris Avenue. The office will be a community space to be shared with the public.

Deep in the budget process, Mayor Adams last week submitted his preliminary budget cuts. There will be cuts across the board. Over the next few weeks preliminary hearings will be taking place regarding the budget.

Today is the deadline for discretionary funding. Entering 3rd phase participatory budgeting, we have a neighbor community that will help get the word out.

NYC Council Discretionary Funding App: bit.ly/NYCCDFApp

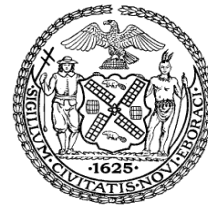
D14 Supplemental Form: bit.ly/D14SupApp

Kingsbridge Armory:

<https://www.riverdalepress.com/stories/kingsbridge-armory-suffers-yet-another-setback,77596>



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Office is responsive, should the community need any assistance 347-590-2874;
District14@council.nyc.gov.

Glacier Equities Portfolio that was purchased by a private firm. Eviction notices have started to take place since the moratorium has been lifted. Tomorrow there will be a meeting to discuss this issue.

The DM is glad to hear that this is being taken up and hopefully that the bill will be passed. Efforts were made with West Bronx Housing.

Cirio Guerino – N/A

James Duarte – Fordham Section-Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) and Cannabis Control Board Adult use of Cannabis Possession for 21-year-old and older.

There is no regulating Regulatory licensing framework that does not exist – no start date. Reports suggest Sales could start at the end of this year or earlier.

Retailer dispensary or consumption licenses applicants - are required to notify community boards and the OCMA will take the community boards recommendations into account when reviewing applications.

Adeline Walker Santiago – resident of NYCHA Serviam Gardens.

Would like to know who to speak to with regard to issues in her home: Elevators out of service, water leaks in her home and non-working appliances.

DM to follow up with Adeline offline.

Tracey Towers Tenants Association – Jean Hill

Covid vaccinations are being given at Tracey Towers every Saturday from 8:20 am to 4:00 pm Pfizer and Moderna, also providing Covid Testing rapid and PCR

No appointment needed.

Jean Hill Question: regarding the marijuana updates. Do they have to come to CB7 for approval like liquor licenses?



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Answer: Yes, similar to liquor licenses.

Closing of Public Session

Meeting to order – seconded by Erick Ascencio

Chairman Emmanuel Martinez’s Welcoming Remarks and Updates:

Hope everyone is staying safe as we are re-opening.

Kingsbridge Armory potential for new project coming. It's important that we are part of the conversation. An Ad hoc committee will be established to help establish a relationship with the elective officials, small businesses and developers in this project.

Update from Councilmember Pierina Sanchez as to Kingsbridge Armory:

City of New York and State of New York.

City owns the land and the armory. State has committed \$108 Million for this project (it used to be \$130 Million but the prior developers used a chunk of the money) – we need to hold on to this money to make sure the armory project happens.

An URLIP and UB34 must be approved – which is being worked on.

We need to be proactive and obtain consensus from the community – this is 30 years in the making – a lot of ideas are being discussed as to what we want to have in the armory.

Jean Hill - Question: are we starting from scratch, were there any ideas from before with prior elective officials?

Councilmember Sanchez: Yes, the funding was never there. We are starting over.

District Manager’s Report – Ischia Bravo

Updates:

Board Members received an email from OTI and City Bridge as to NYC Link Kiosks around the city. Three will be coming in Council District 15 (2861 Webster Avenue; 571 2370 Webster Avenue if you have any recommendation on sites or objections to this; please contact our office

OTDA and HRA implanted a plan that FEPS 108% - big deal in our community



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Tenants who were rejected over the income level now can reapply and receive an increase. If you need help with this, please contact our office.

Homeowners affected as NYHFA – portal is now open for application for homeowners who were affected by the pandemic hardship this includes Condos/Coops (mortgages, property taxes, maintenance fees, loans, retail installments and contracts etc.)

Housekeeping updates: CB7 will be keeping the zoom links provided in the notices for all committees – please stay up to date by following our social media and emails for changes, cancellations etc.

Exploring going live on Facebook next month. We will do some trial runs. Hopefully end the year streaming live.

Making sure to work with the city website to have minutes posted on time. We ask for patience as the city has only one person working on uploading items to the website.

The board is discussing taking action on non-voting issues. This allows to keep a record.

311 is a big deal, after your filing of your 311 complaints, please inform our office so that we may do follow ups.

Yankee Scholarships – deadline is March 2, 2022 – you must live within CB7. All community boards are sharing the application.

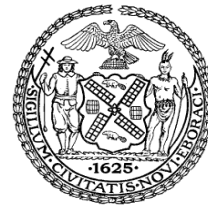
As promised we have been keeping our eye on the subsidies developments that have come before the board to make sure that they hire locally 211 East 203rd Street developer provided a job blast which we have shared. Next step is to connect them to our local schools and parent’s association.

Reminder: Memorial for Jeffrey Hunter

Thank you to Chad Royer, Raul and Majur for making this happen. We encourage everyone to attend the memorial via zoom this Thursday at 6:30pm (email and link shared).



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Attendance taken - Quorum Met

Review of Last Month's General Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve last month's minutes

Motion Second by Chad Royer

One correction noted: Under Executive Education, Youth & Libraries Chair Leurys Acosta

Motion Passes

No Motions to vote on this month.

Committee Reports:

Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

Meeting in the first week of March. News article updated bus changes that only include the normal routes. MTA will not be doing the express bus changes yet. They are reinvestigating. We are expecting DOT to attend our next meeting to provide more information.

Veteran's – Chad Royer

Follow up with veteran residents.

Residents at 194th Street are looking to create a tenant's association

Presentation on suicide by Ronald Dows of VA Hospital – this is a Bronx wide initiative Memorial for Jeffrey Hunter.

Woodlawn Cemetery is in good communication with the board. DM will follow up

Thanks to Hugo – Bronx VA is celebrating its 100 years on April 15th.

Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

Updates: Partnership between HHC North Bronx Central and Correctional Health Services Presentation Below are the highlights:



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In 2016, NYC Health + Hospitals/Correctional Health Services (CHS) became the direct provider of health care in the city's jails as a new division of NYC Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H). As a part of the NYC H+H system, CHS is a health care operation, even while our patients are in the temporary custody of the city.

In November 2021, CHS announced plans to open an Outposted Therapeutic Housing Unit (OTxHU) at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx (NCB) in order to serve patients in custody who have serious health conditions. The OTxHU program is a CHS, not an NYC Department of Correction, initiative to improve patient-care quality and access to clinical services. This secure, clinical unit will improve access to care for patients whose medical conditions require specialty and subspecialty services. NCB will benefit from an infusion of capital funds that will renovate and repurpose hospital space, including infrastructure, in order to create the OTxHU.

The revitalized space will: improve flow and conditions for existing clinical and administrative operations of the hospital; and bring in new revenue for the hospital, both for patient care and supporting services.

The opening of 120 new beds, fully staffed by CHS, will generate economic activity in the surrounding community by staff, visitors, and local businesses supporting the new operation. Although the Department of Correction will provide security and custody management, CHS will determine the admission to and discharge from the OTxHU according to patients' clinical needs. Services will be delivered directly in the OTxHU, as is possible and practical. The OTxHU has a planned completion date of 2024 and is expected to include approximately 120 beds. CHS had previously announced OTxHUs at: Bellevue Hospital (Dec. 2022 completion date; about 114 beds); and Woodhull Hospital (2023 completion date; about 160 beds). <https://bit.ly/3gNiuBB>. If you have questions, I am happy to forward to obtain responses michelle.avila15@gmail.com.

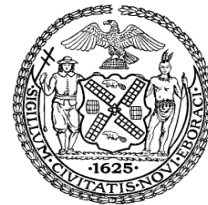
Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

DSNY and DEP provided us with a status as to the shortage of staff – they are now getting back to a better capacity to continue garbage collection on residential and Snow event that we had DSNY 30 violations reported and issued in CB7.

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For snow removal, CB7 has been assigned with 10 snow laborers – to shovel street corners and ramps (not the actual sidewalks).

Clean Curb Program in conjunction with Bids cleaning in front of their establishments – looking for more businesses to participate.

New DEP Commissioner appointment who will also be Chief Climate Officer
Please refer to minutes for links.

State program to help homeowners with water assistance called Low Income Household Water Assistance Program: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/>

Next Meeting in April will not be having a meeting in March.

Parks – Barbara Stronczer

Discussed Forestry concerns – waiting for response to find out the tree list for the Spring and Fall.

We were told to check their website but only four trees are listed for our entire district (not acceptable).

Correction: Iris will be the Park Commissioners until the end of March.

A new Parks Commissioner will be assigned –

The St. James Recreation Center damaged by the flooding in the fall. Rec Person was transferred to St. Mary's Park. We want to make sure that we get her back for the summer months.

Saturday is the Parks Conference Speak Up – Zoom Meeting starting at 11 am through.
Next Meeting will be March 9, 2022

The Poe Park Visioning March 7, 2022 – community input needed – please register <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/community-input-meetings/12264/register>.

Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

We met on 2/2/22. We had a few presentations.

Discussed the review applications for the Yankee Scholarship

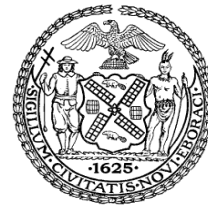
Presentation by Literacy Inc. They shared their resources on literary

Ann from Bronx Library Center update as to the Kingsbridge location

Ischia Taylor from CEC 10 President provided updates



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Representative from Bronx Alumni Delta Sigma Theta Sorority discussed a scholarship open to Bronx High School Seniors (\$500 to \$8,000)

CCRB – shared information on their educational program on police encounters

Next Meeting March 2, 2022.

Housing, Land Use, & Economic Development – Erick Ascensio

City Planning Presentation about Good Urban Design in which they would like to obtain ideas and what matters in our neighborhood.

Data will be shared with all agencies by City Planning by the end of Summer.

City Planning presented us with the new HPD Commissioner – Adolfo Carrion.

Budget & Personnel – Andrew Laiosa

Committee will be meeting tomorrow 2/23/22.

Questions:

Lowell Green: I am hopeful that the Bronx Borough President will have a Bronx Week Parade, and do we have enough goodies to give out?

DM Response: We more than enough.

LG: I miss Jeffrey

DM: Yes, he was your table buddy at the events

Betty Arce: Can we get an UPS Store in our district? I have to travel very far.

DM/Chair: Not enough revenue

Comments:

Andrew Laiosa: Chair of Herrick's Land Use & Zoning practice, was quoted in the Commercial Observer discussing the scheduled expiration of the 421-a tax exemptions in June 2022. While no one yet knows the direction the state legislature will move towards, the real estate industry is keenly aware of the impending deadline.

Mitch said that the June expiration is "a major source of anxiety. A lot of people look at the expiration of the program as no longer making rental housing viable in the city."



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Adding that without the tax exemption, "what people will do is switch to ownership and do condos, or other uses that are available [under the zoning]. Or, you may pause and wait for a different climate when the program might be renewed some day."

DM: District lines are changing. Looks like Congressman Ritchie Torres will be covering a bigger portion of CB7.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1KgIVNcD8eSxviC6pvVrrlPmelwW4i4zZ&ll=42.47450353347323%2C-75.90158237954903&z=6>

Chair presented Motion to Close Meeting.

Motion Second by Adeline Walker-Santiago.

Next Board Meeting will be March 22, 2022.

Meeting closed at 8:27 p.m.