



**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 COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Emmanuel Martinez
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, February 25th, 2020
Meeting Time:	6:30 p.m.
Meeting Location:	Our Lady of Refuge Church 290 East 196th Street
Minutes Done by:	Michelle Avila

Minutes:

I. U.S. Census Presentation / David Beller, Partnership Specialist (Key Points from Presentation)

- a) **Highlighted the importance of the census: For New York state \$675B each year for the next 10 years is contingent on an accurate count.**
- b) **The census determines political representation at the federal, state, city and local level. In addition, census data will be used for reapportionment or redistricting.**
- c) **For-profits and nonprofits use census data to make operational decisions.**
- d) **What do we do with census data? The Census Bureau collects data to produce statistics and compile reports. Census data is held for 72 years.**
- e) **The Census Bureau DOES NOT release information lower than a census tract. NEVER releases information about individuals.**
- f) **Title 13: Private information is never published. It is against the law to disclose or publish any private information that identifies an individual or business such, including names, addresses, Social Security Numbers, and telephone numbers.**
- g) **Census Bureau employees are sworn to protect confidentiality. People sworn to uphold Title 13 are legally required to maintain the confidentiality of your data. Every person with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information and understands that the penalties for violating this law are applicable for a lifetime.**
- h) **Violating the law is a serious federal crime. Anyone who violates this law will face severe penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.**



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- i) What is on the census? The census is only concerned with how many people are in the household. There is NO citizenship question. There are NO questions about social security information or bank information.**
- j) In CB7 there are some census tracts that have a response rate of 40%. The Census Bureau needs everyone's assistance in increasing census participation.**
- k) Low response rates trigger census enumerators to collect census data in person by visiting individual homes. These activities will start in May and continue until the end of summer.**
- l) The census will be available in 12 different languages over the telephone and online.**
- m) Seniors and children are among the hardest populations to count. Everyone must do their part to ensure they are counted.**
- n) CB7 created a Complete Count Committee to assist with efforts in the community district.**

II. Elected Officials & Liaisons / Public Session / City Agency Representatives

- a) Speakers/ Presenters: Crystal Reveron, NYPD 52nd Precinct Community Affairs Officer**
 - 1) Provided overview of community affairs unit: tries to bridge community and NYPD.**
 - 2) Discussed community concerns: drug usage, drug dealing, and drug sales.**
 - 3) Highlighted crime statistics (listed in agenda packet).**
 - 4) Urged community to attend 52nd Precinct Council meetings. The Commander attends meetings, so effective venue to be heard. Also urged calls to 311 to log quality of life concerns.**
- b) Speakers/ Presenters: Bronx Borough President's Office -- Isharel Gonzales**
 - 1) Publicized Feb. 27 Dominican Heritage Event and March 20 LGBTQ Job Fair**
 - 2) Reminded Board Members that have not completed their sexual harassment training to do so by March 17. Training can be done in the Board Office of Bronx Borough President's Office.**



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- c) Speakers/ Presenters: NYS Senator Alessandra Biaggi's Office – Maris Gelman, Director of Constituent Services**
- 1) NYLAG will provide free legal consults on February 27 from 10am – 3pm.**
 - 2) Senator Biaggi is hosting a non-perishable item food drive. Please drop off items at 3190 Riverdale Avenue.**
- d) Speakers/ Presenters: NYC Park's Department: Sarah Bishow**
- 1) Williamsbridge Oval: Free youth programs – soccer program for toddlers – teenagers. Specifically looking to recruit girls. There are art and science programs for toddlers.**
 - 2) Events: April 4 Bronx Adaptive Fitness at 10am.**
- e) Speakers/ Presenters: Bronx Defenders (BxD) – Alice Fentier, Director of Criminal Practice**
- 1) Discussed criminal justice reforms that went into effect on January 1.**
 - 2) BxD represents half of the cases in the Bronx. Over the past 5 years cases have decreased and the number of pre-trial detentions has also decreased.**
 - 3) Explained reasons behind bail reform and pretrial reform laws. Reforms release people charged with misdemeanors and minor crimes.**
 - 4) Clarified that people can be held on cash bail if they willfully and seriously do not show up for court proceedings.**
- f) Speakers/ Presenters: Diletta Pina, Board of Elections (BOE)**
- 1) Reminded audience that early voting for the Queens Borough President special election will begin in March.**
 - 2) April 18 – Early voting begins throughout the City. Encouraged people to vote since it is now easier than ever.**
 - 3) Ischia Bravo relayed that the BOE has reached out to inquire about early voting sites that aren't schools.**
- g) Speakers/ Presenters: Sirio Guerino**
- 1) Reminded public about the plastic bag ban beginning March 1**
 - 2) Advocated for leases in tenant's preferred languages**



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3) Emphasized the need for parole reform. Iterated that we need to take back our streets and improve quality of life.

h) Speakers/ Presenters: David Cruz, Editor at the Norwood News

1) Notified the public that after 6 years as the editor of the Norwood News, he will be moving to Gothamist. Last day will be March 18.

2) Thanked the Board for making the Bronx a better place.

i) Speakers/ Presenters: Alex Baba, Owner of Mediserve Pharmacy, 2611 Webster Avenue

1) Promoted pharmacy services: prepackage and wrap medicine. They are the only pharmacy in the Bronx that has that capacity.

2) Contract directly with Healthfirst. They speak directly to patients and physicians to ensure medicine compliance.

3) Deliver to all five boroughs, Monday through Friday 9am – 7pm, closed on Saturdays but open on Sundays.

j) Speakers/ Presenters: NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera – Rachel Ferrari

1) Had a successful Black History month event.

2) If anyone has any questions, please reach out to ferrari@nysenate.gov

III. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

a) Minutes passed with the corrections below:

1) Page A-2 Section II C, Point 1: Gun Hill Road, not Avenue

2) Page B-5 Section VI Next meeting date: Tuesday, February 25

IV. Motion(s)

a) Support of the FRESH program application submitted by New York Botanical Garden and Douglaston Development for 2856 Webster Avenue

1) Motion passed

2) Twenty in favor, Six opposed, two noted abstentions: Chad Royer and Andrew Laiosa

V. District Manager's Report

a) Ischia Bravo briefly discussed District Manager's report. Everyone to follow the printed copy.

VI. Chairperson's Report



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a) **Chair Emmanuel Martinez recognized two Board members: Alex Karman and Cyrille Nikej and one member of the public: Sirio Guerino for their volunteer services.**

b) **Nomination for the Board Secretary position:**

1) **Yajaira Arias was nominated and accepted the nomination.**

2) **Vote will take place at the March General Board meeting**

VII. Executive Committee Report

a) **Report was tabled as Chair stepped out.**

VIII. Committee Reports:

a) **Committee Chairs briefly discussed their reports. Asked everyone to follow printed copy.**

IX. New Business

a) **Motion to move into Executive Session at 8:35pm. Motion passed.**

X. Adjournment

a) **Motion to adjourn meeting: Motion passed and meeting closed at 8:46pm.**