



**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:	Tuesday, May 26th, 2020
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Minutes done by:	Betty Arce

Minutes:

- I) Welcoming Remarks from Chairman Emmanuel Martinez Review of previous minutes**
 - a) Chairman commented on Memorial Day and the need to keep safe.
 - b) Mentioned that one board member is in ICU due to COVID 19
 - c) Several CB members have lost family members to COVID 19
 - d) Need to heed safety measures and take it seriously.
 - e) Stressed the importance of submitting minutes within 48 hours of a meeting
- II) District Managers Report**
 - a) Ground Rules for ZOOM meetings were read
 - b) Updates:
 - 1) Increase in calls to NYPD
 - 2) Report price gouging to Dept. of Consumer Affairs
 - 3) Free Virtual tax prep available for income eligible households
 - 4) DHS reports that residents of 3600 Jerome Avenue shelter have been temporarily transferred to Manhattan
- III) Meeting rules and updates**
 - a) Attendance (Roll Call) by Secretary (in her absence Betty Arce)
- IV) Review of previous month's minutes**
 - a) Moto to approve minutes; seconded
- V) Motions**
 - a) **Housing, Land Use, & Economic Development Committee: Motion in support of the application by Woodlawn Conservancy for capital funding to renovate the Woolworth Building.**
 - 1) **Motion passed: (Y) 24 (N) 2**



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VI) Committee Chairs updates

- a) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development**
- b) Complete Census Count**
- c) Traffic & Transportation Committee**
- d) Environment & Sanitation**
- e) Parks & Recreation will meet June 10th**
- f) Health & Human Services will meet June 16**
- g) Budget, Personnel & Ethics**
 - 1) Presentation by City Planning**
 - 2) Budget request should be based on data**
 - **Establishing priority needs**
 - 3) CB 7 will spend all money available**
- h) Detailed report by the district manager will be shared with board Open for Board members**

VII) Motion to close board business section – now open to the public

- a) Sen. Alessandra Biaggi**
 - 1) Office is available to assist with navigating state unemployment site**
 - 2) Food insecurity – great need**
 - 3) Mental health resources**
 - 4) Sign up for Biaggi’s newsletter**
- b) Councilman Fernando Cabrera**
 - 1) No guarantee that \$42.5K to community boards will be available next year**
 - 2) Visited Kingsbridge Armory where food & essential supplies are being packaged and distributed to community residents to meet a great need**
 - 3) “Work at Home” Bill sponsored by Councilman Cabrera**
 - **City employees could be working from home for the long-term under a new cost-saving plan now being formulated in City Council.**



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- **The proposal is aimed at ending city leases on office spaces by requiring that some employees set up home offices on a more permanent basis.**
- 4) **New testing site coming to St. James Recreation Center**
- 5) **Reminded everyone about requesting absentee ballot for June Primary Elections.**
- c) **Councilman Andrew Cohen**
 - 1) **Office is open**
 - 2) **Work at City Hall has been very busy**
 - 3) **Anticipate very severe service cuts**
 - 4) **Significant cuts from Albany**
 - 5) **No feedback from federal government**
 - 6) **PPEs are available**
 - 7) **Discussion ensued on the financial impact of the pandemic**
- d) **Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz**
 - 1) **Has been distributing masks and hand sanitizers**
 - 2) **Has received complaints that people still having problems with unemployment insurance claims**
 - 3) **Complaints about fireworks and drag racing in his district**
 - 4) **Working with Congressmen Engel & Espaillat on legislation to prevent homelessness (S08192B/A10290B)**
- e) **Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez**
 - 1) **Along with other elected officials distributed masks, gloves and sanitizers at Lexa Bar & Grill and other locations**
- f) **City Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson**
 - 1) **More testing needed**
 - 2) **Phasing in the reopening of the city**
 - 3) **\$10B shortfall**
 - 4) **\$7B revenue loss**
 - 5) **Thank you to hospital and healthcare workers, delivery of food, keeping people alive**



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g) Terence Miller – Office of the Public Advocate

- 1) In the Bronx, less than 1% of small businesses are receiving loans
- 2) Concerns about contact tracing

h) Rachel Ferrari – Senator Gustavo office

- 1) Disparate impact of the pandemic on communities of color
- 2) Webinar on Remote learning, education summer activities – May 28
- 3) Covid 19 bills:

- S8361 – Assists home care agencies & workers obtain and pay for PPEs
- S8307 DOH to create regulations allowing birth centers outside of hospital or clinic setting
- S8357 Extends health coverage to immigrant NYers with Covid 19
- S3577A – NY Health Act

i) Haydee Salazar – Assemblyman Victor Pichardo office

- 1) Office sponsoring grocery drive
- 2) Need for Internet devices for school children
- 3) Support for S08362A – requires Covid 19 contact tracers be representative of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the communities in which they serve

j) 52nd Precinct

- 1) Most crime down in the last 28-day period
- 2) Burglaries are up
- 3) 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting on May 28

k) Stephanie Rae – NW Bronx Clergy Coalition

- 1) Virtual meeting on May 29

l) BX Boro President office

- 1) Reappointment letters and new appointment letters have been delayed
- 2) Application for small businesses available



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VIII) Next month's meeting date: Wednesday, June 24rd, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

IX) Adjournment