



## General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 21, 2021

**Present:** Doralina Colon, Monique Farrington, Ram Halder, Lena Johnson, Sinade Wadsworth, Daniel Porro, Angel Martinez, Mitchell Halpern, Sadie Davies, Shante Chamblee, Juan Torres, James Tynan, Alizia McMyers, Lenora Easter, Jennifer Sayers, Jorge Hurtado, Lisa Diaz, Abunoman Rahman, Kevin Kiernan, Twyana Bush, Sharyn Brown, DM Rivera

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:07pm

**Note:** The District Manager began the Public Session and Elected Officials Report

### Public Session

1. Erin McFadden, David Prize- Ms. McFadden stated that the prize would like to see more applications in the Bronx this year. Prize is fundamentally a celebration of missionary individuals in NYC. Every year 200,000 is given to 5 New Yorkers each. No string attached. The second group of winners was announced on Tuesday, which was very exciting. Open call begun on Tuesday and will run through December 21, 2021, this can be found on [davidprize.org](http://davidprize.org).
2. Jeanette Reed, Department for the aging, senior employment services- Ms. Reed shared that the city is actively recruiting older, unemployed, Bronx residents to apply to the department senior employment program. This is a short term paid workforce program that offers job placement, assistants, and skilled training, to help people transition back to employment. Candidates must be unemployed, 55 and older, have limited income and desire to work. Participants receive a stipend of 15 dollars an hour of an average of 15 to 20 hours per week. They use this money for transportation, and sometimes for snack or food for when they are in the training center and get a break between classes. After applying the way that it works is participants undergo an initial assessment to determine their eligibility. They begin computer and customer service training and counseling sessions with job developers. Ms. Reed stated that her organization needs help promoting this program to the community, friends and family who qualify. Ms. Reed also stated that her

office is not open to the public and meetings are by appointment only. She will send out flyers to be distributed.

### **Elected Officials Report**

1. Justin Westbrook Lowery, AM Reyes Office- On October 4<sup>th</sup> Governor Kathy Hochul signed Assembly Member Karina Reyes bill to expand the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), so that individuals who are seniors who are disabled, who are homeless, who have snap benefits to purchase hot meals from delis, grocery stores and restaurants that participate in this program. This is going to be very important for individuals who do not have working kitchens. This legislation will go into effect in 1 year where the New York State office of temporary disability assistance will be creating a program so that individuals can use their snap benefits to purchase hot meals. This is something that several states have done, and the Assembly Member is very proud to lead on this issue, because our community have many seniors/individuals who will be eligible for this. The Assemblywoman sent a letter to the NYS Department of health encouraging the expansion of school-based health services. Currently Medicaid pays for school-based health services for children who are enrolled in Medicaid and who have individualized education portfolios. The Assemblywoman wants to expand this for all kids who are on Medicaid going to schools, so that services that are being provided to kids and schools. The Assemblywoman was proud to take part in the ribbon cutting for the basketball court at castle hill houses. This basketball court was funded, due to work by the NYPD and PSA8. Lastly, Assemblywoman Reyes is hosting her 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Halloween trunk or treat event on Saturday, October 30, 2021, at St. Helenas Catholic School Parking lot.
2. Victor Martinez, Congressman Ritchie Torres- There's a lot of debate happening in Congress related to the build back better act. Right now, there isn't much information. The congressman has been vocal on extending the child tax credit. Right now, it's temporary and the congressman wants it to become permanent because it is helping a lot of families. The other part of the debate is about housing, Congressman Torres met with the President and told him the rent is too high and this is something that needs to be worked on. Additionally, nomination for the United States service academy is being accepted, if you know anyone that should apply, please contact the Congressman's office. Lastly, the congressman partnered with the government of Puerto Rico providing services every month in their office to help people who need birth certificates or any other document from the government in Puerto Rico.
3. Kaitlyn McNamara, Senator Biaggi- Bill 737a has just been signed, this requires doctors to be informed that written communication is available in large print format and other forms for people who have impaired vision. Introduced new legislation S7428 which requires fashion and flower manufactures to disclose environmental benefit projects, directly benefit environmental justice. LRAP is available for landlords. Assistance for hurricane Ida is still going on, New Yorkers can apply for assistance through FEMA (till November 5<sup>th</sup>). Senator Biaggi will be hosting a job fair on Saturday at Columbus high school. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, will be hosting a food and health empowerment fair and will have more details on this in the upcoming weeks.

4. Christina Calderon, Bronx DA- Two upcoming programs, Infant safety expo which is taking place Thursday, October 28 from 2 to 5pm, virtually on zoom. The next program is the re-entry resource fair taking place November 6, 12-5pm on white plain road where Bronx community board 12 is.
5. Assemblymember Kenneth Burgos- AM Burgos stated his office has received a lot of phone calls about landlords that have had tenants fall into rears. Landlords can now apply for LRAP. The AM office is helping, and the process can be done on your own as well. Having a street source which is a collaboration with OATH, this will handle any summons you received with the city, on November 4 at the AM office. The AM worked hard with other Elected Officials to get bus shelters back that were removed by Boynton and Story Avenue. BM Twywana Bush asked about the bus times/parking and ADM Shirley Alonzo stated that a request was put into DOT for rush hour bus lanes, but it was denied because there's a gap and the community may still park during that time and cars will get ticketed, but they did say this is on a trial period. If they feel as though these hours aren't beneficial for the community, they are willing a few months down to revisit the possibility of installing them for express hours.
6. Alexis Ruiz, Borough President Office- Latest BP newsletter was shared. New Board Member orientation was successful. All new members should have received EEO form, please submit to Alexis.
7. ADM Shirley Alonzo stated that Nepa from Congresswoman AOC office will be sending update via email

### **Business Session**

### **District Manager's Report**

- DM Rivera stated that Mohammad Mujumder will be on leave for 3 months.
- There are 12 New Board Members, CB9 will be doing own internal, in person orientation for the new Board Members on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- CB9 will be having a Halloween Trunk or Treat event and partnering with several organizations on October 31, 2021
- There will be a business meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, for nightlife businesses in the district, the business owners will be meeting with the commanding officer as well.
- Will be doing an event with Seniors Connected for Thanksgiving
- There will be a toy drive for the holidays and the toys will be dropped off to the pediatric emergency room
- Partnering with an organization to get some coats for the winter through the Youth & Education committee
- Will be working with the parks committee to do a summer event
- Next social services committee will be speaking to Daniel Porro and the committee about doing something for the disability community
- There are 12 new board members bringing total board members to 47. New Board members will attend committee meetings in November to see which committee they want to be part of. Then the chair will select committees.
- The ADM Shirley Alonzo attended the Ribbon cutting for Casa Selena on October 19. This will be an affordable housing for seniors and will take about 30 months from when building starts

- DM Rivera has ongoing conversations with DOT about the Story Avenue bus lanes. The current update is the bus lanes will be painted red soon. Cameras are not up yet but will be up. DM Rivera stated he will revisit continuously. DM Rivera is receiving a lot of complaints regarding this taking away parking and this will be an issue in the next coming months regarding parking especially when it snows.
- Daniel Porro (BM) asked about letter to ShopRite, Mr. Porro stated it's difficult for people who don't know how to use technology since there aren't cashiers anymore and everything is self-checkout ADM Alonzo stated that she has reached out to ShopRite haven't received an acknowledgement to the letter that was sent. DM Rivera will speak to ShopRite leadership himself and send another email and ask if they can speak at committee meeting.
- ADM Alonzo stated that services and information for seniors will be at the Halloween Trunk or treat event from Aetna
- DM Rivera stated that District needs statement will be submitted next week

### **Committee Reports**

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is by Chair Monique Farrington
2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is by Vice-Chair Mitchell Halpern, DM Rivera stated that there will be a meeting with city planning regarding metro north at the next committee meeting
3. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera
4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera
5. Social Services minutes were submitted as is by Chair Daniel Porro.
6. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is by DM Rivera

Note: Lisa Diaz put motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Monique Farrington.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:00 PM**

#### **OFFICE INFO**

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