



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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*Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President*

**MS. EVONNE CAPERS**  
Board Chairperson

**MR. JOHN SANCHEZ**  
District Manager

**Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Matthew Martinez, Committee Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 through Zoom Audio and Video Conference. The following board members were present at this meeting: Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Michael Caraballo, Angela Hernandez, Maria Garcia, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Kristine Rivera, and Lillie Steed.

The following information was discussed:

- **Informational Presentation by the Department of Design and Construction on their Mentoring Program**

The Department of Design and Construction's Business Development Unit informed us the Business Development Unit was created in 2019 to expand on the mission of the Department of Design and Construction's Office of Diversity and Diversity and Industry Relations. The Business Development Unit's function is to create capacity building opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises and small businesses through outreach, advocacy, technical assistance, and business growth. To accomplish this, the Business Development Unit will be executing various initiatives, including their Mentoring Program. Their Mentoring Program was created after the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) Small Business Mentoring Program when it was authorized by the New York State (NYS) Assembly Bill A8407 and Senate Bill S6418A. Per the City of New York 2018 Disparity Study, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises continued to be underutilized in comparison to non-Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. Therefore, this mentoring program is an important tool for ensuring diversity in the City's construction procurements. The Department of Design and Construction informed us that the mentoring program's overarching goal is to expand the pool of construction companies that deliver quality projects to Department of Design and Construction standards long-term. In order to accomplish this, the mentoring program will facilitate the capacity building of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises and small businesses; provide participants the opportunity to bid on specially designated contracts valued at up to \$1.5 million dollars; support participants through the mentorship of experienced, competitively selected construction management and technical assistance firms that deliver tailored technical, financial, and legal training; and enroll suitable participants in the four-year Graduate Mentoring Program to compete for contracts valued at up to \$3 million, with the continued support of construction management mentors. The program's construction management consultants will deliver construction management services, assess participants' field performance, and provide individual guidance and project-specific assistance to contractors. Their technical assistance consultants will create detailed strategic business roadmaps, develop and execute general curriculum in areas related to construction, technology,

and finance, advise participants of financial strategies to empower them to effectively manage business finances and develop financial strength for their participants.

- **Informational Presentation by Animal Care Centers of NYC on their services**

The Animal Care Centers of New York informed us that they are an open-admissions animal shelter, an adoption center, and a community resource. Their mission is to end animal homelessness in New York City. They have a total of five locations in the City of New York and there's a new center coming to the Bronx. The Bronx Care Center will be on Bartow Avenue. The development of this center will create nearly 100 new jobs, and is designed to be a community resource to the borough of the Bronx for adoptions, resources and education. At the Animal Care Centers of New York they offer admissions and surrender prevention, veterinary, animal care, behavior and enrichment, lost pet reunifications, field and placement services. As part of their surrender prevention services, Animal Care Centers of New York provides support to keep animals in their homes. They provide connection to vet services, pet vaccines and spay/neuter, pet supplies, tenant advocacy for pet-related housing issues, emergency help, dog and cat behavior assistance and URIPals & PawsNY. Animal Care Centers of New York also informed us that they have partnered with more than 300 other animal welfare organizations (shelters, rescues, sanctuaries) in New York to find placement for animals in need. Animal Care Centers of New York also has a Community Kids Program. The program's mission is to engage and empower the next generation of animal advocates. Prior to the pandemic, students were able to tour the care centers, enjoy classroom visits from an Animal Care Centers of New York representative, or join their junior volunteer team. Now students can participate in virtual presentations.

- **Discussion of the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2023.**

The committee members selected the following expense requests:

- Expand clean space initiatives for public sites and graffiti free removal program for private sites along commercial business corridors
- Support development of local Storefront/Facade Improvement Program from East Tremont Avenue between Morris Park Avenue and Webster Avenue
- Provide or expand occupational skills training programs
- Conduct BID Feasibility Analysis or support BID Formation Planning for East Tremont Avenue
- Deploy Mobile Outreach Unit or Chamber On-the-Go to provide business services

The committee members selected the following capital requests:

- Improve streetscapes in business districts to attract/encourage commercial activity (i.e., lighting, sidewalks)
- Improve the availability, speed, or cost of broadband access to local businesses and residents