

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

**Meeting was held at Bronx Community Board 8 Offices, 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100
Bronx, NY 10471**

Committee Members in attendance (6): Constance Barnes-Watson (Chair), Angel Ortega, Caesar Tobar Acosta, Daniel Nunez, Laura Levine, Karen Walker

Absent Committee Members (3): Nick Fazio, Richard Perez, Ashley Medina
(Community Member)

CB8 Board Members (1): Julie Reyes, Chairperson

Guests/ Attendees: Shari Hall (KRVC), Kahdija Jabbi (City for the Fund of NY
Community Planning Fellow)

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Welcome and Introductions (7:05 PM)

Next item on the agenda was the Chairperson's Report:

- The EDC Chair reminded the Committee about Kahdija's presentation tonight and to the Board at the full Board Meeting on April 14, 2026. Next, she mentioned both the Board and KRVC held meetings with Bill Harra, Property Manager for ABC Realty properties at Knolls Crescent, and that the meetings yielded similar results. Bill, as the Property Manager, has made suggestions to the landlords regarding repairs, signage, and other matters, to no avail. The Board is awaiting follow-up from the March 11, 2026, meeting with local officials and Bill about next steps. She noted that in lieu of a May meeting, Committee members are encouraged to join the Collaborative Corridor Walk with SCRE on 5/1/26.
- **Next agenda item:**
 - Roll Call: See attendance above.
- **The next agenda item was approval of the March meeting minutes:**
 - Karen moved to approve; Caesar seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of the minutes.
- **The next agenda item was a SAPO application for the "Salsa in the Streets" from KRVC:**
 - Shari Hall, a KRVC representative, noted the date change on the application, as it was moved forward to align with Bronx Week. No liquor will be served, no rain date, and there will be vendors. A "Grammy-award-winning" Latino musician will perform.
 - Daniel moved to approve the SAPO Angel seconded, Laura Levine-Pinedo was present but ineligible to vote, and all others approved. Unanimously approved.
- **The next agenda item was a presentation from Kahdija Jabbi, Community Planning Fellow for Fund for the City of New York.**
 - Kahdija presented findings from her 5-month study of neighborhoods in CB8 to gain a clearer picture of vacancy rates and their duration in our area, and to gather quality-of-life information from community residents. Her focus was on Knolls Crescent, Kingsbridge Road, and Bailey Avenue. Kahdija will present at our full Board meeting on 4/14/26 (the full presentation will be available on the Board's website in the near future).

- The Committee engaged with Kahdija throughout the presentation, asking questions and noting things that stood out, such as the district being **48.9% Hispanic**, which is an area where there is a gap in communication. She also noted that although there is a Middle Eastern population, its share is so small that it is not “statistically significant.”
- Kahdija also engaged city agencies, including SBS, the Hudson Square BID, Our Bronx, KHCC, and others, to gather information. Her recommendations and “calls to action” are noted below:
 - Increased Small Business outreach and communication with SBS and other city agencies
 - Increase community outreach across the entire district: Kingsbridge, Marble Hill, Kingsbridge Heights, and continue to support “Save Knolls-Kappock Retail” efforts
 - Conduct a district-wide survey to assess community needs beyond economic development
 - Support for the NYS Senate Bill [S6804](#) (sponsored by Senator Robert Jackson) and Assembly Bill [A669](#) (sponsored by Assembly member Linda Rosenthal; Jeffrey Dinowitz is one of the co-sponsors) to impose a vacancy tax on abandoned and empty storefronts
- **The next agenda item was Old Business:**
 - The Committee will finalize its budget requests and send them to the Board and Budget Committee. We will continue to ask for additional support for SBS BEST and CLA programs, acknowledging their invaluable support to small businesses while they operate with very minimal staff.
 - Karen also suggested supporting NYC DCWP - [Department of Consumer Protection](#)
 - The Committee reviewed the nominations for the Betty Campbell-Adams MVM Award and used a “blind-voting” method, with nominations referred to only by number. Previously, we discussed making the award more significant, perhaps doing more than just presenting the award at the Board meeting, and the Chair noted that the award states “Merchant”, not “merchants” (Plural). The Committee considered the notes from the prior night’s Executive Committee meeting, discussed the nominations, and Caesar moved to vote for merchant #4; Angel seconded. We unanimously voted to submit merchant #4 to the Board at the April meeting.
- **The next agenda item was New Business:**
 - None.
- **The next Monthly EDC Meeting** will be a Corridor Walk with other committees on May 1, 2026
- **Meeting adjourned at 9:18. Laura called for the motion to adjourn, Caesar seconded.**

Submitted by Constance Barnes-Watson
Chair, Economic Development Committee