

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

The meeting was held at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace,, Bronx, NY 10463

Committee Members in Attendance (5): Constance Barnes-Watson (Chair), Caesar Tobar-Acosta (Vice Chair), Daniel Nunez, Karen Walker, Ashley Medina (Community Committee Member)

Absent Committee Members (4): Angel Ortega, Richard A. Perez, Nick Fazio, Laura Levine-Pinedo,

Board Members/Staff in attendance: None

Guest / Attendees: Alina Dowe, Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement, Kimberly Kendall, Lehman College; Robert Cafarelli, News12, Angelia Ortiz, and Elizabeth Thompson (NWBCB)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Welcome and Introductions:

The chair opened the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and giving an overview of the meeting.

Chairperson's report:

- 1/29/26 EDC Chair and Planning Fellow attended a tenant meeting at Knolls Crescent, organized by Joan Carroll, Board Chair, and Karen Yomagochi, resident. The meeting was well attended, with over 80 participants discussing vacancies in the area. News12 interviewed tenants, the EDC Chair, and the District Manager about concerns in the area." Letters of Concern" have been sent to local officials for assistance.
- 2/2/26: EDC Chair and District Manager met with the LiveXYZ team for an overview of their geo-mapping tool, and discussed the possibility of all CBs having access. They offered a trial for the Planning Fellow to finish her project.

Roll Call:

- Attendance listed above

NYC Free Tax Program Presentation:

A presentation by Ryan Arecco, [NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection \(DWCP\)](#)

Ryan presented on the NYC Free Tax Program offered to NYC residents. Tax preparation is **free** for those who meet income guidelines (no dependents <\$68,000, dependents <\$97,000. Kim Kendall, Interim Dean of Continuing Professional Studies at Lehman College, also noted free tax preparation support at CUNY on the Concourse (COTC). We asked about safety measures related to ICE crackdowns, which may deter individuals from filing taxes.

Ryan shared the same concern, and that they do try to keep people safe, but also advised that undocumented persons consult with an immigration attorney before using their services. He also noted that the IRS is no longer issuing paper checks for refunds, and encouraged [New Yorkers to open a “Safestart” Account for only \\$25.](#)

Presentation by the Northwest Bronx Clergy Coalition members, Juan Nunez and Elisabeth Ortega-Bailey:

The team shared handouts on the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) and began by reviewing the organization's history of involvement in prior efforts to re-envision the Kingsbridge Armory.

Juan and Elisabeth walked us through their process for securing community space within the Armory and discussed the various options for space utilization and workforce training that will be part of the Armory. The CBA is important for all Bronx residents because it outlines the opportunities available in housing, employment, small business, and training, and **four CB districts** will have priority access to these resources. There was a brief Q&A period after the presentation, and an invitation to join their [annual meeting on 2/28/26 at Lehman College](#) to learn more.

The Community can learn more about the agreement and the commitment from the Governor and Mayor in the [“Together for Kingsbridge”](#) report.

Key areas of the CBA are:

- Community Governance + Transparency
- Community Benefit Funds
- Local Procurement
- Jobs Quality & Reporting
- First Source Hiring
- Union Labor & Neutrality
- Public Access
- Small Business & Vendors
- Affordable Housing & Environmental

Resolutions: none at this meeting.

Old Business:

The MVM award is being finalized for the February 13 press release. Committee member Daniel Nunez will meet with the Board Office team to discuss social media. Alina Dowe, Mayor’s Office, asked for copies of the “Letters of Concern” for follow-up.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

The next meeting will be on March 3, 2026.

A motion to adjourn was called by Caesar Tobar-Acosta, Vice-Chair, and seconded by Karen Walker.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Submitted by Constance Barnes-Watson
Chair Economic Development Committee