

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8

June 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, Karen Walker, Nick Fazio, Ashley Medina (Community Member)

Absent Committee Members (2): Richard Perez, Laura Levine-Pinedo

Guests/ Attendees: Clifton S.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Welcome and Introductions (7:03 PM)

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

- Reflections on the past year and looking ahead
- Constance testified as a small biz owner for small biz support at the Mayor's COGE hearing on
- Update on the Broadway Corridor issue: Margaret Della compiled a letter, in collaboration with other Chairs, and submitted it to DOT, MTA, and our electeds. We met with them on 6/6/26, MTA shared a presentation on the progress of the repairs., Council members Dinowitz, Sanchez, and De La Rosa were present. One of the requests was to have more signage for the businesses to show they are still open, as well as to designate some parking spaces as loading zones. MTA requested that we share any photos of the issues we've seen on Broadway; Margaret will compile another response to be sent that Friday.

Next agenda item:

- Roll Call: See attendance above.

The next agenda item was approval of the April meeting minutes:

- The minutes were approved unanimously with the correction of Richard's last name.

The next agenda item was a discussion about the Betty Campbell-Adams MVM Award:

- For next year, things to consider:
 - Should we keep a rubric to have "blind" voting? Should the Chair make the final decision on the number of recipients?
 - How will we handle political campaign contributions if noted in an application? Disqualify/Discuss/Determine the way forward.

The next agenda item was an open discussion about EDC work to inform next year's committee:

- **Noted highlights of the year:** Retail vacancy research project, MVM award discussion was productive. Karen emphasized the importance of staying abreast of developments at the Kingsbridge Armory, as it is a resource for the entire Bronx (KHCC mtg.), and Kim Kendall's (Lehman College) presentation at Artizen was very helpful.
- **Next year:** Begin with a clear mission-statement session to define the work, split our meeting time between on-site visits at local businesses and the office, and consider ways to continue to plan strategically with other committees. A persistent question is how to effectively conduct outreach to businesses, esp. Mom & Pop shops.
- **Potential locations for meetings:** KHCC, Sante Fe Grill, Kingsbridge Social Club.

New Business

Items from the Committee to share with the Full Board at the June meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

**Submitted by Constance Barnes-Watson
Chair, Economic Development Committee**