

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY**

HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM

ZOOM MEETING: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84535677303>
ZOOM MEETING BY PHONE: (646) 558-8656 Pin: 89822260221#

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members Present: J. Townes, Chair; B. Bender, M. Della, G. Santiago, R. Singh

Committee Members Absent: R. Fanuzzi, J. Reyes

CB8 & Guest: L. Spalter (CB8 Chair), D. Gellman, C. Tepelus, M. Wolpoff, Tania Ochoteco

Community: Shajada Brown

AGENDA

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Committee Vice Chairperson M. Della. The Vice Chair informed audience of Agenda items.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon discussion of the March 11, 2021 minutes, a motion was made by B. Bender, and seconded by G. Santiago, to approve the Committee Minutes. Unanimous approval.

2. CHAIR REVIEW

Chair Townes reflected on the Derek Chauvin Trial that is ongoing in Minnesota and watched closely around the country. Discussion of members' activities and urging for the community to participate in calls for feedback on Reform NYC and Environmental Justice Report.

3. REVIEW OF CB8 RACIAL EQUITY ACTIVITIES FOR SCRE

Discussion on the current draft of the activities reported by various Board committee chairs to detail positive actions already underway on Racial Equity within CB8. The list will be revised with a few contributions from the Committee and included in the SCRE Report and uploaded to the CB8 website. This will be a living document, updated by SCRE as frequently new activities arise from Committee work.

3. UPDATE OF SCRE ON UPCOMING AGENDAS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

SCRE members are present on all committees and/or attend meetings where not seated. Racial equity has been an agenda topic on each committee and SCRE members will assist committees in their respective work.

4. FINALIZE LANGUAGE IN REPORT

Discussion was had on finalizing the executive summary of the SCRE report. J. Townes discussed the Executive Summary for the report, emphasizing its purpose is to help direct the reader within the document to account for time commitment and subject matter of the readers' interests. Committee shared edits and approved the Executive Summary. The appendix will be revised to include links to the current Reform NYC, the draft (and final report when available) on NYC efforts to improve policing as directed by the Governor; NYC Environmental Justice Report; as well as photos from Van Cortlandt Park Enslaved People's Project. The Chair added that she would provide a cover letter to the report. By April, the report with appendices will be shared for Executive Review and translation into Spanish.

4. FINALIZE COMMUNITY SURVEY LANGUAGE

Discussion was had on finalizing the community survey language. Attendees requested that the survey be anonymous and not track participants' emails. However, it was recommended that there be a place where participants could voluntarily provide their email to be added to the SCRE listserv via CB8 District Office.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- B. Bender updated the committee that he and others were still putting together representative census tracts to facilitate SCRE's research and equity assessment. The working group will continue its research and report accordingly.
- CB8 Chair (L. Spalter) discussed ad on Facebook. The ad reached over 294k people, 5% opens on SCRE report, targeting three zip codes. Committee asked for links to social media from the CB8 webpage and connect with the local Facebook groups i.e. Spuyten Duyvil and Riverdale groups for community discussions and to post CB8 info there.
- Committee considered holding a Forum in May and to share ideas on speakers/format.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT

The committee will meet on **May 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Recorded by,

Margaret Della
Committee Vice Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Jyll Townes
Chairperson, SCRE