

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

**HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM**

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

**PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

**ATTENDEES:**

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

Committee Members Absent: R. Singh

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

Community: Araceli, Aleena Abraham, Alma C, Amy Schimmel, Eliomar Lopez, Priscilla Babaloea, Shajada Brown

**AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Committee Chairperson J. Townes. The Chair informed the audience of Agenda items.

**1. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

The meeting began with an introduction of the Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE).

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon discussion of the February 11, 2021 minutes, amendment was made to include the approval of the September 29, 2020 and January 7, 2021 minutes. A motion was made, and seconded by B. Bender, to Approve the February 11, 2021 Committee Minutes as amended. Unanimous approval.

**3. REPORT ON SCRE INTERACTION WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Discussion had on how the various Board committees are taking positive actions on working with various issues dealing with Racial Equity. The Chair will draft a document for the committee on the specifics on committee actions and initiatives and add such information to a revised report. Economic Development Committee (EDC) Chair N. Fazio advises that at the upcoming March 25, 2021 EDC meeting, information on obtaining Minority Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) will be discussed at the EDC meeting. He also discussed legal resources for businesses that may be of interest.

**4. UPDATE OF SCRE ON UPCOMING AGENDAS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

The SCRE chair will be on the agendas and will make presentations before the Public Safety and Housing committees in March. R. Fanuzzi, Chair of the Environment & Sanitation Committee will be working with and have a presentation about the Mayor's Environmental Justice Report on March 17, 2021.

## 5. FINALIZE LANGUAGE IN REPORT

Discussion was had on finalizing the revision of the SCRE report. J. Townes discussed drafting an Executive Summary for the report, including how to read the document by the available time commitment and subject matter of the readers' interests. The appendix will be revised to include links to suggested historical context from, for example, the NYS Division of Human Rights, the NYC "Where We Live" site, and the recent report of the NYC Commission on Human Rights on racial inequity. The goal is to make the revised report an inclusive, easy, and desirable read that is shortened. The report should be drafted for Executive review and translation by April.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- R. Fanuzzi and B. Bender made a presentation on the template for SCRE data collection to facilitate research and equity assessment. The information provided was prepared by the working group including Fanuzzi, Bender, and R. Singh. The presentation demonstrated how the various city and state tools are useful in identifying disparities within our own communities. The information shared and discussed included: the genesis of the city's equity assessment, including the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity (which initially assessed poverty); the 2019 expansion of that office to include racial equity (through Executive Order 45); the status of that initiative (accessible at <https://equity.nyc.gov/>); and census tracking within the communities that comprise the Board, including the Population Finder tool. The working group will continue its research and report accordingly.
- Discussion on progress of how SCRE recommendations and objectives have been integrated into CB8 and actions on how to improve community engagement were discussed throughout this meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS** – CB8 Chair (L. Spalter) discussed putting information/report ad on Facebook.

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENT

The committee will meet on **April 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM.**

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Recorded by,

**Julie Reyes**  
Committee Member

Respectfully submitted,

**Jyll Townes**  
Chairperson, SCRE