



# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Laura Spalter, Chairperson

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

## OFFICERS:

**Vice Chairperson**  
Bob Bender

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## MEETING NOTICE

# PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

**Aging**  
Lisa Daub

**Budget**  
David Gellman

**Economic Development**  
Nicholas R. Fazio

**Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs**  
Sylvia Alexander

**Environment & Sanitation**  
Dr. Camelia Tepelus

**Health, Hospitals & Social Services**  
Omar Murray

**Housing**  
Lee Chong

**Land Use**  
Charles G. Moerdler

**Law, Rules & Ethics**  
Martin Wolpoff

**Parks & Recreation**  
Debra Travis

**Public Safety**  
Edward Green

**Traffic & Transportation**  
Kelli Buford

**Youth**  
Dr. Julia Gomez

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**Join Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690>

**Join by Phone:** +16465588656 Pin: 2114033690#

## AMENDED AGENDA

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests
2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of December 22, 2022
3. Chair's Report
4. Discussion with Daniel Abram, Project Manager of Research and Policy, New Yorkers For Parks on their 1% for Parks and Build Back Faster NYC campaigns
5. Discussion of Budget Priorities for FY25\*
6. Old Business
  - a. VOTE: Discussion of resolution to request a Parks Enforcement Patrol Command in Van Cortlandt Park to address lack of enforcement in park rules\*
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

Debra Travis, Chair  
Parks & Recreation Committee

# Parks and Recreation Committee Bronx Community Board 8

## Request for Park Enforcement Patrol Command in Van Cortlandt Park from January 25, 2023 Meeting

**WHEREAS**, the three community boards surrounding Van Cortlandt Park, Community Board 7, 8 and 12, represent a population of 417,226 people which is equivalent to 28 percent of the total Bronx population and is 87.6 percent Black, Hispanic or Asian;

**WHEREAS**, the three community boards surrounding Van Cortlandt Park, Community Board 7, 8 and 12, represent 37 percent of the 728 Violations of Parks Rules 311 complaints in 2022 and have experienced a 55 percent increase in complaints over 2019 levels with chronic and escalating drinking, unpermitted large gatherings, homeless encampments, after-hours noise, motorized vehicles in parks, illegal bbqing, unleashed dogs, double-parking, car burn-outs and “car shows” and other violations of parks rules;

**WHEREAS**, the entire borough of the Bronx currently has four mobile Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Commands consisting of forty-nine total PEP officers to cover all shifts seven days a week and one mounted PEP command of four officers and can be complimented by auxiliary officers who patrol five days a week from 9:30am to 3:30pm;

**WHEREAS**, the closest PEP command to Community Boards 7, 8 and 12 is the North Bronx Command in Pelham Bay Park, approximately four miles and twenty minutes away by car;

**WHEREAS**, Van Cortlandt Park is the third largest park in New York City with nearly 1,200 acres of public space that is used by nearly three million visitors each year including twenty miles of trails through 600 acres of forest, the Putnam and East Coast Greenways, eight cricket pitches, eleven soccer fields, sixteen baseball fields, twelve tennis courts, five playgrounds, two public golf courses, three basketball areas, two gas stations, and three public parking lots;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Van Cortlandt Park, the North Bronx PEP Command must patrol New York City’s largest park, Pelham Bay Park including Orchard Beach, Seton Falls Park, St James Park, Williamsbridge Oval and more than twenty other smaller parks with a PEP staff of three supervisors and seven officers over two shifts;

**WHEREAS**, a dedicated PEP command of twelve officers stationed in Van Cortlandt Park would reduce response time for 311 reports and improve responsiveness overall, enable officers more time to de-escalate sensitive situations and educate the public on parks rules, create a PEP presence on the cross country trail and nature trails and Putnam Greenway, and allow for additional coverage at smaller parks nearby;

**WHEREAS**, PEP officers stationed in the Bronx have stated that an additional command located in Van Cortlandt Park would drastically reduce response time to high priority 311 reports, allow them to focus existing officers on parks in Community Boards 5, 6, 10 and 11 which are closer to the existing North Bronx Command, and would allow PEP to coordinate with NYPD and the Yonkers Police on criminal activity in and near Van Cortlandt Park more effectively;

**WHEREAS**, on October 17, 2022, City Council Member Eric Dinowitz and Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz called on Margaret Nelson the Deputy Commissioner of the Urban Park Service to create a PEP Command stationed in Van Cortlandt Park;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, Community Board 8 calls on the New York City Parks and Recreation Urban Park Service and Mayor Adams to formally recognized the need for a PEP Command stationed in Van Cortlandt Park and to develop a plan for a minimum of twelve officers with shifts seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Community Board 8 calls on the New York City Parks and Recreation Urban Park Service to review the compensation of the Parks Enforcement Patrol to reduce the very high levels of attrition which lead to open roles, inexperienced officers and reduced morale.

### Committee Vote:

Favor:

Oppose: None