



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Laura Spalter, Chairperson

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

OFFICERS:

May 11, 2022

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Bob Bender

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Robert Jacklosky

Treasurer

Joyce Campbell Priveterre

Kristin O’Neill, Assistant Director
New York State Committee on Open Government
One Commerce Plaza
Albany, NY 12231

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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Budget

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Economic Development

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Law, Rules & Ethics

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Public Safety

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Debra Travis

Youth

Julia Gomez

Dear Assistant Director O’Neill:

At the Full Board meeting held on May 10, 2022, Bronx Community Board 8 passed the following resolution with a vote of **31** in favor, **0** opposed and **0** abstentions.

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has passed, and Governor Hochul has signed, new legislation concerning implementation of the Open Meetings Law, which will remain in effect through June 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Part WW of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 mandates that as of June 9, 2022 all community board members must return to attending meetings in person unless the Board chooses the Hybrid Model option, which allows an exemption with timely notice for Board members with extenuating circumstances, such as illness, disability, caretaking responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor which precludes the member’s physical presence at such meeting, to participate via videoconferencing; and

WHEREAS, under the Hybrid Model board members who are exempt from attending meetings in person, may vote offsite via videoconferencing; but will not be counted toward the quorum; and

WHEREAS, a board member appearing virtually must at all times be able to be heard, seen and identified; and

WHEREAS, In the event that a board member attends virtually the name and specific reason for virtual attendance will be noted in the monthly minutes; and

WHEREAS, public engagement has increased significantly over the past two years, and the Hybrid Option allows for full participation at meetings on the part of the public via video conferencing; and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 held a duly advertised public hearing on May 10, 2022 as required; and

WHEREAS, the Hybrid Model, which allows for remote public participation presents many technical challenges absent professional Information Technology (IT) support as well as evening staff support; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 committees may or may not choose to implement the Hybrid Model at their discretion so long as the public notice specifically advises the community when the hybrid model will be utilized;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 and its committees, at their discretion adopt the Hybrid Model to provide the public, including those with disabilities, the ability to attend and participate remotely with the condition that the Board will review its efficacy after six months when at such time a vote on its renewal will take place.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 will endeavor to implement the Hybrid Model after research, investment in appropriate technology, and training of board members in its use have been completed.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public meetings of the board or its committees that utilize video conferencing will be appropriately publicly noticed and include physical locations and remote links with directions on how to participate pursuant to the new Open Meetings Law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Spalter".

Laura Spalter

Chairperson

CC: Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member, District 10
Hon. Eric Dinowitz, Council Member, District 11
Hon. Pierina Ana Sanchez, Council Member, District 14
Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assembly Member, District 81