



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

Vanessa L. Gibson, **Bronx Borough President**

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

MEETING MINUTES OF THE **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

DATE	February 26, 2024	START TIME	7:00 PM	END TIME	8:45 PM
MEETING HELD AT	BXCB8 OFFICE – Conference Room				
ADDRESS	5676 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471				

ATTENDANCE

Present	Lee Chong, Ingrid DeLeon, Rosemary Ginty, Jessica Sosa	Total	4
Absent		Total	
Extraordinary Circumstances	Ted Morris	Total	1
Guests	Chair Julie Reyes, CB Members Chris Calhoun and Laura Spalter, Belinda Hancock, Karen Argenti, Jodie Colon, and CB Staff Ardy Malziu Presenters from NYC Housing Preservation & Development Department: Ted Weinstein, Adam Beckerman, and Winifred Campbell	Total	10

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the December 2023 and January 2024 Committee Meetings were approved 4-0 by those members then-present: Lee Chong, Ingrid DeLeon, Rosemary Ginty, Ted Morris.

Chair’s Report

The Chair reported on the Housing Committee’s resolution opposing the Department of City Planning’s City of Yes—Economic Opportunities proposal to allow commercial development in residentially-zoned NYCHA developments. At the January Board meeting the resolution was approved by a vote of 17-11.

The Chair also reported that the NY City Council is suing Mayor Adams for failure to implement a series of bills they passed to make more people eligible for a housing voucher program. The Council overrode a mayoral veto but the program was not implemented.

2022 saw the poverty rate in NYC rise to 23% of the city’s residents up from 18% in 2021 according to a Columbia University research group. These residents are unable to afford basic necessities like housing and food.

The city has settled a lawsuit affecting the “community preference” policy which gave priority for 50% of the units in new affordable housing developments to people already living in that community

district. The city will reduce the percentages to 20% until April 2029. In May 2029 the reduction will go to 15%.

Lastly, Federal prosecutors arrested 70 NYCHA employees for taking bribes from contractors seeking work at the apartment buildings.

The City of Yes – Housing will be the next proposed zoning text for our consideration.

Committee member Jessica Sosa joined the meeting.

Presentation of Affordable Housing by NYC Housing Preservation and Development

An extensive and informative presentation of affordable housing was made by Mr. Ted Weinstein, Director of Bronx Planning and Mr. Adam Beckerman. A useful question and answer session for the committee and community audience followed. We recommend that it be viewed on the YouTube recording of the committee meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k54N_JnZ3o

New Business

Councilmember Pierina Sanchez will attend our March meeting.

Old Business

Additional portions of updates of the Housing Guide were presented. Updating the Guide will begin when the final sections are submitted.

Budget priority decisions were laid over to March. The listing of last year's Community Board budget requests were distributed to committee members.

Adjournment

The next committee meeting will **be Monday March 25th at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned **at 8:45 pm.**

Minutes drafted and reviewed by Rosemary Ginty, Chair