

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Board Committee Meeting
November 14, 2023 via Zoom

Meeting Recording Link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAvL9zqPWeU>

Committee Members Present (34 present for quorum)

Sylvia Alexander, Jillian Baez, Bob Bender, Carol Blake, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Lee Chong, Ingrid De Leon, Margaret Della, Robert Fanuzzi, Nicholas Fazio, Steve Froot, David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Rosemary Ginty, Edward Green, Emily Hausman, Rhashida Hilliard, Rob Jacklosky, Barbara Kail, Scott Krompinger, Josh Land, Rita Lowe, Oscar Martinez, Omar Murray, Julie Reyes, Daniel Rowen, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter, Jessica Sosa, Sergio Villaverde

Committee Members Approved for Extraordinary Circumstances (3)

Charles Moerdler, Debra Travis, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Absent (9)

Aboubacar Barry, Margaret Donato, Theodore Morris, Rabbi Kaplan, Dr. Julia Gomez, Ramdat Singh, Constance Barnes-Watson, Joy Campbell Priveterre, Eliane Lobos

Staff

Farrah Kule Rubin

Guests

NYPD 50th Precinct Community Affairs Officers Sala and Captain Florentino, Assemblyman Dinowitz Rep. Jesse Lerer, Councilmember (CM) Dinowitz Rep. Frederice Latchman, and Representatives from Mayor Adams - Alina Dowe, Bronx Borough President-Alexis Ruiz and Ciara Gannon, Bronx District Attorney (DA) Clark-Juanita Escalera and Carlos Torres, CM de la Rosa Rep. Jamilah Sandoval, and Senators Jackson Rep. Dario Quinsac and Senator Rivera Rep. Brent Schneider. Gallery Speakers Sue Ellen Dodell, Deirdre Burke, Rob Spalter, Lewis Kaminsky, Christina Carlson

Chairperson Reyes convened the meeting at 7:01pm with a roll call. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.

Gallery

Sue Ellen Dodell - Support of City Council intro 1099 Retiree Healthcare
Deirdre Burke- Support of City Council intro 1099 Retiree Healthcare
Rob Spalter - Broadway Community Alliance re: School Construction Authority -Van Cortlandt Motel Site for a primary school at 6355 Broadway
Lewis Kaminsky - Support of City Council intro 1099 Retiree Healthcare

Christina Carlsen - Court case ruling on school at 160 VCP South 5648/2022

Report from the Borough President's Office

Reminder to sign Code of Conduct. Recognition of Veterans Month and Community Board (CB) 8 event. DOT announced the opening of application for Open Streets. Borough President is hosting Christmas and Menorah lighting events in December and will forward the information to us.

Report from the 50th Precinct

Robberies up 22%. Grand larceny is a problem up 18% in the 50th Precinct and throughout the whole City (people leaving valuable items in cars, rims/tires Hondas and KIAs), officer assaulted on 1 train (perpetrators caught and being processed by the Bronx DA's office), CB8 Zoom 'bombings' being investigated as hate crimes, NYPD enforcing no scooters on sidewalks. The Board requests they make sure monthly hate crime reports are included in the monthly report. NYPD closed Illegal smoke shop on 225th. The process is lengthy but trying to stay on top of illegal shops.

Report from the Mayor's Office

The mayor has released a plan on Artificial Intelligence. The mayor is working with corporate council to crack down on shops selling vapes, Mayor is working with TLC Commissioner to deliver on zero emissions and wheelchair accessible by 2030. The mayor with Governor Hochul announced \$300m for bioresearch. The mayor with DOT Commissioner working to advance dining out NYC to help restaurants maintain outdoor dining, wants people to report if businesses are not following trash guidelines, announced new channel on WhatsApp, and reminding public that 'text to Eric' is available.

Elected Official Reports

Sen Jackson is seeking for introduced bills to be passed. He is working with Gov. Hochul. Contact jackson@nysenate.gov to be added to his email list.

Senator Rivera held walk and talk with District Manager, Chairperson, and community residents and merchants reviewing issues of importance in the district. The Senator is working with Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) on complaints @ocm.ny.gov on illegal smoke shops. The Senator is holding a shredding event 11/29/23 at the Riverdale Neighborhood House from 2-4pm.

Assemblyman Dinowitz presented that they are monitoring school construction at 306 W. 232nd street and will be at the Environment and Sanitation Committee meeting tomorrow to discuss.

CM Dinowitz addressed Citi bikes taking parking spots. Councilman reported on skimming/stolen SNAP benefits, Announced he held a shredding event on 10/29/23, litter clean up 11/3/23. Holding a drive for migrants - toiletries, babies, coats, suits, jackets. Heat season - heat should be on. Holding a turkey giveaway event Saturday 11/18/23 at PS94 11:30, PS7 at 1pm, and PS16 and at the CM office: 277 W. 231 St., in the Bronx: 718-549-7300.

A representative from DA Clark's office announced a canned food drive for transgender awareness week will take place at the DA's office: 198 E. 191st street, a coat drive with NY Cares, and a Youth Advisory Council Meeting 1/13 11am-1pm (13-24yrs.) regarding gun violence and other issues.

BXDA Carlos Torres - Crime Prevention Coordinator, Bronx community initiative of public access to CAMS which is a database on NYC cameras

Report from the 50th Police Precinct

Community Affairs Officers of NYPD 50th Precinct reported on their 28 days report up until 9/10/23 which compares this period of time to the same dates last year. Bodily crimes are down. Most crimes remain larcenies.

Chairperson's Report

Refer to Executive Committee minutes. Longtime Board member Margaret Donato resigned from the Board due to illness. We wish her well.

Thank you to those who attended the New Member Orientation, and a special thanks to Board Member, Law, Rules, and Ethics Chairperson Marty Wolpoff who presented.

Board discussed restarting the search for a new office location.

Board member Jillian Baez connected an internship opportunity. Her student, Crystal Moya, started working with the Board office. Crystal is a student at Hunter College.

Treasurer's Report

\$19,517 spent thus far in FY24. Outstanding issue: \$3525 invoice from FY23 was charged against FY24. Received and encumbered in FY23. This will be corrected, and we will be reimbursed in January 2024. \$10k held in event of City budget cuts to community boards. Due to accruals, Office Management Budget (OMB) allowed us to move \$4k into OTPS and the office will submit a budget mod.

District Manager's Report (DM)

Zoom bombing has been an issue. DM Reached out to the 50th precinct and submitted a police report. NYCPD detective is working on Community Board 8 case.

Office continues to pursue office space. FY25 budget priorities for CB8 submitted to the city. New board member orientation: thank you to our presenters from City Planning, and board member Martin Wolpoff, and thank you to Downey's Bar & Grill for providing the space to us.

Board members must sign the code of conduct sent to them. Please submit as soon as possible.

Office will be hosting a turkey giveaway event. Please reach out to anyone in need to contact the office for a turkey. Stagg group is donating 200 turkeys for us to distribute.

Community coordinator position vacant since Aug 18, 2023. Found an excellent candidate.

12/5/23 next District Cabinet Service meeting asking the Executive Committee to please send in their priorities for this.

Thank you to the College of Mount St. Vincent for providing their space for our meeting tonight.

Roll Call

Completed

Committee Reports:

a) Housing – Committee met for the first time this year on 10/23/23 to discuss aspirational items to achieve in the year ahead, including updating the housing guide from 6 years ago. Refer to minutes to see what was discussed. Next meeting 11/27/23 to briefly discuss a slim portion of the City of Yes for Economic Development as it relates to housing development.

b) Land Use- Presentation on City of Yes with Economic Development Committee. There is a 600 plus page record to read before they can comment on it. Next meeting is 12/4/23.

Resolution 5: Create a new dormitory in the Special Natural Area District at 4800 Independence Ave.

Resolution 3: Facilitate a new 3 story Community Facility at 680 West 232 St

Resolution 1: New single-family residence 4671 Grosvenor Ave. (SNAD) Non-ULURP

Motion to vote on resolutions as a bundle: Resolutions unanimously passed.

Resolution 1:

4671 Grosvenor Ave (SNAD) Non-ULURP Zoning authorizations pursuant to 105-422, 105-425 and 105-431 to create a new single-family residence within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2) at property located at 4671 Grosvenor Ave in the Fieldston neighborhood of Community District 8, Bronx.

WHEREAS, issues made from public and neighboring homeowners regarding over the allowable lot coverage and lack of proof of approval by the Department of City Planning allowing an 18% overage, and;

WHEREAS, not addressing the Rock out cropping as requested, and;

WHEREAS, lack of proof of outreach to the Fieldston Property Owner's Association (FPOA) as requested at the last Land Use Committee meeting in September 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reason set forth above, Bronx Community Board 8 Disapproves this application.

Resolution 3:

Authorizations (ZR #105-421, 105-425) to facilitate a new 3 story Community Facility, is being sought by private applicant, Hal Dorfman at Dorfman Architects, at 680 West 232 St, in Spuyten Duyvil in a SNAD area, Community District #8, The Bronx.

WHEREAS, No adequate mitigation measures have been proposed with respect to the protection for the 48" caliper Oak Tree and canopy adjacent to the property; and

WHEREAS, we have not yet seen a copy of an engineering report to the effect that the retention tanks on page CP001 in the report to suffice to cover and deal with the storm water runoff and provide adequate protection for natural features: and

WHEREAS, There exists a record of a restrictive covenant that limits the of this property to a 1 family residence and this is not such.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reason set forth above, Bronx Community Board 8 DISAPPROVES this application.

Resolution 5:

N240042ZAX/ N240043ZAX/ N240044ZAX Zoning authorizations pursuant to 105-421, 105-422, and 105-425 to create a new dormitory within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2) at property located at 4800 Independence Ave in the Riverdale neighborhood of Community District 8, Bronx.

WHEREAS The applicant failed to notify the adjacent tenant and property owners within 200 feet of the property line boundaries as directed at the September Land Use meeting; and

WHEREAS failure to resolve the issue of having secured a Sanitation hookup with Riverdale Sanitation District or an alternative solution for the effluent and waste discharges that will attend the proposed facility, as requested by the Committee and the lack of an engineering study to resolve the sanitation hook up

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED for the reason set forth above, Bronx Community Board 8 DISAPPROVES this application.

Approved (35) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstentions: (0)

Oppose: (0)

Resolution 2: SNAD Application Authorizations 695 West 246th Street

Resolution 4: LPC-24-00954 331 West 250th Street

Motion to vote on resolutions as a bundle: Resolutions unanimously passed.

Resolution 2:

SNAD Application Authorizations pursuant to 105-421 and 105-422 to facilitate a sunroom and a swimming pool in an existing single-family residence, is being sought by private applicant at 695 West 246th Street in Riverdale, Community District 8, The Bronx.

WHEREAS, the architect and property owner agree to a clause of conditions to abide by hours of construction and keeping construction vehicles inside the property

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reason set forth above, Bronx Community Board 8 APPROVES this application.

Resolution 4:

LPC-24-00954 331 West 250th Street - Fieldston Historic District

Bronx - Block 5829 - Lot 3601 Zoning R1-2 CD: 8

WHEREAS, the Landmark Preservation Commission Application submitted by Rebecca Levin RL Architectural Services, Inc. (LPC-24-00954) requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for A Dutch Colonial Revival style house designed by Dwight James Baum and built in 1918-19 to replace sunroom infill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 APPROVES this application.

Approved (35) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstentions: (0) Oppose: (0)

c) Law, Rules & Ethics- No quorum at last meeting on 11/13/23. Discussed embargoing videos of Zoom bombing Waiting on letter to go out from the office on polling members for those who abstain on vote, potential need for changing procedures for online meeting on extraordinary circumstances - survey to go out to chairs, amended Open Meetings Law due to American with Disabilities Act (ADA), evaluating CB8 code of conduct for the Board, inviting Conflict of Interest Board to address committee/board.

d) Parks & Recreation- Discovery of encampments in Van Cortlandt Park (VCP)- please send photos to board office and drop a pin on google maps of the location to help Parks' staff in the field. Refer to minutes from Oct. meeting where we discussed the paper street at Brust Park and address the double parking issues at Van Cortlandt Park (VCP). Our next meeting is 11/29 at 7pm- discussing Van Cortlandt Park house. New Request for Proposal (RFP) released for the Stables at VCP The deadline to submit is December 4, 2023, by 2:00pm and chair will send to Parks Committee.

e) Public Safety- Renewal Applications: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Resolutions passed unanimously:

- Cocina Chente 3535 Riverdale Ave.
- KaiFan 3717 Riverdale Ave.
- Mamajuana Prime 3541 Riverdale Ave.

RENEWAL APPLICATION -- LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

WHEREAS, Juan Gabriel Rosario, President of Cocina Chente Mexican Cuisine, located at 3535 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on October 17th, 2023, to renew this establishment's liquor license, and;

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPDs 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment, and;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION -- LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

WHEREAS, Ping Liu, Owner of Kai Fan, located at 3717 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on October 17th, 2023, to renew this establishment's liquor license, and;

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment, and;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER.

WHEREAS, Iggy Khoury, Representative of Mamajuana Café Prime, located at 3541 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on October 17th, 2023, to renew this establishment's liquor license, and;

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment, and;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

Approved (35) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff
Abstentions: (0) Oppose: (0)

Corporate Change: Tijuana Nites 216 W 242nd St
The resolution passes:

WHEREAS, Glenda Santana, Representative of Tijuana Nites, located at 216 West 242nd Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on October 17th, 2023, to apply for a corporate change, and;

WHEREAS, Arturo Estevez is selling all his shares, which represent 40% of the business, to Glenda Santana, and;

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct and the Public Safety Committee stated there have been many 311 complaints about this establishment in the past, and;

WHEREAS, Glenda Santana stated that college students were responsible for previous disturbances in and around the club, but Tijuana Nites recently raised the patron age from 21 to 25 to restrict college students, and;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

Approve (34) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstentions (0)

Opposed (1) M. Della

Resolution from the floor: Cote Wine Bar 5639 Mosholu never submitted to SLA as construction was never completed. Ready to open, now ready to resubmit. The owner holds property across the street that remains in good standing. Motion to amend the agenda. Unanimously. Application passes unanimously.

NEW APPLICATION and TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT: Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, on September 20th, 2022, Angela Vuceljic, a representative of Cote Wine Bar, located at 5639 Mosholu Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee for a new liquor license and temporary retail permit.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved their application.

WHEREAS, at the October 13th, 2022, Full Board meeting, Bronx Community Board 8 unanimously approved this application.

WHEREAS, Cote Wine Bar did not submit their application to SLA by the 278-day deadline because a hired contractor failed to complete construction in a timely manner.

WHEREAS, construction has been completed and Jeff Gargano, Owner of Cote Wine Bar states he is ready to open his business to the public.

WHEREAS, a representative from SLA stated the business needs to resubmit the application and get Community Board approval again.

WHEREAS, if this application were to be brought before the Public Safety Committee for review it would be unable to be voted upon by the Full Board until December, causing potential lost revenue to the business.

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

Approve (35) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstentions: (0) Oppose: (0)

Next meeting is 11/21 @ 7pm NYPD 50th precinct.

Margaret Donato was the former Public Safety Committee Chairperson. Great person and big influence. Thank you to Margaret.

f) Traffic & Transportation- Refer to Sept minutes. 11/16/23 next meeting 7pm. Amended Resolution for Street Co Naming to be revisited so it can be presented at two consecutive board meetings, which raising tonight, will put past posthumous date from December 6, 2021.

September 21, 2023 - Resolution

Approval Item: Request for Street Renaming corner of W 230th Street and Tibbett Avenue in Honor of James Packes of Riverdale Auto Clinic

WHEREAS, James “Jimmy” Packes has been nominated for the honor of this proposed street naming by the Riverdale Auto Collision, CitiVision, Norinsberg Law, which are three organizations active in Bronx Community Board No. 8 that are on the list required to be kept by Bronx Community Board No. 8 under the City Charter; and

***WHEREAS**, James “Jimmy” Packes owned Riverdale Auto Clinic at the corner of W 230th Street and Tibbett Ave in Bronx Community Board No. 8 for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that James “Jimmy” Packes was a vibrant member of our community, often donating his time and services to the Community; and

WHEREAS, James “Jimmy” Packes was an example of neighborhood business owners who gave back to the community to make it a better place and, in 2022, was posthumously awarded the Bronx Community Board No. 8 Betty Campbell Adams Most Valuable Merchant Award for the many kindnesses Jimmy bestowed upon Bronx Community District No. 8, including for front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that James “Jimmy” Packes has benefited a cross-section of Bronx Community District No. 8 and the Borough of the Bronx and the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, this location has a specific connection to James “Jimmy” Packes as it is in proximity to Riverdale Auto Clinic, the business owned by James “Jimmy” Packes for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, James “Jimmy” Packes died in December 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the name change will not engender confusion as there are no other streets with similar name in the vicinity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the traffic-light controlled, east-west crosswalk located near 303 West 230th Street and at the intersection of West 230th Street and Tibbett Avenue be named **James “Jimmy” Packes Way**.

The resolution passes with the following amendment to be added to the * 2nd WHEREAS:

WHEREAS, James “Jimmy” Packes owned Riverdale Auto Clinic for over two decades at the northwest corner of W 230th Street and Tibbett Ave in Bronx Community District No. 8, following his family's ownership of Tigerdale automobile service and repair for most of the 20th century on the opposite side of Tibbett Avenue; and

Approve (33) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstentions (1) M. Della

Opposed (1) R. Fanuzzi

g) Youth- 11/19 next meeting. Refer to minutes for details.

h) Aging- Next meeting is 12/14/23 at 4pm at the board office. Mary Ellen Gibbs is Vice Chair. Presented amended resolution urging NYC council to take up legislation Intro. 1099-2023 re: City retirees' medical choice. Members raised questions on CB8 and union obligations, court cases, authorization that will hinder retirees' access to care and national implications.

Motion to table the resolution fails:

Approve (13) B. Bender, C. Blake, S. Chittilappilly, I. De Leon, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Hausman, S. Krompinger, R. Lowe, G. Santiago, S. Villaverde, C. Moerdler, D. Travis,

Abstain (3) M. Della, R. Hilliard, J. Land

Oppose (19) S. Alexander, J. Baez, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, L. Chong, R. Fanuzzi, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, O. Martinez, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen., L. Spalter, J. Sosa, M. Wolpoff

The resolution passes:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INTRO. 1099-2023

Bronx Community Board 8 Resolution to support and advocate on behalf of the New York City (NYC) Municipal Retirees and urging the New York City Council to pass Intro. 1099-2023, which will preserve retiree health care choices by mandating the City to offer Medicare-eligible City retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better than those available to City retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, so many constituents have served the New York City (City) and are now enjoying the retirement benefits they earned, and;

WHEREAS, the issue of healthcare is extremely important and must be protected for the 250,000 NYC retirees who worked for their healthcare rights, and;

WHEREAS, Intro. 1099-2023 is in the Civil Service and Labor Committee in the New York City Council (Council) and awaits a hearing so it can move forward in the Council, and;

WHEREAS, the NYC retirees are being forced into a Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) with no alternative option provided, and;

WHEREAS, this plan threatens retirees' access to the level of health care they have received in the past, in that retirees would be forced into a MAP with limited medical providers and would also be at the MAP's whims for preauthorization decisions that may be based - at least in part - on Artificial Intelligence - instead of the medical decisions from their current regular medical providers, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan would draw millions of dollars away from traditional Medicare into a privatized MAP, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan sets a harmful precedent for the rest of the Nation, and;

WHEREAS, the NYC Retirees have testified in various forums, including at the January 11, 2023, NYC Council Civil Service and the Labor Committee public hearing, that they have been subjected to unconscionable stress due to this violation of their earned healthcare benefits, and;

WHEREAS, the Bronx Community Board Aging Committee unanimously supported this draft resolution at its October 12, 2023, meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,-Bronx Community Board 8 urges all of its elected officials to publicly support the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees' efforts to enact Intro. 1099-2023. We request that the City maintain the choice of the original Medicare plan and a Medigap plan provided at the time of employees' hiring, and not force retirees into a private, profit-driven healthcare plan, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge Council Members Eric Dinowitz, Carmen De La Rosa, and Pierina Ana Sanchez to uphold the City's obligations to its retirees, including its obligations set forth in New York Administrative Code §12-126. Consistent with these obligations, the City has for several decades (since 1967) paid the out-of-pocket cost of the GHI Senior Care plan, a Medigap plan which the majority of NYC Retirees have chosen; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge the New York City Council to exercise leadership by bringing the vote to the floor for membership to vote to enact Intro. 1099-2023.

Approve (25) S. Alexander, J. Baez, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff

Abstain (10) B. Bender, C. Blake, S. Chittilappilly, N. Fazio, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, S. Krompinger, J. Land, S. Villaverde C. Moerdler

Oppose (0)

i) Economic Development- Joint meeting with Land Use Committee with presentation on City of Yes for Economic Development. The committee did a Commercial corridor walk through for the businesses on Johnson Ave. between West 235th and West 236th Street to give information on resources available to them. Permanent outdoor dining regulations came out today. CB8 Business awardee, Tree Army, hosted a Veterans Day event at Bell Tower.

j) Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs- 10/24/23 meeting with School Construction Authority (SCA) re: site plan for 6393 Broadway. Deadline for resolution is 11/24/23. Resolution on the site plan as follows:

The resolution passes:

VAN CORTLANDT MOTEL-SCHOOL SITE RESOLUTION – OCTOBER 24, 2023

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2023 the School Construction Authority notified Bronx Community Board No. 8 that Pursuant to section 1731 of the New York City School Construction Authority Act notice that a proposed site selection of Block 5841, Lots 1968, 1978 and 1988, located in the Borough of the Bronx, for the construction of a new, approximately 547-seat Primary School in Community School District No. 10, including a statutory due date of November 21,2023 for submitting comment, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed site is located at 6389-6393 Broadway on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broadway and West 256th Street in the Riverdale neighborhood of the Bronx. The site is currently occupied by a two-story motel with accessory parking. The proposed site to be acquired by the New York City School Construction Authority, on behalf of the New York City Department of Education, is an approximately 32,675 square feet (0.75 acre) lot, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed citywide zoning changes in “City of Yes” will facilitate development opportunities for affordable housing and increase our student population, and;

WHEREAS, new state law mandating smaller class size necessitates construction of additional schools or face losing current specialized rooms for music, art, science, and libraries, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed local sites for housing migrant families (such as Stagg’s Waldo Avenue/West 238 Street dormitory) will continue to increase our school population, and;

WHEREAS, the NYS School Construction Authority Act, Section 1731, paragraph #3 states: Within forty-five days after publication of such notice, each affected community school board or community board shall prepare and submit to the authority, written comments on the site plan..... Each comment received by the authority on such plan at the time prior to action being taken by the authority in connection with such action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bronx Community Board 8, Community Residents and Education, Libraries & Cultural Committee (ELCA) shall prepare written comments on site plan as received at October 24,2023 Public Hearing prior to forty-five days limit (i.e., November 2023)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 be allowed to comment on the findings discovered through the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) before issue goes to City Council for a vote, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Construction Authority returns to Bronx Community Board 8 at the earliest possible time with a site plan including design and operational details and information not available at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 and Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee believe that after all other requirements are acknowledged, the Van Cortland Motel site is an appropriate site for a primary school.

Approve (35) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff
Abstentions: (0) Oppose: (0)

k) Environment & Sanitation- Discussed Impact of water runoff during construction of a Charter School at 306 W. 232nd street and high-water levels causing damage to the neighborhood as well as letter to DEP and DOB for a stop work order. Discuss City of Yes. Next meeting 11/15/23.

l) Health, Hospitals & Social Services- none

m) Budget- none

n) Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway- none

o) Special Committee on Racial Equity- Meeting on 11/02/23 and Committee wants to express Statement on our values which has to be reposted onto the website, underscore

values in climate of antisemitism, anti-Muslim, anti-Islamic sentiment. Community members should bring discrimination to the office's attention and report to NYPD, if appropriate. Tone in community starts with us.

***Statement of Values:** Bronx Community Board 8 proudly represents the diverse communities of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, and Van Cortlandt Village, who reside or work here, inclusive of all races and ethnicities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, national origin, and citizenship.*

p) Special Committee on Veteran Services- 10/30 Outstanding meeting with Assistant Commissioner Ellen Greeley from Department of Veteran's Services who provided wealth of information including a Shark tank style initiative for small businesses. 11/5/23 Memorial Grove event was well-attended and a special thanks to those that attended.

Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October and November 2023

None

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of October

Not prepared yet

Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting will be held on December 12, 2023.

Executive Session

Discussion: Hiring of Community Coordinator

Resolution on hiring of Community Coordinator passed unanimously.

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 appropriately advertised for the position of Community Coordinator and interviewed candidates; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ardhmir Malziu has been selected to be employed as a Community Coordinator for Bronx Community Board 8 with an expected hire date of November 17, 2023, pending the full board vote on November 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Treasurer, Officers of the Board and the District Manager recommend that Mr. Malziu's salary be set at \$72,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation was presented to the Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 adopted a resolution on February 9, 2010, that requires any decision concerning internal operating budgets be made by the Chairperson in consultation with the officers and brought to the Community Board for "ratification, amendment or rejection,"

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Bylaws Article X Section 1 states District Manager shall be in charge of the operation of the Board Office.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves the hiring of Mr. Ardhmir Malziu as Community Coordinator and the annual salary of \$72,000 per year.

Approve (35) S. Alexander, J. Baez, B. Bender, C. Blake, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Chong, I. De Leon, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty, E. Green, E. Hausman, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, B. Kail, S. Krompinger, J. Land, R. Lowe, O. Martinez, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, J. Reyes, D. Rowen, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, J. Sosa, D. Travis, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstentions: (0) Oppose: (0)

Special thank you to Farrah for working above and beyond in staffing transition.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:56 pm.

Submitted by,
Margaret Della, Secretary