

(Pending Committee Approval)

**Meeting Minutes of the Housing Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471**

Meeting Recording

Attendance:

Present: (5) Lee Chong (Vice Chair), Sebastian Chittilappilly, Yngrid DeLeon, Rhashida Hilliard (Chair), & Jessica Sosa

Absent: (0)

Guests: Ed Yaker, Zaria Mohammed

We had a quorum.

1. Welcome and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of February 24, 2025:

Sebastian Chittilappilly's name was accidentally left off February's minutes. Everyone was present that day. We approve the minutes with that one amendment.

3. Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) Discussion with Sebastian Chittilappilly:

Sebastian explained that the below bullet points are topics that the previous Housing Committee addressed between September 2023 and June 2024. Each year SCRE asks how each committee has been addressing racial equity. Thus, the Housing Committee should explain how they have been addressing racial equity this year (between September 2024 and June 2025). Last year's topics were as follows:

- Growth of Bilingual Support such as Translating the Housing Resource Guides (Already Translated in Spanish)
- NYCHA Quality of Life Improvements and Safety Related Repairs (Capital Budget Request)
- Shared Resources on Legal Assistance in the Wake of the End of the Eviction Moratorium (Right to Counsel)
- Advocacy in the Wake of the End of the Eviction Moratorium ([Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development](#))
- Promotion of "Where We Live" Goals, Strategies and Actions to Advance Fair Housing

4. Question and Answer Session:

How specific does SCRE want each committee to be with respect to addressing racial equity? If necessary, the Housing Chair is prepared to look at the breakdown of demographics in CB8 and see how each group's needs are being addressed with respect to their representation in the community.

5. Planning Ahead for April and June 2025:

Given our discussion on racial equity in relation to (affordable) housing projects coming down the pike, it would behoove the Housing Committee to invite guest speakers who can speak to how they have been addressing the concerns of achieving racial equity when planning housing projects.

6. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Priorities:

We plan to focus on the budget priorities of previous years until the projects have reached completion.

7. Chair's Report:

N/A

8. Old Business:

Year in Review:

- "Tenants Rights and Responsibilities" w/NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)
- The Association of Riverdale Cooperatives and Condominiums, Inc. (ARC)
- NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) Discussion on DOB's Role with Respect to Servicing:
Coops, Condos, NYCHA, and Various Buildings
- NYC Accelerator Discussion on Local Law 97 (LL97)

Between September 2024 and March 2025, we have had several guest speakers speak to the community about various concerns. Those concerns have included tenants' rights and responsibilities, FISP and parapet laws, the role of the Department of Buildings (DOB), and Local Law 97 with NYC Accelerator. Given the wealth of information shared from previous meetings, we would like to figure out a way to synthesize some of the information or provide useful links, such as those shared by NYC Accelerator, with the wider community through platforms other than Facebook.

9. New Business:

How can we ensure that we have all of the proper information to assist people with various housing concerns? For example, if a person or a family requires shelter, what are the steps one need to take in order to guarantee the person will find shelter? Perhaps, we can create a

guide to distribute widely for people who might require these services. Moreover, how is affordable housing determined? What does affordable mean? Is there a way to distinguish between affordable, low income and no income? Also, how can we ensure that low income seniors and people with disabilities remain in their homes? We would like to consider requiring that a certain percentage of the CB8 residents are considered when any ULURP application is put forth that affects housing.

The idea of housing in parkland was discussed. Overall, we are opposed to anything that will diminish the amount of green space in the Bronx.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rhashida Hilliard, Housing Committee Chair