



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

5676 Riverdale Avenue ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Bronx, New York 10471-2194
P: (718) 884-3959 F: (718) 796-2763 E: bx08@cb.nyc.gov
<https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/>



Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

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

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

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Vice Chairperson

Sergio Villaverde

Secretary

Margaret Della

Treasurer

Joy Campbell Priveterre

Immediate Past

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Laura Spalter

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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Budget

David Gellman

Economic Development

Oscar Martinez

Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs

Sylvia Alexander

Environment & Sanitation

Daniel Rowen

Health, Hospitals & Social Services

Rabbi Bob Kaplan

Housing

Rhashida Hilliard

Land Use

Charles G. Moerdler

Law, Rules & Ethics

Martin Wolpoff

Parks & Recreation

Debra Travis

Public Safety

Edward Green

Traffic & Transportation

Josh Land

Youth

Ramdat Singh

Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway

Bob Bender

Special Committee on Racial Equity

Margaret Della

Special Committee on Veterans' Services

Sergio Villaverde

BOARD MEETING NOTICE - AMENDED

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

TIME: 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

PLACE: Riverdale Y – 5625 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471

Parking Available in Rear

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

Join Zoom Meeting by Phone: **+1(646) 558-8656** Pin: **2114033690#**

All Board Members must attend in-person, except members with disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act who may request an accommodation from the chairperson of the Board permitting them to attend via video/teleconferencing and be counted in the quorum.

The public is invited to participate via Zoom or in-person.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Public Gallery Session
3. Report from the Mayor's Office
4. Report from the Bronx Borough President's Office
5. Report from the 50th Police Precinct
6. Council Member's Report
 - Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
 - Council Member Eric Dinowitz
 - Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez
7. Elected Officials Reports
8. Roll Call
9. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025
10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2025
11. Treasurer's Report & Resolutions
12. Chairperson's Report & Resolutions
13. District Manager's Report
14. Election of Traffic & Transportation Committee Chairperson

15. Election of Nominating Committee - *Nominating Committee meeting following tonight's Board meeting*

16. Committee Reports and Resolutions

- Aging
- Economic Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Safety
- Traffic & Transportation
- Land Use
- Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs
- Environment & Sanitation
- Health, Hospitals & Social Services
- Housing
- Law, Rules & Ethics
- Youth
- Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway
- Special Committee on Racial Equity
- Special Committee on Veteran Services
- Irving Ladimer Community Service Award Committee
- Budget

17. Old Business

18. New Business

19. Miscellaneous

20. Next Meeting: May 13, 2025 - The Nominating Committee in person meeting following tonight's Board meeting and tentative second date April 10th at the Board office.

21. Adjournment

Julie Reyes

Chairperson



Pursuant to New York State legislation signed by Governor Kathy Hochul (Bill S1150A), The Community Board is required to post material to be discussed at a public meeting. Please know that the material below has not been voted on or discussed by the full board at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STREET ACTIVITY PERMIT FOR THE
JAMES BALDWIN OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER CAR FREE EARTH DAY SPRING JUBILEE
MARCH 26, 2025**

WHEREAS, Raymond Pultinas of the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center appeared before the committee to request a street activity permit to host a pop-up farmers markets on Saturday April 26 from 10:00am to 4:00pm;

WHEREAS, the event will occur on an unused, former slip lane bordered by Sedgwick Avenue, Goulden Avenue and Paul Avenue adjacent to DeWitt Clinton High School with no impact to parking or the vehicular right of way;

WHEREAS, JBOLC has operated a farmers market every summer at this location since August, 2020 without incident involving sound, crowd control or vehicle access and is broadly perceived as a positive benefit to the community;

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 supports the Street Activity Permit for the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Car Free Earth Day Spring Jubilee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 supports the Street Activity Permit for the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Car Free Earth Day Spring Jubilee.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STREET ACTIVITY PERMIT FOR THE
JAMES BALDWIN OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER GARDEN COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET
MARCH 26, 2025**

WHEREAS, Raymond Pultinas of the JBOLC Garden Community Farmers Market appeared before the committee to request a street activity permit to operate a farmers market on Saturdays from June 13, 2025 until October 25, 2025;

WHEREAS, the event will occur on an unused, former slip lane bordered by Sedgwick Avenue, Goulden Avenue and Paul Avenue adjacent to DeWitt Clinton High School with no impact to parking or the vehicular right of way;

WHEREAS, this farmers market has operated every summer at this location since August, 2020 without incident involving sound, crowd control or vehicle access and is broadly perceived as a positive benefit to the community;

WHEREAS, this farmers market provides fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and natural juices and supports local and Bronx-based vendors, musicians, artists, and chefs;

WHEREAS, this farmers market provides educational opportunities for local children such as a reading hour, family programming and gardening opportunities;

WHEREAS, this farmers market accepts SNAP/EBT and promotes Health Bucks to enable everyone in the community to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables;

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 supports the Street Activity Permit for the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers Market.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 supports the Street Activity Permit for the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers Market.

**RESOLUTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
March 18th, 2025**

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, on March 18th, 2025, Tortoise & Hare located at 6115 Broadway, applied to the Public Safety Committee to renew their liquor license.

WHEREAS, representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior significant disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, on March 18th, 2025, Neem Indian Cuisine located at 3549 Johnson Avenue, applied to the Public Safety Committee to renew their liquor license.

WHEREAS, representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior significant disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, on March 18th, 2025, Moss Café LLC, located at 3260 Johnson Avenue, applied to the Public Safety Committee to renew their liquor license.

WHEREAS, representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior significant disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
SUPPORT FOR UNMASK HATE BILLS A03133 & S03070
March 18, 2025**

WHEREAS, [State Assembly Bill A03133](#), sponsored by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, and [State Senate Bill S03070](#) sponsored by Senator James Skoufis, seek to amend the penal law in order to **reinstate** New York's mask ban to address the growing public safety threat from harassment and violence by individuals and groups using the cloak of anonymity against others **based on their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity**.

WHEREAS, both bills establish the crime of **masked harassment** as a violation occurring "*when a person wears a mask or other face covering that intentionally hides or conceals their face for the primary purpose of threatening violence against another person or placing another person or group of persons in reasonable fear for their physical safety.*"

WHEREAS, both bills establish the crime of **aggravated harassment** as a Class A misdemeanor "*when while wearing a mask or face covering to intentionally conceal their identity and for the primary purpose of placing such person or group in reasonable fear for their physical safety, they strike, shove, kick, or otherwise subject another person to physical contact, including by removing religious clothing, article or headdress from such person.*"

WHEREAS this bill **EXEMPTS** individuals who are not wearing a mask or face covering for the primary purpose of menacing or threatening violence against another person but for reasons of health and medical concerns, religious purposes, protection against weather elements, holiday celebrations, costume events, occupational, trade, or professional safety.

WHEREAS, both bills are supported by the coalition Unmask Hate NY, the NAACP New York Conference, National Urban League, United Bodegas of America, the Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Relations Council of New York, UJA Federation of New York, Attorney General Letitia James, and Mayor Eric Adams.

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 notes in its report [Resources to Cope with and Combat Hate](#) published in June, 2024 by the Special Committee on Racial Equity the alarming increase in hate crimes targeted towards Jews, African Americans, Muslims, and LGBTQ Americans.

WHEREAS, New York State has had an anti-masked harassment law in place since the 1800's but repealed the law in 2020 to address the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS the previous anti-masking law was deemed constitutional after being challenged unsuccessfully by the Ku Klux Klan in the U.S. Court of Appeals in 2004 (*American Knights of the KKK V. Kerik*).

WHEREAS masking to conceal one's identity is not a constitutionally protected right, and these bills adhere to and uphold free speech protections and rights to assemble or hold demonstrations in accordance with the United States and New York constitutions.

WHEREAS NYS hate crimes have increased 69% since 2019 according to a report released August 28, 2024, by state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli who stated, *"Fighting hatred requires our spiritual, political, community and business leaders to take active roles in denouncing hate, investing in prevention and protection efforts"*.

WHEREAS law enforcement agencies have stated that masking emboldens illegal activities such as hate crimes, assaults, and vandalism resulting in millions of dollars in damages, impedes investigations into criminal conduct, and hinders prosecutions of crimes.

WHEREAS, New York is experiencing a resurgence of masked harassment and intimidation, the Public Safety committee of Bronx Community Board 8 believes that anti-masked harassment laws can serve as an effective deterrent against such identity-based violence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 strongly supports Assembly Bill A03133 and State Senate Bill S03070 and urges all New York State Assembly and Senate members and Governor Hochul to adopt them into New York State law.

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SAPO APPLICATION MARCH 20, 2025
NORTH RIVERDALE BLOCK PARTY (MAY 18, 2025)**

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Main Streets Alliance (RMSA) presented its intent to hold a block party on Riverdale Avenue from W 257th to W 259th Street (the North Riverdale Block Party) on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 11 AM to 8 PM, inclusive of set up and breakdown; and

WHEREAS, RMSA held similar events in May 2022, June 2023, and May 2024 without any issues or complaints; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will coordinate with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to modify impacted bus operations; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will maintain a 15-foot emergency lane through the center lane; and

WHEREAS, the North Riverdale Block Party received favorable feedback from the community after the other events.

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 APPROVES the issuance of the permit to the Riverdale Main Streets Alliance (RMSA) to hold the North Riverdale Block Party on Riverdale Avenue from W 257th to W 259th Street on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 11 AM to 8 PM, inclusive of set up and breakdown, for the sole purpose of hosting a one-time block party.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 APPROVES the issuance of the permit to the Riverdale Main Streets Alliance (RMSA) to hold the North Riverdale Block Party on Riverdale Avenue from W 257th to W 259th Street on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 11 AM to 8 PM, inclusive of set up and breakdown, for the sole purpose of hosting a one-time block party.

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION LETTER OF NO OBJECTION KINGSDALE DISPATCH
3-20-2025**

WHEREAS, Kamran Elahi, owner of Kingsdale Dispatch, Inc., came to present on their application for renewal for a 3-year base Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) license at the Bronx Community Board 8 Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting on March 20, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Kingsdale Dispatch, Inc. is a long-standing car service that is in compliance with NYC TLC, and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 has not received any complaints on Kingsdale Dispatch in this three-year period, and

WHEREAS, nothing has changed since their renewal 3 years ago.

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation committee has no objection to the application for the renewal of a NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission license, presented by Kingsdale Dispatch, Inc. 3265 Johnson Ave. Suite 103, Bronx, NY.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 has no objection to the application for the renewal of a NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission license, presented by Kingsdale Dispatch, Inc. 3265 Johnson Ave. Suite 103, Bronx, NY.

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION
RESOLUTION
MARCH 20, 2025**

DOT Permeable Surfaces

WHEREAS, there are serious rain storms with a large accumulation of rain over a short duration, the impermeable concrete surfaces create larger run-off. If the ground cannot absorb the water then there is more run-off. More concentrated water run-off can contribute to sink-holes, a worsening of erosion, especially on hills, and more dangerous conditions for cars and pedestrians. This is common in severe rain events and can cause accidents and/or force people to abandon their cars, as happened in the fall of 2024 on the Henry Hudson Parkway, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation normally uses concrete and asphalt as “hard” or paved surfaces, the Community Board 8, Traffic and Transportation Committee recommends that the DDC and the DOT design group consider and try to incorporate permeable surfaces where possible, for example using permeable pavers on sidewalks, or aggregate in empty lots, and areas of unused (or seldomly used) roads, as well as near the curbs, to allow the water to drain directly into the ground, and

WHEREAS, new construction and new roads are paved, the Community Board 8 encourages all new roads to have considered the design as part of a larger, “stormwater management plan”. On large construction projects with roads or highways there should be a consideration of pre- and post development run-off depths. One area that Community Board 8 suggests is the new paving of Edsall Ave., and

WHEREAS, it would be of the community’s greatest interest to dovetail this initiative with new projects and other committees, for example the daylighting of the Tibbet’s creek as part of a regional stormwater initiative, and

WHEREAS, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Community Board 8, Bronx, supports the consideration of the design, and the use of the most permeable surfaces where possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Community Board 8, Bronx, supports the consideration of the design, and the use of the most permeable surfaces where possible.

**TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURE WEST 235TH STREET OXFORD AVENUE
MARCH 20, 2025**

WHEREAS, an automobile accident occurred at the intersection of West 235th Street and Oxford Avenue in July 2022 and resulted in the death of a 99-year-old woman; and

WHEREAS, during a meeting of Bronx Community Board 8’s Traffic & Transportation Committee on September 15, 2022 the issue was brought to the attention of Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and Deputy Commissioner Maragaret Forgione, who were present in-person, and stated that they would investigate and get back to the community board; and

WHEREAS, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) subsequently advised that several studies were performed to determine appropriate remediation measures; and

WHEREAS, DOT installed a four-way stop sign at the intersection; and

WHEREAS, despite the safety measures currently installed, further measures are needed to safeguard our community as motorists tend to ignore the stop signs and the intersection remains unsafe for pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee is requesting further study of the intersection, including consideration of installation of the following: (1) a traffic light; (2) Flashing Street Marking (or Lights around the stop signs) to increase visibility of the lights; (3) Street markings denoting the Stop Signs and legal speed limit; (4) Rumble Strips to slow drivers down; or (5) Daylight the intersection to enhance driver and pedestrian visibility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 is requesting further study of the intersection, including consideration of installation of the following: (1) a traffic light; (2) Flashing Street Marking (or Lights around the stop signs) to increase visibility of the lights; (3) Street markings denoting the Stop Signs and legal speed limit; (4) Rumble Strips to slow drivers down; or (5) Daylight the intersection to enhance driver and pedestrian visibility.

**LAND USE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
04/03/2025**

Re: **5294 Sycamore Ave - SNAD Non-ULURP**

Building Studio Architects

5294 Sycamore Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471 SNAD District

Land Use Committee Resolution:

CPC - N250106 ZAX for Special Natural Area District

LPC-23-05982 for Riverdale Historic District

An Authorization pursuant to ZA 105-432 to facilitate a vertical expansion to an existing 2,877 sq ft. two story house. The expansion is of 694 sq ft to add additional space for bedrooms. It is being sought by private applicant Jonathan Martin at 5294 Sycamore Ave in Riverdale, Community District 8, Bronx.

WHEREAS, the representative for 5294 Sycamore Avenue, Architect John Field, presented the project on a vertical expansion to an existing 2,877 sq ft. two story house (garage), and

WHEREAS, applicant confirmed no trees or topography will be removed or affected by the project, and

WHEREAS, the materials used, red brick, slate roof, white shutters and paint will conform to the present materials of the house, and

WHEREAS, there will be no changes to the pervious nature of the property, and

WHEREAS, Applicant showed board proof informing all neighbors by certified mail within 400 feet of the property, and

WHEREAS, a letter of support was sent from the next door neighbor directly affected by the construction confirming they will work together to resolve any issues on construction and access, and

WHEREAS, no opposition was indicated either from the committee or from the community, and

WHEREAS, A signed letter by the owner, as requested by the committee, was sent to Bronx Community Board 8 confirming construction vehicles will remain on site and not on the public street.

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth above, the Land Use Committee APPROVES this application.

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

**EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AMALGAMATED NURSERY SCHOOL SPRING BAZAAR MAY 18, 2025
SAPO APPLICATION
MARCH 25, 2025
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Melissa Jackson of Amalgamated Nursery School submitted a SAPO Application for an event to be held on May 18, 2025 to celebrate their Spring Bazaar.

WHEREAS, the street closing will be at Gale Place between Orloff Avenue & Van Cortlandt Park South, from 7:00am to 3:00pm.

WHEREAS, the event has been held successfully in the past.

WHEREAS, the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee approves this event.

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

**IRVING LADIMER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD (CSA)
AD HOC COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
APRIL 8, 2025**

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 (Community Board) annually accepts nominations for the Irving Ladimer Community Service Award (CSA), and

WHEREAS, criteria for consideration are that the nominee has acted on a volunteer basis to improve or enhance, in some way, the quality of life of those living or working in the Bronx Community Board 8 area, and the award is open to individuals, students and organizations or groups with an interest in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board's October 14, 1992 Resolution authorizes the Chairperson of the Community Board to annually appoint an Ad Hoc Committee for the Irving Ladimer CSA (Ad Hoc Committee); and

WHEREAS, at the January 14, 2025 Community Board meeting, the Board's Chairperson, Julie Reyes, submitted a resolution to the board appointing Board members Caesar Tobar Acosta, Constance Barnes-Watson, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Steven Froot, and Mary Ellen Gibbs to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of reviewing nominations and selecting a nominee or nominees to receive the CSA, which is to be presented at the June 2025 Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, nominations for the CSA were received by the Community Board office between January 20, 2025, and the announced submission deadline of March 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the nominations received and unanimously selected a list of nominees to receive the CSA, which were submitted to the Executive Committee on April 2, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves the selection of {insert approved recipients after vote} to receive the Irving Ladimer Community Service Award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ad Hoc committee recommends that future presentation of the Irving Ladimer Community Service Award be conducted in the month of April – coinciding with National Volunteer month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ad Hoc Committee will dissolve once the Irving Ladimer Community Service Award presentation takes place.
