



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

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

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

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Julie Reyes

Vice Chairperson

Sergio Villaverde

Secretary

Margaret Della

Treasurer

Joy Campbell Priveterre

Immediate Past

Chairperson

Laura Spalter

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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Mary Ellen Gibbs

Budget

Joy Campbell Priveterre

Economic Development

Constance Barnes-Watson

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

Debby Allen

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, May 13, 2025

TIME: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

PLACE: St. Stephen's United Methodist Church –
146 W 228th St, Bronx, NY 10463

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. Presentation of the Betty Campbell-Adfams Most Valuable Merchant Award
4. Report from the Mayor's Office
5. Report from the Bronx Borough President's Office
6. Report from the 50th Precinct
7. Council Member's Report
 - Council Member Eric Dinowitz
 - Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez
 - Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
8. Elected Officials Reports
9. Roll Call
10. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2025
11. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025
12. Treasurer's Report & Resolutions
13. Chairperson's Report & Resolutions
14. District Manager's Report

15. Committee Reports and Resolutions

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

16. Old Business

17. New Business

18. Miscellaneous

19. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

20. Motion to go into Executive Session based on Open Meetings Law 105.F: Personnel Matters

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
MAY 6, 2025
SAPO APPLICATION BAMBA FEST WEST 239TH, BROADWAY-REVIEW PL**

WHEREAS, Laura Levine of Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Van Cortlandt Development Corp. (KRVC) and The Bailey Avenue Merchant's and Broadway Alliance (BAMBA) applied for a SAPO application to host their BAMBA Fest to support and highlight the local businesses on Bailey Avenue and on Broadway from West 238th Street to West 242nd Street, on Sunday, June 8, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant requested a single-block street closure on Broadway and Review Place, Bronx, NY 10463 on Sunday, June 8, 2025 from 10:00 am to 8:00pm; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has held the event on prior occasions in various parts of Council District 11, and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 Traffic & Transportation Committee, supports the issuance of a permit to KRVC/BAMBA for the single-block street closure on Broadway and Review Place, Bronx, NY 10463 on Sunday, June 8, 2025 from 10:00 am to 8:00pm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Bronx Community Board 8 Committee, supports the issuance of a permit to KRVC/BAMBA for the single-block street closure on Broadway and Review Place, Bronx, NY 10463 on Sunday, June 8, 2025 from 10:00 am to 8:00pm.

**LAND USE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
MAY 5, 2025**

Re: **5051 Iselin Avenue - SNAD**
LPC-25-03790 Historic District Fieldston
Northern 1 LLC Owner

Land Use Committee Resolution:

LPC-25-03790 and
SNAD Proposal for authorizations 105-421, 105-425, and 105-434 to facilitate a new driveway is being sought by private applicant at 5051 Iselin Avenue in the Special Natural Areas District in the Riverdale neighborhood, Community District 8, the Bronx.

WHEREAS, the representative for 5051 Palisade Avenue, Architect John Field, presented the project to facilitate a new driveway improvement at front of parcel to allow additional access to property for public and vehicular safety and modify topographic features on a Tier I Site regarding the proposed removal of topsoil, and

WHEREAS, it also seeks the Zoning Resolution Sections 105-425, Modification of botanic

environment and tree preservation and planting requirements & finally the Zoning Resolution Sections 105-434, Modification of requirements for private roads and driveways, to facilitate the extension of the existing driveway at 5051 Iselin Avenue (Block 5832, Lot 4328) in the Bronx (Borough 2) neighborhood of Community District 8, The Bronx, and

WHEREAS the Architect confirmed permeable drivable grass will be added and a cobble apron with pavers and Belgian Block materials will match existing driveway and stone pavers to create wall.

WHEREAS, there is no steep slope and no removal of fill.

WHEREAS, 3 trees will be impacted and removed and they will plant 8 additional trees to make up for it elsewhere on property, and

WHEREAS, no construction will occur on 80% of the property, and

WHEREAS, the driveway entrance will be further away from the entrance across the road to another large property

WHEREAS, they agreed they will request a Drive Slow sign from Fieldston Property Owners (FPOA) to encourage people to drive slower, and

WHEREAS, the applicant informed all neighbors within 200 feet of the property, and,

WHEREAS, the committee received a letter of support from the neighbor and no opposition was indicated either from the board or from the community, and

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.

**LAND USE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
MAY 5, 2025**

Re: **5602-5604 Broadway Rezoning** ULURP

Riverdale Garage Corp.

5602-5604 Broadway, Bronx, NY 10463

Land Use Committee Resolution:

A zoning map amendment to rezone an area from M1-1 to R7-3/C2-3, and a zoning text amendment to map a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) district, are being sought by a private applicant, to facilitate the development of a new thirteen-story residential building with a cellar, containing 226 income-restricted dwelling

units, for a total of 184,683 square feet of residential floor area, located at 5602-5604 Broadway in the Kingsbridge neighborhood of the Bronx, Community District 8.

WHEREAS, Frank St. Jacques, attorney for Akerman LLP, representatives from Best Development Group and GF55 Architects presented on behalf of Riverdale Garage Corp. for a third time to the Land Use Committee on the Zoning Modifications for the 5602-5604 Broadway, Bronx, NY 10463 Rezoning Project, and

WHEREAS, the development offers 100% affordable housing for Area Median Income (AMI) less than 80% (Income range \$34, 484 – \$129,206) with 15% set aside for formerly homeless on 226 units comprising of Studio, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom apartments (50% 2- and 3-bedroom units) and a 188-space parking garage, and

WHEREAS, the location is in a Transit Oriented site with access to mass transit including West 231st train station serving the 1 line, Marble Hill Metro North Station and BX1, BX7, Bx9, Bx10 & Bx 20 bus lines, and

WHEREAS, this development is going to be funded with a mix of public financing with HDC and HPD and low-income housing tax credits, and

WHEREAS, Affordable housing development is a high priority for Bronx Community Board 8, and

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.

**LAND USE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
MAY 5, 2025**

Re: LPC-25-09048

4695 Independence Avenue Bronx, 10471- Historic District
BLOCK 6924, LOT 480

Land Use Committee Resolution:

Landmark Preservation Commission Application to Construct a two-Story & Cellar horizontal enlargement of existing individual landmark with exterior finishes to match the existing building in Community District 8, The Bronx.

WHEREAS, the representative for 4695 Independence Avenue Architect Hal Dorfman, presented the project on behalf of Blanch and Mark McGill on their Dodgewood Gate House to Construct a two-Story & Cellar horizontal enlargement of existing individual landmark with exterior finishes to match the existing building, a small increase of 200 square foot to add sleeping room to back of north façade

WHEREAS, will use identical materials to existing house using smooth finished wood, shingle style roofing material, new 4X4 double and 6 X6 width windows with matching grills, trim, corner boards and paint, and

WHEREAS, applicant informed all neighbors within 400 feet of the property

WHEREAS, construction vehicles will park on West side of the house and driveway during construction, and

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

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 Land Use Committee APPROVES this application.

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

**LAND USE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
MAY 5, 2025
DOB & DCP SNAD ENFORCEMENT:**

WHEREAS, the Department of Buildings (DOB) and the Department of City Planning (CPC) have collectively refused to enforce the law under the Special Natural Areas District (SNAD), Bronx Community Board 8, as stewards of the Bronx SNAD district, do place on the record our gross dissatisfaction with the repeated non-enforcement by the two agencies identified, and

WHEREAS, and as the most recent example, while there have been repeated complaints from neighbors, supported by photographic and video evidence, concerning ongoing violations of the Special Natural Area District provisions of the Zoning Resolution ("SNAD") at 355 West 246th Street ("355") by virtue of multiple tree removals, significant topographical changes (including to the extensive decline from adjacent premises) and removals of protected vegetation, coupled with 311 calls to the City for action, went unheeded, and

WHEREAS, said violations continued and were exacerbated by further and still ongoing non-compliant conduct at 355 that has not resulted in action by the City of New York ("NYC") and particularly its Departments of City Planning ("DCP") and/or Department of Buildings ("DOB"), notwithstanding requests therefor by the District Manager; and

WHEREAS, the only excuse proffered on behalf of the owners of 355 and the numerous workmen at 355 is the claim that Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC") supposedly authorized changes at 355, but said authorizations do not relate to SNAD proscribed activities and LPC does not have statutory or other jurisdiction of SNAD, let alone authority to waive SNAD's Building Department's SNAD Permit requirements, matters called to the attention of 355's counsel, but to no avail as the SNAD violations and proscribed activities continued; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee of Community Board 8, under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chair Martin Wolpoff, (the Chair, Charles Moerdler, having previously recused himself), after reviewing some of the photographic and other evidence and due discussion and consideration; unanimously.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8, prior to seeking other legal remedies, formally calls upon DCP and/or DOB to forthwith exercise their lawfully mandated jurisdiction to enforce SNAD with respect to the 355 premises, including securing immediate compliance and restoration, noting that this is viewed as a matter of urgency and significant public policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLBED, Bronx Community Board 8 confirms and adopts the foregoing Land Use Committee Resolution.

**LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
MAY 12, 2025**

Resolution for Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Nomination and Corridor Management Plan Adoption

WHEREAS, the historic qualities of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, as described in the corridor management plan, and the surrounding areas have been appreciated and celebrated for over a century by the residents of New York State, as well as tourists, historians, artists, authors, and other visitors to the region; and it is this unique combination of the journeys of Harriet Tubman and those Freedom Seekers who traveled on the Underground Railroad that create the special sense of place that is vital in telling the New York story of the human desire for freedom and the historic sites they created during their journey to emancipation; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, composed of representatives of 22 municipalities along the proposed scenic byway route, committed to work cooperatively to protect and promote the historic, scenic, recreational, and economic well-being of the 544-mile Corridor throughout the state and agreed to pursue the nomination of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee, each of the 22 counties contributed to the development of this corridor management plan by forming local byway groups, encouraging public participation, and leading individual meetings of the Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, consisting of relatives of Harriet Tubman, descendants of Freedom Seekers, Harriet Tubman and/ or Underground Railroad historians, representatives from state and federal agencies has strengthened the historic integrity, representation, and the principles of the corridor management plan; and

WHEREAS, in the process of developing this corridor management plan, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee has strengthened the bonds of inter-municipal cooperation, and the involved entities envision further benefit through scenic byway designation including sustained collaborative progress, increased funding opportunities for recommendations identified in the plan, enhanced partnerships with agencies responsible for the stewardship of resources along and adjacent to the byway route, and an improved transportation experience that preserves, interprets, and promotes the corridor's intrinsic qualities and resources; and

WHEREAS, fifty-seven and counting New York State Municipalities (Counties of Erie and Cayuga, Cities of Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Amsterdam, among others) have advanced their own respective resolutions in support of the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 supports the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 supports the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 confirms that they will not approve any requests for new off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway route; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 will work in partnership with the HTURB internal planning team and other municipalities along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway and local and regional stakeholders in order to support future Byway program development and collaborate with these interested entities to explore opportunities for cooperation and methods to advance the Scenic Byways.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STREET ACTIVITY PERMIT (SAPO) FOR THE
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ON JUNE 5, 2025 ON THE EAST SIDE OF BROADWAY
APRIL 23, 2025**

WHEREAS, the New York Philharmonic has requested to reserve the parking lane on the east side of Broadway, adjacent to Van Cortlandt Park from 180 feet south of Mansion Road to the Turtle and Hare statue on June 5, 2025 from 11am to 11pm to provide parking for local musicians performing in the concert;

WHEREAS, Nathan Cabana, a representative from the New York Philharmonic attended the April 23, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and presented the details of their request and satisfactorily answered questions;

WHEREAS, the New York Philharmonic has previously used the same location for the same purpose during previous performances, including in 2024;

WHEREAS, the New York City 50th police precinct has not had any issues in the past with traffic caused by the restricted use of the parking lanes during previous New York Philharmonic performances and supports this SAPO;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval for this street activity permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval for this street activity permit.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING THE BRONX STREET TREE CANOPY
APRIL 23, 2025

WHEREAS, there is clear scientific evidence that plentiful, healthy street tree canopies reduce heat retention during the summer and improve air quality which both lead to improved health outcomes;

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Local Law 148 which required the creation of a citywide urban forest plan and Mayor Eric Adams has since developed the Urban Forest Plan which aims to increase the city’s tree canopy to 30% with additional plantings on city, state, federal and private property through collaboration with stakeholders and community groups;

WHEREAS, the average tree cover in the NYC is 22% and some Bronx neighborhoods have less than 8% tree canopy;

WHEREAS, Borough President Vanessa Gibson has called on all Bronx community boards to support increased funding and the urgent realization of the goals of the Urban Forest Plan in the Bronx;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 calls on the Mayor and the City Council to provide at least 1% of the annual budget for FY26 to the Department of Parks and Recreation for planting and maintenance of street trees to make the Urban Forest Plan a reality in the Bronx.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 calls on the Mayor and the City Council to provide at least 1% of the annual budget for FY26 to the Department of Parks and Recreation for planting and maintenance of street trees to make the Urban Forest Plan a reality in the Bronx.

RESOLUTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2025

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, on April 15th, 2025, Bronx Alehouse located at 216 West 238th Street, 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.

ALTERATION APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, on April 15th, 2025, Tin Marin Bar & Lounge Inc., located at 3708 Riverdale Avenue, applied to the Public Safety Committee for an alteration to add to adjacent premises.

WHEREAS, Tin Marin Bar & Lounge Inc. intends to expand their business at 3708 Riverdale Avenue to the adjacent storefront at the same address.

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.

OUTDOOR DINING APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, on April 15th, 2025, Tin Marin Bar & Lounge Inc., located at 3708 Riverdale Avenue, applied to the Public Safety Committee for a sidewalk café to be added to their location.

WHEREAS, on November 21st, 2024, Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution recommending DOT approve a sidewalk café application by Tin Marin Bar & Lounge Inc.

WHEREAS, the Tin Marin Bar & Lounge Inc. application for a sidewalk café was approved by DOT.

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.

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION FOR DINING OUT NYC ROADWAY APPLICATION
COCINA CHENTE – 3535 RIVERDALE AVE, BRONX, NY 10463
APRIL 17, 2025**

WHEREAS, Cocina Chente, 3535 Riverdale Avenue has submitted an outdoor dining application to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), and

WHEREAS, a Representative of Cocina Chente appeared before the Traffic and Transportation (T&T) Committee on April 17, 2025, to provide details of their request which would allow them to use a portion of the public street (the street cafe), and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted as required by the new DOT requirements for street café setups and the proposed layout of tables and chairs describes existing conditions, and

WHEREAS, there were no complaints from the NYPD or community.

WHEREAS,, the Traffic and Transportation Committee recommends approval for the Cocina Chente application for a Roadway Cafe.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval for the Cocina Chente application for a Roadway Cafe.

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION FOR DINING OUT NYC SIDEWALK APPLICATION
COCINA CHENTE – 3535 RIVERDALE AVE, BRONX, NY 10463
APRIL 17, 2025**

WHEREAS, Cocina Chente, 3535 Riverdale Avenue has submitted an outdoor dining application to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), and

WHEREAS, a Representative of Cocina Chente appeared before the Traffic and Transportation (T&T) Committee on April 17, 2025, to provide details of their request which would allow them to use a portion of the public sidewalk (the sidewalk cafe), and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted as required by the new DOT requirements for sidewalk café setups and the proposed layout of tables and chairs describes existing conditions, and

WHEREAS, there were no complaints from the NYPD or community, and

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee has concerns regarding the restaurant's physical presentation of at least three empty garbage containers stored on the public sidewalk at the curb blocking public access to and from automobiles parked at the curb.

WHEREAS, the Traffic and Transportation Committee recommends approval for the Cocina Chente application for sidewalk cafe with the condition that all current and future encroachments on the public sidewalk be removed so as to not impede pedestrian flow.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval for the Cocina Chente application for sidewalk cafe with the condition that all current and future encroachments on the public sidewalk be removed so as to not impede pedestrian flow.

**YOUTH COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION AWARDING THE COMEBACK KID ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
APRIL 29, 2025**

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 seeks to recognize youth in the community who have overcome these challenges, and;

WHEREAS, the Youth Committee has formulated the general criteria for selection as follows: is for ANY young person who is at least 13 years of age and has not yet had their 24th birthday;

WHEREAS, the Youth Committee has determined the application will include the following; nomination form, nominee's narrative, Rationale and Description of Nominee's demonstrated success in overcoming challenge(s), Nominee's resume, letter in support of the application, from teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, club advisors, previous employers, family friends, or neighbors, who have known the nominee for at least six months,

WHEREAS, the committee determined the application deadline is the second Friday of April;

WHEREAS, the Youth committee will present the nominations to the Executive and Full Board at the May meetings, and if there is not a quorum at the full board meeting, the nominees will be voted on at the next meeting where there is a quorum.

WHEREAS, the Youth Committee recommends presenting an annual Youth award to the awardees at its June Board meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bronx Community Board 8 approves the Youth Committee's resolution to present the annual Youth award as mentioned above.

YOUTH COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE “SOLUTIONS NOT SUSPENSIONS” BILL S134, A118
APRIL 29, 2025

WHEREAS, every student in New York State deserves access to a high-quality education in a fair and supportive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, exclusionary discipline practices, such as suspensions, disproportionately impact Black, Latino, and students with disabilities, contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline; and

WHEREAS, data from the 2021-2022 school year shows that Black students in NYC were suspended 3.8 times more than their white peers, and Latino students were suspended 76% more than white students, highlighting racial disparities in school discipline; and

WHEREAS, the frequent use of suspensions results in learning loss, higher dropout rates, and negative long-term consequences for students, families, and communities, including those in Bronx Community District 8; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices, counseling, mediation, and other positive behavioral interventions have been shown to improve student outcomes, reduce conflicts, and create safer, more inclusive school environments; and

WHEREAS, Solutions Not Suspensions S134, A118 is a bill sponsored by Senator Robert Jackson and Assemblymember Michelle Solanges that seeks to reform school discipline policies by ensuring that suspensions are used only as a last resort and that schools implement proven, constructive alternatives; and

WHEREAS, this legislation aligns with the values of Bronx Community Board 8 by promoting equitable access to education, reducing disparities in discipline, racial equity, and supporting the success of all students, particularly those from historically marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 strongly supports the passage of the Solutions Not Suspensions Senate bill S134, Assembly bill A118, and urges the New York State Legislature and Governor to enact this critical legislation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 strongly supports the passage of the Solutions Not Suspensions Senate bill S134, Assembly bill A118, and urges the New York State Legislature and Governor to enact this critical legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 encourages the New York City Department of Education and local school districts to adopt restorative disciplinary practices and provide the necessary resources and training to ensure effective implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 will advocate for policies that keep students engaged in learning, prioritize fairness in school discipline, foster racial equity in the school system, and help build a stronger and more just education system for all students in the Bronx and beyond.