

(Pending Committee Approval)

**Meeting Minutes of the Housing Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
Monday, April 28, 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 In-Person

Debby Allen (Chair, Traffic & Transportation Committee, Bronx CB8)

Guests Online

Christian

Julie Reyes (Chairperson, Bronx CB8)

We had a quorum.

1. Welcome and Roll Call:

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:32pm.

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

The meeting minutes of March 24, 2025 were approved.

3. Guest Speaker – Lead Housing Organizer, Julie Colon from Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC):

Julie Colon from NWBCCC was invited to address some concerns related to housing. Given [NWBCCC's](#) record of uniting people from all walks of life to fight for racial justice and economic democracy through intergenerational community organizing, we asked if they would be willing to address the points below:

- What specific services does your organization provide with respect to helping people find and/or stay in homes?
- (How) do you address people who have low to no income?
- Do you provide services for people looking for affordable (based on the metrics we now use) homes to rent? Purchase?
- How long do you support people in the process?

Just to provide a general overview of the organization as it relates to housing needs, NWBCCC provides tenants with the resources to become educated about their rights around living in a safe, healthy, and affordable home. Likewise, they build national partnerships to advocate for affordable housing, organize tenants to recognize and fight against predatory practices, and provide tenants with a pathway to gain permanent collective ownership of their homes just to name a few of the ways in which NWBCCC supports the community's housing needs. For a comprehensive overview of what NWBCCC offers with respect to housing, please refer to the [website](#) linked here.

4. Question and Answer Session:

Audience members wanted to know how many people pay the \$60 yearly dues. There are roughly 100-200 dues-paying members though not being able to pay the dues does not prevent people from benefitting from NWBCCC's offerings. In fact, they offer a number of ways to pay whether it be \$5/month, \$30 every six months, or through sweat equity whereby members offer some service or resource in exchange for membership. Moreover, while non-members can still benefit from the organization, members are the only people who can make decisions within the organization.

Another question was how the clergy comes into play given that "clergy" is in the name of the organization. It turns out that NWBCCC has had a longstanding history with the clergy and faith-based institutions. Also, some resource fairs take place at churches, but anyone can be a part of the organization. Likewise, there will be rebranding once NWBCCC merges with another organization. Thus, the name will change. For more information about the meeting, please view the YouTube video.

5. Chair's Report:

N/A

6. Old Business:

At our previous meeting in March 2025, the question arose about how to direct individuals in need of emergency shelter. Since the last meeting, Sebastian was able to compile a list of shelters specific to different needs. The information is below:

- I. Families with Children (18 and Under)**
 - 151 East. 151st St, Bronx, NY
- II. Single Adult Males or Families with Children Over 21 Years-Old**
 - 400-430 East. 30th St, New York, NY
- III. Single Adult Women**
 - **Franklin Shelter** – 1122 Franklin Ave, Bronx, NY

What do adult families need to bring to the Adult Family Intake Center (AFIC) in order to apply for temporary housing assistance?

Adult families applying for shelter must have valid, original identification, such as:

- Any form of ID with a picture and proof of age, such as a welfare ID card, green card, driver's license, passport or visa, or picture employment card
- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Medicaid card
- Identity card in the Public Assistance System
- If working, your most recent pay stub

7. New Business:

NWBCCC raised awareness about TOPA or Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act. First introduced in 2021, under TOPA, tenants would have the right to decide what they want for their building before a landlord decides to sell it. Though the bill is still currently under consideration, there is a statewide campaign to galvanize lawmakers to get the bill passed. The Housing Committee would like to help spread the word about TOPA.

8. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm

Minutes submitted by Rhashida Hilliard, Housing Committee Chair