

(Pending Committee Approval)

**Minutes of Law, Rules and Ethics Committee Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:30PM
Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471**

Meeting Recording

1. Meeting called to order: 7:32pm
2. Attendance:
 - Present (6): Martin Wolpoff (Chair) (ADA on Zoom), Steve Froot, Vice-Chair, Sylvia Alexander (ADA on Zoom), Jessica Sosa, Jyll Townes, Sergio Villaverde
 - Absent (1): Charles Moerdler (on Zoom)
 - Guests: Laura Spalter and Steve Matthews, Community Board members; Julie Reyes, Board Chairperson (all on Zoom)
3. Approval of Minutes of November meeting, as amended with corrections of spelling of Sosa, Townes
 - Approve (5): Wolpoff, Froot, Alexander, Sosa, Villaverde
 - Abstention (1): Townes
3. Chairperson's Report
 - A. Reported on phone call with COIB concerning when a Board member cannot vote. Questioned concept of proximity of one's property and questioned the concept of "speculative" impact on property values.
 - B. Reminded committee concerning when minutes are due under the State's OML.
 - C. Reminded committee that, with the exception of items already on a ballot, Community Boards can lobby for legislation but cannot endorse or speak out against any candidate
4. Community Committee Membership (Bylaws, Art.VI, Sections 2 & 7)
 - A. Extensive discussion concerning Bylaws restrictions limiting eligibility to be a Committee member on the Land Use and LRE standing committees to appointed Board Members only.
 - B. Concern over eventual impact of term limits on the expertise & institutional memory of long-serving Board members continuing to be available to the Community Board, if current Board members who will be term-limited in the near future are not eligible to serve as Community Committee Members on the Land Use and LRE standing committees

- C. Suggestion that Bylaws be amended to permit a term-limited Board member to have at least one year of eligibility to serve as a Community Committee Member of all standing committees (not including the Executive Committee or Budget Committee, where only committee chairs are members), thus retaining their experience and permitting them a year to reapply and perhaps be reappointed to the Community Board.
 - D. Such individuals could become Community Committee Members on any standing committees on which they have served within the past five years, without the requirement (based on the longstanding practice of the Board) that they attend three consecutive committee meetings before seeking appointments as Community Committee Members, but would still require committee chair and Board chair approval.
 - E. The Committee fully supported the concept, but suggested that the Chair and others work on appropriate language and bring a resolution for discussion at the February meeting.
- 5. Sergio was asked to bring to the February meeting wording for an amendment for the Community Board 8 handbook or the Ethical Guidance Manual with parameters for when our Community Board may best express its positions to the public.
 - 6. Update on Working Committee on Board committee structure - Sergio
A working committee has been established to review ways to improve the operations of the Community Board, especially with respect to committee structure.
 - 7. Latest from COIB – Committee reviewed latest case decisions coming from the COIB.
 - 8. Legislative Spreadsheet - Committee reviewed latest items brought before the NYC Council.
 - 9. Unfinished Business – None.
 - 10. New Business
 - 11. Next meetings: Monday, March 9, 2026, Monday, April 13, 2026, Monday, May 11, 2026, Monday, June 8, 2026.
 - 12. Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm.