

(Pending Committee Approval)

**Meeting Minutes of the Housing Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471**

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendance

Committee:

Present (2): Rhashida Hilliard (Chair), Brittany Reynoso

Absent (3): Jessica Sosa (Vice Chair), Yngrid DeLeon, Richard Perez

Guests Online: Angelo Mazza & Farid Sofiyev (Guest Speakers, Civic Reset), Julie Reyes (CB8 Chairperson), Laura Spalter (CB8 Board Member), S. Thomas, A. Sulleyman Baro

Meeting was officially called to order at 6:35pm. We did not have a quorum.

- 1. Welcome & Introduction of Housing Chair and Committee Members**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Meetings from March 23, 2026**

The approval of meeting minutes were tabled for the next committee meeting.

- 4. Discussion with Civic Reset Representatives, Angelo Mazza and Farid Sofiyev, Co-Founders of the Student-Led Nonprofit Organization, [Civic Reset](#), Founded in 2025 in Queens, New York**

Why did you decide to form Civic Reset?

Civic Reset was born from the idea that housing should not be a barrier to opportunity. When Farid, a first-year student at Fordham University, was looking for a place to stay, he struggled to find a spot that was both affordable and allowed for personal space, refusing to pay exorbitant rent rates. Facing this challenge sparked the idea for a new approach. Joining forces with Angelo, they founded Civic Reset to turn that frustration into action. What started as a student mission at Fordham University has grown rapidly to 8 campuses. Ultimately, Civic Reset aims to reach as many people as possible to empower youth and create a movement toward equitable, affordable living.

How are youth voices integrated into housing equity campaigns?

What started out as a two-person effort has grown into a community of over 500 people interested in sharing their ideas about affordable living. Civic Reset now utilizes a team of interns to spread awareness about the economics of housing through various podcasts, TikToks, and Instagram posts. They have partnered with [NYC Youth Journalism Coalition](#) – a citywide coalition dedicated to ensuring equitable access to journalism opportunities for NYC youth—and are collaborating with [Fordham Campus Ministry](#) and the Pedro Arrupe Volunteers

to drive service, social justice, and community building initiatives, including a focus on promoting youth literacy.

What legislative changes is Civic Rest advocating for?

Civic Reset has been researching City of Yes and the possibilities that can derive from amended zoning laws. More specifically, Civic Reset has been focused on the [City of Yes for Housing Opportunity](#) whereby updated zoning rules are supposed to provide New Yorkers more housing choice and help bring housing costs down. Though it might not be a cure-all, Civic Reset sees City of Yes as a step in the right direction provided that other infrastructure capabilities and environmental concerns are also taken into consideration when these new housing opportunities come to fruition. Civic Reset is also interested in hearing more about the [Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act of TOPA](#).

What sort of work do you think Civic Reset can do to decrease the amount of people who are unhoused in the future?

Although the organization is new, they are focused on educating the public about tenant rights and securing dignified, affordable housing without falling victim to exploitative landlords. Besides providing educational articles on housing and zoning on their site, they offer resources to help identify predatory property owners. I would recommend checking out their website for further information.

5. Question & Answer Session

Following praise for the founders of Civic Reset, the Q&A session highlighted serious community concerns regarding the City of Yes initiative, specifically around density in areas with aging infrastructure, genuine affordability, and environmental impacts such as flooding. Moving forward, it was suggested that Civic Reset partner with other agencies to help mitigate these risks. The full discussion can be watched on YouTube, and the team plans to remain active in addressing these ongoing concerns.

6. Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Priorities

We would like to continue supporting projects such as the façade work repairs that need to happen at Marble Hill Houses and the construction of the community center. Likewise, we would like to add another item to the budget: Marble Hill Playground aka Orange Park, resurfacing of the baseball/soccer field (astro turf).

7. Chair's Report

On April 24th, Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani established the City's first Mayor's Office of Deed Theft Prevention and appointed Peter White as the office's director. White, an attorney with Access Justice Brooklyn, has spent years representing homeowners facing foreclosure and deed theft. In his new role, he will lead a coordinated, citywide strategy to prevent fraud, support impacted residents and strengthen enforcement. White holds a law degree from St. John's University and a bachelor's degree from Fordham University, and has led extensive community outreach and legal clinic work alongside his practice. Over the last decade, thousands of deed theft complaints have been filed across New York City, with the highest concentration in Brooklyn and Queens. Black homeowners and neighborhoods have been disproportionately targeted, deepening racial wealth gaps and destabilizing communities. Recent state legislation has strengthened tools to investigate and prosecute deed theft. The

new office will leverage those authorities while building a proactive, preventive approach across agencies. The Mayor's Office of Deed Theft Prevention will be housed in the Department of Finance (DOF), which records property documents, and will work closely with the Sheriff's Office, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, along with state and local partners. If you would like to protect your property from deed fraud, [here](#) is a useful resource.

8. Unfinished Business

We are in the midst of creating a resource for people at risk of becoming unhoused or who are already unhoused.

9. New Business

N/A

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rhashida Hilliard, Chair, Housing Committee