

**PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8, HOUSING COMMITTEE  
BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, SUITE 100**

Minutes of March 26, 2018

**Committee Attendance:**

S. Sarao, Committee Chair and Member  
Georgia Santiago, Committee Member  
Rosalind Zavras, Committee Member  
Julie Reyes, Committee member

**Committee Absences:**

James Santiago, Committee Member  
Omar Murray, Committee Member

**Guests:**

Zak Kostro, Riverdale Press

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. with a quorum present. A discussion was opened with regard to last month's meeting and presentation by Nicole Jordan, Department of Homeless Services (DHS). The Chair asked for any feedback on the minutes from last month's meeting (February 2018), what the committee heard from DHS, what the committee did not hear, as well as thoughts and ideas for moving forward. The conversation set forth the desire for the committee to approve a letter to be forwarded to DHS as a follow-up. The Chair announced that Council Member Andrew Cohen would like to be copied on any follow-up letter to Commissioner Steven Banks. A member made mention that based upon the presentation from DHS from last month, there appears to be very little, if any, oversight with regard to DHS. It was noted that the Chair has had a conversation with staff members from Council Member Richard Torres, who is the Chair, Oversight and Investigations, New York City Council. It was mentioned that it would be equally helpful to copy any letter to the Oversight and Investigation committee, chaired by Richard Torres. A member of the committee indicated that he/she was under the impression that DHS has been attempting to improve interagency cooperation targeting specific buildings that may have faulty landlords. Further to this point, it appears appropriate that CB8 would be a resource and part of that conversation to see what agencies are engaged in leveraging services and resources on behalf of the community. The Chair added that any dashboard information or ongoing report that would provide salient data points, but that also ensures privacy would be helpful towards reducing homelessness in Community Board 8. A member of the housing committee stated that DHS shows no transparency and it would be a great idea to follow-up with a letter to Commissioner Steven Banks, copied to local elected officials. The committee will forward the letter for review and approval. A discussion began as to whether the committee would also want a resolution on this matter. It was

decided that no resolution would be created, but a letter that crafted. Data would be requested with regard to the 380 CB8 former residents who were declared homeless, as well as an update on that number, number of homeless for the calendar year 2018, in both monthly and year-end totals, as well as a breakdown of either raw numbers or the percentage of top reasons for homelessness within CB8 to provide a basic performance metric for further review and insight.

A motion was set forward and seconded that a letter would be sent to the committee for approval and then for executive committee review. There was unanimous approval.

A motion was set forward and seconded approving the February 2018 minutes, with unanimous approval.

Members of the committee offered to arrange for the May or June Housing meeting to have NYCHA representatives with particular reference to the Marble Hill Tenant Association.

A member of the housing committee reminded members of the Committee that the Housing Resource Guide, available online is a great resource for members of the community.

Last, a member of the committee noted the passing of David Kornbluth, a hands-on, active member of CB8 and Housing in particular. Committee members shared stories of the great work of David and all members of CB8 will sorely miss him.

A motion was made and seconded for the appointment of Julia Reyes to be the Vice Chair, Housing Committee. Julia Reyes stated that she would be happy to serve in this capacity, pending executive committee approval. The committee voted unanimously for the approval.

It was also added that efforts should take place to add to the membership of the Housing Committee, a committee that has great work ahead and more membership would certainly be helpful in that regard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.  
By Committee Chair Steven Sarao