

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

To: Bronx Community Board 8
From: Special Committee on Racial Equity
Date: August 31, 2020
Re: **Minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting.**

Contained herein are the minutes for the August 25, 2020 meeting of the Bronx Community Board 8 Special Committee on Racial Equity (“SCRE.”) The following memorandum was prepared by Daris B. Jackson, SCRE/CB8 Member.

Meeting called to order: 7:10 PM, via Zoom.

Committee members present: R. Zavras (Chair,) R. Bender, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, D. Jackson, J. Reyes, J. Townes. All Committee Members were present for this meeting.

CB-8 members present: S. Alexander, N. Fazio, D. Gellman, M. Goodman, K. Pesce, L. Spalter (CB-8 Chair,) C. Tepelus, M. Wolpoff.

Meeting began with special committee chair R. Zavras acknowledging guests, and setting the Special Committee’s agreements and parameters for discussion - using the raise hand feature, etc.

1) Agenda

1. R. Zavras noted: The meeting agenda would be *amended* as follows:
 - Voting on the minutes of the August 18, 2020 will be postponed until a future meeting to allow the committee members to review the minutes of the August 18, 2020 and August 25, 2020 meeting together - a vote on both will be taken at the next meeting, with the date of that meeting to be determined, based on the availability on the September 2020 Community Board calendar.
 - **No opposition** to amendment.

2) Resolution on Census

1. Committee member comments and edits to the proposed resolution were consolidated by R. Zavras and were presented as a single document to the committee prior to the meeting. During the meeting R. Zavras shared her screen with the consolidated proposals and edits.
2. At this time, the matter was opened for *discussion as amended* during the 8/25/2020 meeting.

- Changes to the language of the resolution regarding references to the U.S. Constitution were offered by J. Townes, R. Bender, M. Della, B. Fanuzzi and D. Jackson.
- During the discussion, edits to the resolution were made contemporaneously by R. Zavras.
- After a lengthy discussion, the resolution *as amended* was submitted to the committee for a vote:
 - Resolution *as amended* passes unanimously.
 - A copy of the Resolution passed by the Special Committee on Racial Equity can be obtained upon request by contacting the Bronx Community Board 8 office at: BX08@cb.nyc.gov.

3) Special Committee on Racial Equity Report to Community Board 8

1. R. Zavras noted the following:

- At the time of the 8/25/2020 meeting, the report remains in *draft* format.
- While there will be discussion on the *draft*, members of the committee will continue to work on the report and invite members of the public to submit substantive comments, not grammatical/syntactical edits, and that a final draft will be submitted to the Bronx Community Board 8 Executive Committee in advance of the Bronx Community Board 8 Executive Committee September 2020 meeting, currently scheduled for September 2, 2020.

2. R. Zavras opened the item for discussion:

- Committee members engaged in extensive discussion regarding the formatting and specific wording to be included in the current draft of the report. As requested by committee chair R. Zavras, the draft report was discussed by section; R. Zavras initiated a screen share and made changes/updates/edits contemporaneously with committee, non-committee Community Board 8 member and community suggestions:
 - R. Zavras - an “initial statements” section was drafted:
 - ◇ J. Townes - A footnote is needed to indicate the recommendation that BX Community Board 8 will work with other community boards undertaking similar initiatives.
 - ◇ D. Jackson - Suggests using the term “collaborate.” - supported by J. Townes.

- ◇ C. Tepelus (non-committee CB8 member) - notes that additional community boards are planning similar special committees.
- R. Zavras noted the following:
 - ◇ The table of contents has been updated;
 - ◇ The report now includes a “Statement of Intent;”
 - ◇ In the report the use of “CB8” refers to the Community Board and *not* the specific neighborhoods within the confines of the geographic area:
 - R. Zavras and R. Fanuzzi suggest that the term “district” be used to indicate reference to the neighborhoods; D. Jackson suggests the use of the word “neighborhoods;” J. Townes suggests referring to the specific neighborhoods by name, and provided the examples of “Spuyten Duyvil” and “Kingsbridge Heights.”
 - ◇ R. Zavras - reiterates the suggestions of R. Fanuzzi, R. Bender and J. Townes that all committee members become intimately familiar with the Bronx Community Board 8 Bylaws, NYC Charter, and the relevant sections of the NYC Administrative Code.
 - This information can be found in the “Why Do We Have Community Boards” section of the draft report;
 - Additionally, copies of the above referenced materials are available upon request by contacting the Bronx Community Board 8 office at: BX08@cb.nyc.gov.
- Community input on the report:
 - ◇ R. Fanuzzi on process - proposes that once the report is submitted to the Community Board, there should be an announcement inviting community input.
 - R. Zavras noted that an outline of the draft was provided to the community for feedback;
 - J. Townes clarified the appropriate process for how a community board item is presented to the public for comment.
- Discussion: How to present first draft and how to manage feedback:
 - ◇ R. Zavras - A request was made to have committee members submit edits to the draft no later than the end of business on Thursday, August 27, 2020. On Friday, August

28, 2020 R. Zavras along with any available committee members will work on consolidating the submitted edits into a final draft document to be submitted to the Community Board on September 8, 2020; thereafter, the committee will have further discussion on what procedure will be best for the committee to employ re: public feedback.

- ◇ M. Della - after the document is submitted to the Community Board, the document should be available to the public for “material comments” and not “edits.”
- ◇ R. Fanuzzi/R.Zavras - Summary section to be added to “CB8 Role and Function” section.

3. R. Zavras provided an overview of recent updates/edits/changes - the overview was conducted on each section of the document as outlined in the table of contents. The matter was then opened for discussion:

- Committee members held extensive discussion on the following topics:
 - a) “Community Ambassadors” - R. Fanuzzi raised that the use of this term may be a distraction from the goals of the committee; J. Townes provided clarification as to the goal and function of involving more community/neighborhood members in the process of determining the scope and direction of the needs and goals of the community residents. R. Fanuzzi suggests the committee consider changing the term.
 - ⇒ R. Bender - This section is already within the scope of the work of the board and raises the concern that there is little way to know if the “community ambassadors” truly represent the intent of the community; suggests further thought, analysis, and discussion by the committee members. [Community member D. Ranells concurred.]
 - ⇒ J. Townes - noted that this is an attainable opportunity for Community Board members to encourage community members to become more engaged with the Community Board and the Board’s undertakings.
 - ⇒ D. Jackson - encourages the committee to consider moving this item from its current position in the draft to the recommendations section, noting that it may be more effective if the SCRE present it as a recommendation to the Community Board and not an undertaking of the SCRE. [J. Townes concurred.]
 - ⇒ R. Fanuzzi - raised discussion on creating a methodology on how the SCRE can engage effectively with the

community; R. Zavras suggests a possible changing of the language.

~ M. Wolpoff (non-committee CB8 member) - the SCRE was created to make recommendations, not self-define.

- Committee members held extensive discussion the Recommendations section:
 - a) R. Zavras - section is framed by 5 bullets/initiatives.
 - b) Committee discussion was held on the recommendations from the community members, and how these recommendations should be incorporated into the draft
 - c) J. Townes and R. Bender think this would be an appropriate section to make recommendations that CB8 will work with other community boards.
 - d) J. Reyes - suggests that the District Manager can gather information and provide feedback to the SCRE - R. Fanuzzi concurs.
 - ⇒ L. Spalter (Chair, CB8) clarifies the role the District Manager can undertake based on the setup of the District Manager Cabinet Meetings/Forums.

4) New Business:

- None.

Upon the motion of R. Fanuzzi to adjourn the meeting, seconded by R. Bender, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.