

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8
MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on September 27, 2017 at
Community Board No. 8 Office
5676 Riverdale Avenue Suite 100
Bronx, New York 10471

PRESENT

Lamont Parker
James Santiago
Daniella Fuchs
David Grellman
Kajori Chaudhuri
Emile St. Cyr
Beth Miller
Amber Laspina
Andy Frica
Derwin Greene
Lisa Herndon
Ethan Casey

AFFILIATION

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MMCC
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KHCC
Riverdale Press
CB8 Volunteer

The meeting was held at the Bronx Community Board office at 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471. The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM.

Mr. Parker went over the minutes from June 2017 and they were approved unanimously.

Mr. Parker went over the successful events, over the summer, the 5th Annual Poetry Slam held at the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, the annual Neighborhood Day hosted by the KBHCC, the Yankee award winners, an update on the Youth Committee Resource guide, and the 5th Annual IGOLFFORKIDS event held at Van Cortland Park where 150 students learned how to play golf.

Lamont Parker, Chair the Bronx Community Board 8 Youth Committee began the meeting by allowing all attendees to introduce themselves.

Derwin Greene representing the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center discussed their youth community education program, and they are looking to reach their goal of 55 youths by the end of October. The program currently meets 6 days a week and will soon be available on Saturdays. There will be many computer tech related activities which will be run by their technology support specialist. They are currently accepting volunteer applicants.

Amber Laspina representing the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center discussed their community efforts to assist students with registering for the NYS High School diploma equivalency exam and classes. In addition, they are also helping the community gain access to culinary internships, college bound support, meetings with job developers, workplace training, resume writing, and interview training, all for free.

New business was brought up to everyone's attention by Mr. Parker asking what community centers are currently focused on and in need of and what the community would like to see the youth committee focused on. Thoughts about Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Another topic was brought up as well as concerns about how donations can be collected and sent to the Caribbean due to the current hurricane aftermath crisis. Ideas about community centers collecting goods during events in collaboration with efforts by the administration of the 50th Precinct due to their experience with toy and coat drives were discussed. A need for logistics, lists of specific goods to donate, sponsors, and thoughts about donation drives through the Bronx Borough's Office were brought up.

Members of the NYC Commission on Human Rights gathered at today's meeting to discuss what the laws are, what services they provide, and what measures can be taken about acts of discrimination throughout the city.

Recently three vandals were sought after anti-Semitic graffiti was spray-painted, the word "Jew", on a Riverdale home's door. The NYPD Hate Crime Task Force investigated the incident which led to the

arrest of a 16-year old boy and identification of the other two other people in the video. The Anti-Defamation League was informed of the anti-Semitic vandalism in Riverdale, and the group called on elected officials, community leaders and clergy to continue to fight against and denounce the "appalling act of hate" and to "consistently condemn anti-Semitism and bigotry whenever it surfaces in New York City.

"The NYCCHR fights discrimination on behalf of people living in, working in, or visiting New York City. The Commission investigates and prosecutes claims of discrimination and provides training and public education."

WORKPLACE

In New York City, it is illegal to discriminate against employees, interns, and job Seekers on the basis of:

Age, race, color, religion/creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, marital or partnership status, alienage or citizenship status, arrest or conviction record, status as victim of domestic violence, sexual violence or stalking, unemployment status, credit history, or caregiver status.

HOUSING

In New York City, it is illegal to discriminate against tenants, apartment seekers, and mortgage applicants on the basis of:

Age, race, color, religion / Creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, marital or partnership status, alienage or citizenship status, lawful source of income, lawful occupation, the presence of children, or the status as victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or stalking.

PUBLIC ACCOMIDATIONS

In New York City, it is illegal to discriminate in public spaces like stores, restaurants, parks, libraries, or taxis on the basis of:

Age, race, color, religion/creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, marital or partnership status, alienage or citizenship status.

The law also prohibits retaliation, bias - related harassment (including cyberbullying) and biased-based profiling.

A significant change in workplace discrimination was discussed as new equal pay legislation passed into law to protect employees and applicants from being asked by employers how much they made in previous jobs.

Some other examples of discrimination that were discussed were people with vouchers being discriminated against for housing, an MTA worker being pushed down stairs for wearing a hijab, the recent Anti-Semitic graffiti spray-painted on a home in Riverdale, and acts of cyber-bullying against students.

NYCCHR services include the collection of information, processing by attorneys, drafting of complaints, contacting offenders (if possible), and the assistance of possible mediation or legal action. In addition, the NYCCHR offer a number of workshops which include the training of students to become certified peer mediators.

Finally the Andy Frick from the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center informed the attendees that that a residents in Community District 7 and 8 are eligible for a 14 week internship which will encompass job readiness training, various workshops, and the ability to attend GED prep classes to get their GED diploma.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.

Lamont Parker, Chair
Youth Committee