

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2009 AT  
THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

**Present**

Victoria Gray  
Sylvia Alexander  
Thomas C. Durham  
Daniel Davis  
Kathy Gilson  
Jerome Harris  
Josephine Matos  
Sgt. Harvey Melvin  
SFL Carmelo Moran  
Sgt. Ramon Perez  
Sgt. Nathaniel Powell  
Sarah Shaikh  
Sgt. Corey Woodard

**Affiliation**

Chairperson  
CB 8  
Co-Chair  
U.S. Army  
Riverdale Community Center  
Riverdale Neighborhood House  
Riverdale Community Center  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Army  
Bon Secours  
U.S. Army

Meeting started at 1:00 PM.

1. Introductions

Introduce new committee members and guest.

2. Chairs Report:

The new Youth Chairperson, Ms. Victoria Gray introduced herself to the committee. Ms. Gray praised the former Youth Chairperson, Ms. Cassandra Prentice. Ms. Gray assured all the committee members that being a young mother; she is truly dedicated to the welfare of our youth.

3. Agenda:

A. Fit to Lead – Sgts Corey Woodard and Nathaniel Powell from the Bronx Army Reserves have established a youth fitness leadership program. This program has two purposes, to fight for today's boys and girls, providing positive role models other than those found on the screens and in the streets and to fight child obesity through diet and exercise. The Fit to Lead program is targeted at youth ages 12 to 18, both boys and girls. Their facility can accommodate up to 90 youths. There will be nine instructors, both men and women giving them a ten to one ratio of instructors. This program is to run over eight weeks, 12:30 PM on Sundays only. Although this is a U.S. Army sponsored program it is not targeting the youth for recruitment but at providing future community leaders, large mentoring program. Fit to Lead is located at 1015 East Gun Hill Rd. (please check address). All contact information is available at CB8.

- B. NY Yankees Youth Leadership Candidates - The Youth Committee reminded all that the NY Yankee Youth Leadership Award candidates applications be submitted to the CB8 office no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications to the NY Yankees Organization are due November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- C. The chair emphasized that the youth organization make sure that their candidates are volunteers and not employment by the organization that is sponsoring them. There have already been two candidates that were removed last year due to the fact they were not volunteers and we want to avoid the last minuet scramble for candidates this year.
- D. H1N1 Flu Virus - The Youth Committee asked the youth organizations if they were educated on the H1N1 Virus and if they had programs in place to deal with this virus. The committee is aware the city has programs set up through the Department of Health & Mental Health (DOHMH) and the Department of Education (DOE) but our concern is the many reports of parents not consenting to have their child vaccinated. The committee suggested that they contact these agencies for literature on prevention and recognition. There is also a city DOHMH website available with all pertinent information on the flu season. If the organization needs a speaker, please contact CB8.

#### 4. Old Business

- A. Sitting in as Acting Chair during the absence of Mrs. Prentice, Mr. Durham searched the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for funding for the youth organizations. To his dismay, he learned that very little monies from this agency are allocated to middle and upper class neighborhoods. Either your organization or program will have to accommodate a certain number of youth or the average income level of the neighborhood disqualifies you from certain funding programs.
- B. The Riverdale Neighborhood House was congratulated for supporting the youth employees at the marble Hill Youthmarket, assisting the Economic Development Committee in establishing a new green market in Marble Hill.
- C. The Riverdale Community Center (RCC) secured a \$200,000 grant over five years to help keep their door open and their remaining staff in place. Even with the addition of these new funds, RCC still can not have a Friday night program. The Director, Ms. Kathy Gilson, stated that some of the kids that cause trouble in front of Starbucks on Johnson Avenue would not be there and would be at the center if the Friday night program was funded.
- D. District Manager Nicole Stent was in attendance and suggested that we invite a representative from DYCD to explain to the Youth Committee how funds are allocated by their agency.

#### 5. New Business

- A. Chairperson Victoria Gray emphasized collaboration as the word. She recommended the next meeting cover programs that each organization, which were cut, and how the organizations can work together and cover one another. By pooling our resources and sharing information, everyone can be aware of what programs are accessible in our community board.
- B. The Youth Committee agreed to hold some meetings at the youth organizations locations.

6. Adjournment

The next Youth meeting will be held in December, date to be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Submitted by,

Thomas C. Durham  
Vice Chair  
Youth Committee