



December 12, 2024

**Subject: Formation of the West Bronx Community Safety Partnership**

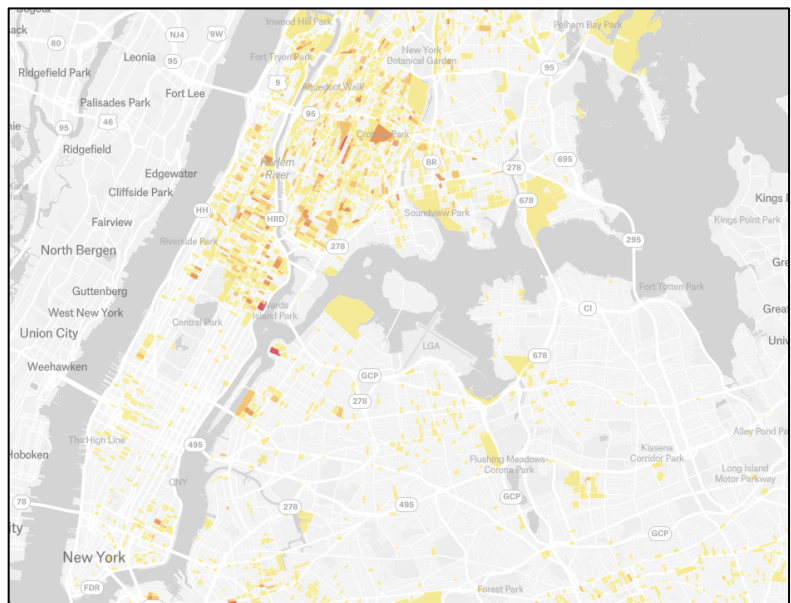
Dear Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams,

We write as elected officials representing the West Bronx on behalf of our constituents, and in honor of one constituent in particular who, tragically, will never be able to advocate for himself. On September 15, 2023, [one-year-old Nicholas Feliz-Dominici](#) was killed in his daycare after being exposed to fentanyl. This horrific event is emblematic of the plight that our constituents live with every day, exposed to violence associated with illicit drug activity, a depressed local economy, and limited neighborhood resources that have upended far too many lives. We desperately need more support to prevent further heartache and to help our residents feel safe in their own community and **we write to request in the strongest possible terms that the City and State of New York provide us with that dearly needed assistance—in the form of deep collaboration through the West Bronx Community Safety Partnership.**

**The West Bronx is drowning in violence, despite citywide improvements**

Despite citywide improvements in public safety, the West Bronx has trended in the opposite direction. This is starkly evident when comparing rates of gun violence. While the city has seen improvements in shooting victims and incidents (-3.9% in shooting victims and -6.8% in shooting incidents year to date, as of the date of this letter) the 46<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Precincts have been reeling, seeing +16.4% and +140% in shooting victims, and +14% and +75% in shooting incidents year to date, respectively.

This is a crisis that has touched every corner of the West Bronx, from [a two-year old shot blocks away from an Easter egg hunt](#) in April, multiple [mass shootings including 6 shot at Saint James Park](#) in August, a [senseless shooting at a local barbershop](#) this fall, and [Council Member Sanchez herself ducking for cover on multiple occasions](#) when gun shots rang out just outside of her district office, located on one of the most violent blocks in the city. In fact, it is well documented that [just 4 percent of NYC blocks account for nearly all shootings](#), with a heavy concentration of violence in West Bronx neighborhoods.



Source: (Gothamist) Where New York City's shootings happen, [Source](#)

Our constituents—your constituents—deserve better than to live in constant fear. Our community deserves better than to be afraid when we walk down the street or leave our children at daycare, as we work to raise our families. We need your help.

**ASK: Participate in the West Bronx Community Safety Partnership with local leaders to identify and**

*Invitation to the West Bronx Community Safety Partnership – Office of NYC Council Member Pierina Sanchez*

## **resource appropriate community safety initiatives in the West Bronx**

We, the elected officials of the West Bronx, call for a comprehensive community safety partnership, steered by your offices, ours, and local stakeholder groups including community boards, education councils, youth councils, NYPD community councils, NYCHA associations, and members of the Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative (JARC). The partnership will draw upon existing efforts and resources, and proven interventions and techniques that address not only the present raging symptoms of violence, but importantly, its root causes, *targeted specifically at the 46th and 52nd Precincts in the Northwest Bronx*.

We request to begin the partnership with a convening of your offices and appropriate staff, including law enforcement, human services leadership, our offices, and an initial set of community partners and grassroots leaders doing focused work in the West Bronx. The initial convening would include a briefing on active law enforcement efforts, and an overview of the human services supports available in the West Bronx, to identify gaps that are ripe for collaboration, and the future direction of the partnership.

## **Bringing together existing neighborhood resources and efforts**

We call on the collective powers of the City and State of New York to institute additional community safety initiatives that would blend elements of proven successful interventions such as Cure Violence, Ceasefire, Intensive Diversion, and others that have brought life-changing improvements in other neighborhoods. This community safety partnership should be multi-pronged, consisting of distinct sub-initiatives, but wholly led by a steering committee that includes your offices, local elected officials, law enforcement, community organizations with access to crucial resources (e.g. job training and access, mental health supports, youth engagement and intervention activities, etc.) and grassroots organizations and leaders most connected to the areas and individuals with the highest propensity of violence. In this endeavor, the City and State would provide essential resources to support the participation of key organizations within the different sub-initiatives and for the effort overall.

By utilizing the collective power of the city, state, and federal governments, we can ensure generational change for a community that has long experienced underinvestment and high rates of violence. We would like to thank:

- Commissioner of the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Rossana Rosado, who met with Council Member Sanchez and expressed interest in such an effort.
- Then NYPD Deputy Commissioner and now Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Chauncey Parker, who worked with the office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat to propose the West Bronx Gun Violence Reduction Partnership, expected to have federal funding approved in March 2025, and which would be a foundational pillar of this overall work. Deputy Mayor Parker has also championed the “Every Block Counts” pilot program, a data-driven, multi-agency and community partnership to transform the conditions and culture on residential blocks with historically high levels of crime and quality-of-life issues.

## **Next Steps & Timeline**

The time is now for leaders to come together to address the high rates of violence that have long plagued our community.

We respectfully request your participation at an initial convening with your appropriate representatives to take place by March 2025, with commitment to two additional meetings in 2025.

Let us collaborate to help the people of the West Bronx feel safe in our homes and on our streets.

Our lives depend on it.

Respectfully,

**City**



Pierina Sanchez  
NYC Council – District 14



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NYC Council – District 16



Vanessa L. Gibson  
Bronx Borough President

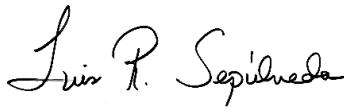


Darcel D. Clark  
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**State**



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Luis Sepulveda  
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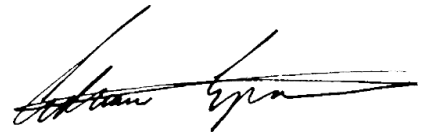


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