



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, New York 10457

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Cornell Brown, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Raheem, Carmen Rivera, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Noorjahan Wells, Jacquetta Whaley, and Monique Williams.

Members Absent:

Isaac Bowen, Evonne Capers (Leave of Absence), Michael Carraballo, Mamoudou Diallo, Marilyn Gurley, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson and Gil Simmons.

Elected Officials Present:

New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Leonardo Coello, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Nicol Aguila, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Theona Reets, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Freddy Perez, representing New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Karime Vargas, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The February 8, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference Meeting ID: 379 707 8969, and was called to order at approximately 6:34 PM by 1st Vice Chairperson Maria Garcia.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Floretta O'Brien.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who asked to address the community board as part of the meeting's Community Period included:

Monique Williams, representing Mo-nay's Thrifty Bargains

Ms. Williams informed us about the intent to expand and to distribute clothes to local residents and possibly to some non-profits.

Melissa Guzman, representing SBH Health System

Ms. Guzman informed us about the programs available at the SBH Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue. The Healthplex Fitness Center at the SBH Health and Wellness Center offers classes Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM. Individuals interested in obtaining more information about the center can call (718) 960-9245. She also informed us that there are culinary classes at the cost of \$5 available and the food pantry operates on the weekdays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Individuals are encouraged to make reservations by calling (401) 203-3068, but walk-ins are welcomed. Ms. Guzman lastly informed us that the St. Barnabas Hospital is administrating COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations on the weekdays from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Bobby Preti, representing Families for Safe Streets

Mr. Preti encouraged individuals to attend the get involved and attend their car accident support groups. Families for Safe Streets also provides peer assistance should they have suffered from a traumatic car accident.

Hector Conange, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Mr. Conange invited us to their Artistic Talk: In Conversation event a conversation with the artists of their "Scaling Nature" exhibition. The event will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM. They are holding their Winter Break Art Camp starting on Monday, February 20, 2023 for children and families. Individuals are able to register for the classes online.

Jesse

Jesse expressed concerns about the “No Standing Except Trucks Loading and Unloading” sign that was installed on East 183rd Street between Arthur Avenue and Adams Place. She expressed that the installation of this sign is causing traffic congestion because it’s a narrow street.

Michael Colacurto, representing the New York City Department of Sanitation

Mr. Colacurto informed us that the New York City Department of Sanitation is implementing a new rule to reduce the time that trash, recycling, and curbside composting will sit on sidewalks. The new rule goes into effect April 1, 2023. Residential buildings have two options. Residential buildings can place waste out after 6:00 PM in a container of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid, or place waste out after 8:00 PM, if putting bags directly on the curb. Nonetheless, to ensure collection, all waste must be set out by midnight. Businesses that place waste at the curb for collection have two options too. If using they are using a container with a secure lid, they are to place waste at the curb 1 hour before closing, or if they are putting bags directly on the curb, they are to place waste out after 8:00 PM and this does not apply to businesses that have waste collected from a loading dock and containers must be removed from the curb by the time their business reopens.

Diane George, representing Fordham Faculty United

Ms. George informed us that they have been able to reach a settlement agreement on behalf of the members who are part-time and full-time non-tenured faculty at Fordham University. Ms. George thanked the Youth and Education Committee for supporting the union’s efforts.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson’s report was presented by her Community Board Liaison, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Ms. Ruiz reminded us that the Community Board Membership application is now available through Friday, March 3, 2023. The application can be found online at <https://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards>.
- Ms. Ruiz also informed us that Borough President Gibson will be hosting a Dominican Heritage Month Celebration on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at Grand Slam Banquet Hall located at 478 East Tremont Avenue at 5:30 PM. For more information, individuals can contact Cecilia Hernandez at chernandez@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Councilmember Feliz updated us on the street co-naming request in honor of Jannie Armstrong and Mary Mitchell. He informed us that a ceremony will be organized shortly after the voting of the street co-naming take place. He also informed us that the design for the playground at M.S. 45 is in the finalizing stages. Councilmember Feliz informed us that surveillance cameras will be installed along

Park Avenue to assist with the illegal dumping in that area of the district. He also mentioned that he is searching for community input to ensure that the needs of the district are addressed in the budget allocations.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus informed us that their office is working with New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) to provide constituents with civil legal housing and immigration services. Individuals can call (718) 991-3161 to request an appointment for Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara informed us that Assemblymember Reyes will be hosting her 2nd Annual Black History Month Celebration on February 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Archer Bar located at 1511 White Plains Road.

Leonardo Coello, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams

Mr. Coello informed us about their amnesty program. This is a temporary water bill amnesty program to help New Yorkers save up to \$150 million of interest when they pay their overdue water bills. The limited time program will forgive up to 100 percent of interest when customers pay a portion or all of their outstanding water bills. The amnesty program, authorized by the New York City Water Board, will only run for 90 days, from January 30, 2023 to April 30, 2023. Individuals interested in receiving amnesty and confirm eligibility, or for more information, they should visit the Department of Environmental Protection's water amnesty website or call (718) 595-7000.

Freddy Perez, representing New York City Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Perez informed us that hoping to alleviate gun violence in the City, a City Council bill introduced by Councilmembers Salamanca Jr. and Rivera would require the New York City Police Department to implement monthly gun buyback programs. At this time, anyone can surrender ownership of their gun to the New York City Police Department for \$200 through a Cash for Guns program. The New York City Police Department allows those turning in their gun to do so anonymously. The bill stipulates that the program would take place in a different borough at least once each month, on a rotating basis. Mr. Perez also informed us that Councilmember Salamanca Jr. is hosting a Black History Month on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 12:00 PM at the Bronx Zoo. Individuals who are interested in attending can register by emailing cmsalamanca.events@gmail.com.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Maria Garcia's chairperson's report included the following information:

- Ms. Garcia informed us that there are two By-Laws amendments. The amendments are in regards to attendance policy and in-person sitting arrangements.
- Ms. Garcia encouraged us to attend Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr's Black History Month Celebration that's occurring on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 12:00 PM at the Bronx Zoo.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

Mr. Moure-Punnett's district manager's report included the following information:

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett updated us on the letter to the New York City Department of Homeless Services in regards to the proposed shelter on Webster Avenue and his efforts to find a location for a meeting with Bronx Community Board #5.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed to convert the Nabila Newsstand at 413 Easter Fordham Road into a Street Deliveristas Hub — a spot for delivery workers to rest and recharge. However, because of the Community Board's advocacy, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation decided to renew the lease on the newsstand, so Nabila can apply to stay.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also thanked Board Members John Barczak and Paul Ramirez for assisting in organizing the recent Meet and Greet event.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also reminded Board Members to sign up to be a member of a committee if they haven't done so already.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee was informed about the New York City Department of Worker and Consumer Protection (DCWP)'s Free Tax Prep and the NYC Financial Empowerment Center. She also reported that Economic Development Committee discussed and planned the East Tremont Avenue Merchant meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Grand Slam Banquet Hall located at 478 East Tremont Avenue.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee discussed the New York City Department of Design and Construction and Department of Transportation's East 177th Street, East Tremont Avenue and Devoe Avenue project with the Bronx River Alliance. The Environment and Parks Committee also discussed the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's proposal to convert the Nabila Newsstand at 413 Easter Fordham Road into a Street Deliveristas Hub — a spot for delivery workers to rest and recharge. The Department of Parks and Recreation stated that the newsstand was supposed to close on March 14, 2023, however, the newsstand have received notice of that the lease will be renewed.

Ms. Maria Garcia, Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Garcia reported that the Executive Committee discussed the responsibilities of a Committee Chairperson and the responsibilities of providing a committee report at Community Board meetings and committee meetings minutes.

Mr. Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the need for more housing in New York City, and the organization's interest in making housing construction easier through changes in State law with 5 Borough Housing Movement. The organization advocates for easier conversion of office space into housing, lifting the Floor Area Ratio cap to allow for more units per lot, and for tax incentives to build permanently affordable housing. Mr. Franz informed us that the Housing and Land-Use Committee recommend that a letter of support be issued in support of the 5 Borough Housing Movement's proposals and efforts to the address the housing needs in the City.

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety Committee reviewed liquor license applications for the following establishments: Clinton Hall 601 East 189th Street, Avenue Gyro 2356 Arthur Avenue, Boca Restaurant & Steak House 2458 Webster Avenue, Copas Lounge 894 East Tremont Avenue and Roy's Restaurant and Bar located at 1951 Southern Boulevard. After careful review and consideration, the Public Safety Committee issued a recommendation for these establishments. Ms. Rivera also informed us that the New York City Fire Department announced that there are Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Paramedic or Fire Protection Inspector opportunities available.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett, reporting on behalf of the Youth and Education Committee Chairperson, Michael Caraballo, who was absent

Mr. Moure-Punnett reported that the Youth and Education Committee met with Fordham Faculty United and discussed the union's efforts to seek pay increases, health benefits, and equal representation for part-time and full-time non-tenured faculty at Fordham University. The Youth and Education Committee also discussed a possible Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) enrollment event.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-five (25) members.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to issue a letter of support to 5 Borough Housing Movement, calling for a change in the New York State Multiple Dwelling Law (MDL) to allow the flexibility for offices to convert to housing if they so choose, lift the New York State FAR cap to allow more housing to be built, and provide a tax incentive for permanent affordable housing was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Floretta O'Brien, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, three oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member Maria Latimer was not present during the voting of this motion.)***
- 2. A motion to issue a letter to Commissioner Thomas Foley from the New York City Department of Design and Construction requesting to expedite the reconstruction of East 177th Street, Devoe Avenue, and Sheridan Expressway Ramp was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Ms.**

Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

3. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Transportation requesting a summary of their efforts to seek concessionaires for the Fordham Plaza Market kiosk was made by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, seconded by Ms. Margie Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-three in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
4. A motion to remove Clarita Bailon for failure to comply with the probationary period set forth by the Disciplinary Committee in December 2022 was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of six in favor, sixteen oppositions, and two abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
5. A motion to remove Board Member Samsodeen Raheem for failure to comply with the probationary period set forth by the Disciplinary Committee in January 2023 was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of six in favor, sixteen oppositions, and two abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
6. A motion to remove Board Member Maria Ruiz Gutierrez for failure to comply with the probationary period set forth by the Disciplinary Committee in December 2022 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of six in favor, sixteen oppositions, and two abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
7. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of December 14, 2022 was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
8. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of January 11, 2023 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Floretta O'Brien, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
9. A motion to request that the Disciplinary Committee review and determine Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines and practices for Bronx Community Board #6's public and in-person meetings was made Ms. Noorjahan Wells, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member John Barczak was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the February 8, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023

NAME	ATTENDANCE	LOS HOUSING MOVEMENT	LETTER TO DDC COMMISSIONER	LETTER TO DOT RE:FORDHAM PLAZA KIOSK	REMOVE CLARITA BAILON	REMOVE SAMSODEEN RAHEEM	REMOVE MARIA RUIZ	DECEMBER MINUTES	JANUARY MINUTES	ADA ACCESSIBILITY FOR MEETINGS	ADJOURNMENT
Clarita Bailon	Present	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Barczak	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes							
Isaac Bowen											
Cornell Brown	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evonne Capers	Leave of Absense										
Michael Caraballo											
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sadija Cekovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mamoudou Diallo											
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marilyn Gurley											
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laura James	Present	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present										
Magdamary Marciano	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Francene Miller											
Michael Nelson	Leave of Absense										
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lamont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	No	Yes	Abstain	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samsondeen Raheem	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Ramirez											
Carmen Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kristine Rivera											
Carol Robinson											
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons											
Noorjahan Wells	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monique Williams	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes