



**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, May 10, 2023

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, John Barzack, Isaac Bowen, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Laura James, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Rahem, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Paul Ramirez, Carol Robinson, Gil Simmons, Noorjahan Wells, and Monique Williams.

Members Absent:

Cornell Brown, Marilyn Gurley, Audrey Harden, Maria Latimer, Francene Miller (Leave of Absence), Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, and Jacquetta Whaley

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Ciara Gannon, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Nicol Aguila, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Nanette Alvarado, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres
Meiling Viera-Degaldo, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The May 10, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Communications Meeting ID: 379 707 8969, and was called to order at approximately 6:31 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Noorjahan Wells.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Melissa Guzman, representing SBH Health System

Ms. Guzman informed us about the programs available at the SBH Health and Wellness Center. Ms. Guzman informed us about the resources available at the Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue. They offer cooking classes for a rate of \$5 a month, health-related services and have food distribution. If an individual is interested in these resources, they can contact the Health and Wellness Center by telephone at (718) 960-9000.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Director of Community Boards, Ms. Ciara Gannon. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Ms. Gannon informed us that the Community Board Membership deadline has passed. She is currently in the process of the reviewing applications and conducting interviews for both new applicants and reappointments. She estimates that the process will be completed within 2-3 weeks.
- Ms. Gannon also announced the commencement of Bronx Week. Bronx Week, a tradition for more than 40 years, celebrates the borough with a parade, festivals, live music, a unique trolley tour and, of course, the induction of the latest additions to the Bronx Walk of Fame. Bronx Week will be held from May 8, 2023 through May 11, 2023. Individuals can find more information about the celebration events by visiting: <https://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/events/>.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Nanette Alvarado, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Alvarado informed us that Congressman Torres' district office is now located at 540 East Fordham Road. Individuals can contact their office by telephone at (718) 503-9610 to schedule an appointment for assistance. Ms. Alvarado also informed us that the Office of Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration will be in the district from May 17, 2023 through May 19, 2023 at 400 East Fordham Road.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus informed us that Senator Sepulveda worked towards the passing of Senate Bill S2789 in the Senate. This bill amends the definition of a "victim of a sexual offense" to include victims of revenge porn, granting them access to the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). The expansion of the ACP will provide crucial support and protection to these individuals during the legal process. He also

informed us that Senator Sepulveda is working towards identifying illegal adult-use cannabis shops within the district and ensuring that they obtain the require licensing. He is also working with the 48th Precinct and introduced Bill S5158 in the Senate that establishes an electric scooter operator's safety manual, licensing requirement and insurance requirement. Mr. Cardus also informed us that they are still offering free legal assistance with New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) by appointment. Their district office is located at 900 Rogers Place.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara announced that Assemblymember Reyes will be having a shredding event in the district on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at Lambert Houses' Parking Zone located at 988 East 180th Street from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Nicol Aguila, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Ms. Aguila informed us that Council Member Feliz is continuing to assist individuals with immigration issues by providing assistance with an immigration lawyer in his district office. Individuals can contact his district office by telephone at (718) 842-8100 to schedule an appointment.

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena informed us that Council Member Feliz is determined to address the fires that have occurred in the district as a result of the electric bicycles and scooters. He also informed us that the he has introduced a bill that will make it unlawful to operate a motor vehicle with a fraudulent license plate, including a fraudulent temporary license plate, or an expired license plate, including an expired temporary license plate, and would set civil penalties for such violations. It would also set a 10 business day cure period for the violation of operating a motor vehicle with an expired license plate, including an expired temporary license plate. Mr. Baena also announced that Council Member Feliz will be having his Easter Spring Brunch on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the New York Botanical Garden's Garden Terrace Room.

Leonardo Coello, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams

Mr. Coello announced that the Neighborhood Support Team (NST) will work with existing City resources in addressing quality of life issues in specific geographic areas over the course of one year. NSTs use the insights and ideas of local communities to develop a creative strategy for addressing the identified quality of life concerns. Individuals can find more information by visiting: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/cau/support-teams/support-teams.page>. He also announced that the voting for People's Money, NYC's first-ever citywide participatory budgeting (PB) process has started. All New Yorkers age 11 and up, regardless of immigration status, have the opportunity to decide how to spend \$5 million of mayoral expense funding on projects in their community. The People's Money is the first citywide process utilizing Mayoral expense funding. Expense funding can be used for projects and services, and the citywide process allows all New Yorkers to participate, regardless of the council district they live in. Individuals can learn more about the process by visiting www.participate.nyc.gov.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Evonne Capers chairperson's report included the following information:

- **Ms. Capers informed us that Bronx Community Board #6 participate in the street co-naming for Jannie Armstrong and Mary Mitchell.**
- **Ms. Capers also reminded Board Members about the attendance policy established in our March Community Board meeting, which lists failure to attend three consecutive committee meetings as grounds for removal. If there are issues with the current committee membership, Board Members are advise to notify the Board's district office.**
- **Ms. Capers also informed us about the proposed amendment for Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding the removal of the Veterans' Committee. The proposed amendment would fold the Veterans Committee into the Health and Human Services Committee.**
- **Ms. Capers announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will hosting a rally for the delay of the Devoe Avenue, East 177th Street, Boston Road Reconstruction project on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 2:00 PM.**

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that the joint meeting with Bronx Community Board #5 to discuss shelter siting has been rescheduled for Monday, June 12 at 6:00 PM at 2190 Folin Street.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that the Fordham Law Clinic is expected to provide onsite legal services at the district office this fall. They have met with Crotona Homeowner's Association to discuss liability issues in the meantime.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that as a result of the tenants of 2277 Bathgate Avenue that spoke during the Community Period at our April Community Board Meeting, he hosted a tenant meeting in the building's lobby with tenants who have issues in their apartment units.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that the New York City Department of City Planning in close consultation with the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) is proposing a citywide zoning text amendment to implement changes to the City's Zoning Resolution to remove impediments to, and expand opportunities for, decarbonization projects within all zoning districts, and across all 59 of the City's Community Districts.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Rosa Peraza, By-Laws Ad-Hoc Committee Chairperson

Ms. Peraza informed us that the By-Laws Ad-Hoc Committee appointed a Chairperson and Co-Chairperson and determined that the reports at the Community Board meetings will be done by the members of the committee on a rotation basis. They also began the reviewing process of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws and made recommendations to Article 1.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa informed us that the Environment and Parks Committee was informed that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation held a scope meeting in regards to the construction of the Walter Gladwin Recreation Center. The Environment and Parks Committee is excited for this project to be happening because there isn't a recreation center in the district.

Ms. Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera informed us that the Health and Human Services Committee discussed the installation of a 5G street poles on East 185th Street and Prospect Avenue that was received by New York City Office of Technology and Innovation, however, they have decided not to move forward with the proposed location for this installation. The Health and Human Services Committee was concerned about the radiation released from the 5G street poles and they intend to discourage the implementation of any 5G street poles in the district in order to prevent an over saturation of installments.

Mr. John Barczak, LGBTQI/TGNB Committee Chairperson

Mr. Barczak reported that the LGBTQI/TGNB Committee was informed about the services offered in Bronx Parent Housing Network (BPHN) Inc.'s HIV/AIDS program. The committee also informed about the services offered at Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE).

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety Committee reviewed liquor license applications for the following establishments: 609 Edibles Inc. located at 2410 Arthur Avenue, Ajo y Oregano Restaurant located at 621 Crescent Avenue, Aramack Services Inc. located at 441 East Fordham Road, Dominick's Bar and Grill located at 2335 Arthur Avenue, Full Moon Pizzeria located at 600 East 187th Street, Gean Bean Inc. located at 2344 Arthur Avenue, and Kairo's NYC Restaurant and Lounge located at 4371 Third Avenue. After careful review and consideration, the Public Safety Committee issued a recommendation for these establishments. The Public Safety Committee was informed that Release the Grip is located at 779 Garden Street. Release the Grip is an anti-gun violence organization at which they offer community therapeutic services, employment readiness, and leadership classes to the recently released incarcerated youth in the Belmont area of the district.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett, reporting on behalf of the Sanitation Committee Chairperson, Maria Latimer, who was absent

District Manager Moure-Punnett reported that the Sanitation Committee discussed the New York City Department of Sanitation's setout times as part of the City's commitment to keeping our streets clean. The Sanitation Committee also discussed the complaints received from constituents regarding sanitation issues by the Community Board. The Community Board has received litter basket placement requests, dirty sidewalk and illegal dumping complaints.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett, reporting on behalf of the Transportation Committee Chairperson, Lisa Sanchez, who was absent

District Manager Moure-Punnett reported that the Transportation Committee discussed the New York City Department of Transportation is on the Citi Bike Phase 3 Expansion, which focuses on Bronx Community Boards #6 and #8. The Transportation Committee was informed that in 2009, East

Tremont Avenue between Webster Avenue and Boston Road was renamed to Hector Lavoe Avenue, in honor of the late salsa musician through a New York City Council law. The Transportation Committee recommended against pursuing sign installation unless a stronger connection between the singer and neighborhood is uncovered. The committee prefers to use street renaming ceremonies to honor those who have contributed directly to our community. The Transportation Committee also expressed concerns in regard to the Safety Improvement Project on Southern Boulevard between East 182nd Street and East Fordham Road.

Mr. Michael Caraballo, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Mr. Caraballo reported that the Youth and Education Committee briefly reviewed the applications received for the 2023 New York Yankees Community Council Youth Leadership Award and the voting process. The committee received a total of sixteen (16) applications. The Youth and Education Committee members were assigned to review the applications and submit their top five candidates by voting.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-five (24) members.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to issue a letter of support to the Belmont Library and Enrico Fermi Cultural Center in support of their Hip-Hop 50th Anniversary Block Party was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, second by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.
2. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of April 12, 2023 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, second by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the May 10, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

