



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

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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, April 12, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Clarita Bailon, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Marilyn Gurley, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Rahem, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Jacquetta Whaley, and Monique Williams.

**Members Absent:**

John Barzack, Isaac Bowen, Margarita Espinosa, Francene Miller (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Gil Simmons and Noorjahan Wells.

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Ciara Gannon, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson  
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz  
Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda  
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes  
Greer Mayhew, representing New York City Comptroller Brad Lander

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The April 12, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the West Farms Library located at 2085 Honeywell Avenue, Bronx, New York 10460, and was called to order at approximately 6:54 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

**II. INVOCATION**

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Jacquetta Whaley.

### **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, 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.

#### **Temilolu Adeola, representing the CUNY School of Medicine**

Ms. Adeola informed us that she and her classmates are conducting a project regarding the health and social aspects within East Tremont community of the Bronx. She encourage us to fill out the survey to contribute towards their evaluation.

#### **Mario Figueroa, representing Drew Gardens**

Mr. Figueroa requested an update in regards to the reconstruction of East 177<sup>th</sup> Street, Devoe Avenue and Sheridan Expressway Ramp project. He expressed pedestrian safety concerns. He also requested our assistance with obtaining full garden access from the New York State Department of Transportation.

#### **Jeanette Bocanegra, representing Justice for Families**

Ms. Bocanegra informed us that Justice for Families is a national juvenile justice reform organization that is founded and run by families who have been directly impacted by the juvenile justice system. They work to advance systemic policy and practice change while also building a base of those directly impacted, so they can individually help other families, and collectively sustain the reforms needed at the national and local levels. Ms. Bocanegra also requested assistance with obtaining services and resources that are available in the district for the youth and young adults that were in the justice system.

#### **Gail Nathan, representing the Bronx River Art Center**

Ms. Nathan announced that the Bronx River Art Center is offering fine arts and media classes for children, teens, young adults, and adults beginning April 17, 2023. She also invited us to the *PEREMOHA/victory/ukr.* exhibition that was curated by Irina Danilova to present five brave Ukrainian Women artists responding to their experience of the war. The exhibition will be presented until April 23, 2023.

#### **Hector Torres**

Mr. Torres requested assistance from the us in regards to the increase of rat sighting in the district.

**Matthew Martinez, representing the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Community Council**

Mr. Martinez announced that the next 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Community Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at Abraham Plaza located at 1870 Crotona Avenue.

**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.

**V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**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 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.

**Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera**

Ms. Salazar informed us that Senator Rivera is working to pass a the Coverage for All legislation that will expand health care services to undocumented immigrants. She also informed us that their office is offering immigration services from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Their office is located at 2432 Grand Concourse. Individuals can contact their office by telephone at (718) 933-2034.

**Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Mr. Cardus informed us that Senator Sepulveda worked towards the passing of Senate Bill S05346 that relates to activities permitted in premises licensed for adult-use on-premises consumption of cannabis and Senate Bill S5981 that requires all edible cannabis products be packaged in child resistant packaging. Ms. 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.

## **Greer Mayhew, representing New York City Comptroller Brad Lander**

Mr. Mayhew informed us that Comptroller Lander's report on the impact of staff vacancies on agency performance and his comments on New York City's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2023 – 2027 has been published. Individuals can contact their office by telephone at (929) 512-1647.

### **VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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

- Ms. Capers informed us that Bronx Community Board #6 will be taking an role in resisting the cuts to schools, libraries, and public colleges as proposed by New York City Mayor Eric Adams, and will be supporting the New York City Council's efforts to restore those cuts.
- Ms. Capers informed us that the Executive Committee also discussed the Board's capacity to fund local programming with our operating budget and has asked that Board Members who have ideas for programs bring those ideas to the relevant committees.
- Ms. Capers informed us that the members of the By-Laws' Ad-Hoc Committee was announced at the Executive Committee. The members of the committee will review and provide amendments proposals.

### **VII. DISTRICT MANAGER**

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

- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) is on the Citi Bike Phase 3 Expansion, which focuses on Bronx Community Boards #6 and #8. Therefore, they are seeking community input on potential locations through an online portal.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that Bronx Community Board #5 and #6 will be conducting a joint meeting on the New York City's shelter sitting policy on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that the street co-naming ceremony for Jannie Bell Armstrong will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 1:00 PM at East 180<sup>th</sup> Street and Clinton Avenue and the street co-naming ceremony for Mary Mitchell will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM at East 180<sup>th</sup> Street and Mapes Avenue.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that the Civic Engagement Commission is hosting their workshops on Parliamentary Procedure Trainings during the month of April and May. Board Members are encouraged to participate in these workshops.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett thanked former Board Members Floretta O'Brien and Lanell Gardenhire for their commitment to servicing our district.

### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mr. Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson**

Mr. Parker informed us that the Disciplinary Committee discussed committee membership and reviewed committee meeting attendance. The Disciplinary Committee also reviewed committee meeting records to verify that Committee Chairpersons are scheduling their meetings on a monthly basis.

**Ms. Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson**

Ms. Rivera informed us that the Health and Human Services Committee were informed about the services provided offered at the Salvation Army center located at 540 East Fordham Road.

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

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee planned the joint meeting with Bronx Community Board #5 regarding shelter siting in our districts.

**Mr. John Barczak, LGBTQI/TGNB Committee Chairperson**

Mr. Barczak reported that the LGBTQI/TGNB Committee discussed the existing LGBTQI/TGNB resources within the district.

**Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee Chairperson**

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety Committee reviewed liquor license applications for the following establishments: Shila Bar and Grill located at 629 Crescent Avenue, Vivir Lounge located at 625 Crescent Avenue, Gene Bene located at 2344 Arthur Avenue, Estrella Azteca Mexican Restaurant located at 2328 Arthur Avenue and Tra di Noi Corp located at 622 East 187<sup>th</sup> Street. After careful review and consideration, the Public Safety Committee issued a recommendation for these establishments.

**Ms. Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson**

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee discussed the response from the New York City Department of Transportation regarding the street conversion of East 175<sup>th</sup> Street between Southern Boulevard to Trafalgar Place. The Transportation Committee determined that East 175<sup>th</sup> Street be converted to one-way westbound operation from Southern Boulevard to Waterloo Place. They will also be requesting a traffic study after the street conversation to determine if traffic lights or signs to ensure pedestrian safety are feasible at this intersection.

**Mr. Michael Caraballo, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson**

Mr. Caraballo reported that the Youth and Education Committee discussed the 2023 New York Yankees Community Council Youth Leadership Award application reviewing process. The Youth and Education Committee determined that youth who are interested in applying are to send a resume, a letter summarizing relevant experience, and one reference. Applications can be submitted to [bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org](mailto:bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org) using the subject "Yankees Leadership Award." Once the applications are received, the Youth and Education Committee will review and vote to selected five nominees at the next Youth and Education Committee meeting.

## **IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-five (24) members. *(Please note that Board Member Samsondeen Rahem was not present during the roll call of attendance)*

## **X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of March 8, 2023 was made by Mr. Frank Franz, second by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter opposing the cuts to City agencies' budgets outlined in New York City Mayor Eric Adams' Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, second by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 3. A motion to conduct remote community board meetings and committee meetings for three months and resume back to in-person community board meetings and committee meetings in the month of September was made by Ms. Audrey Harden, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of thirteen in favor, ten opposition, and one abstentions.**

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no other business to discuss, the April 12, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:23 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Carla Leon  
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2023

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2023	LETTER OF OPPOSITION RE: FY 2024 BUDGET CUTS	REMOTE MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINING OF THE YEAR	ADJOURNMENT
Clarita Bailon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Barczak					
Isaac Bowen					
Cornell Brown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evonne Capers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Michael Caraballo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole Carter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sadija Cekovic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Margarita Espinosa					
Frank Franz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marilyn Gurley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Andrey Harden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laura James	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Maria Latimer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Magdamary Marciano	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Francene Miller	Leave of Absence				
Lamont Parker	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Reggie Powell	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Samsodeen Raheem	Yes				
Paul Ramirez					
Carmen Rivera	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Kristine Rivera	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Carol Robinson	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Sanchez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons					
Noorjahan Wells					
Jacquetta Whaley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monique Williams	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes