



**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, December 14, 2022

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Isaac Bowen, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Lanell Gardenhire, Marilyn Gurley, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Raheem, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, and Jaquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Nicole Carter, Mamoudou Diallo, Diana Diaz, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Julisa Hamilton, Angela Hernandez, Matthew Martinez (Leave of Absence), Francene Miller, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Carol Robinson, Lillie Steed, Noorjahan Wells, and Monique Williams.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Kathleen-May Llamas, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Francisco Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The December 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at R.A.I.N. Mt. Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center located at 2405 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:41 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

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

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Maurelhena Walles, representing Equity Design and Diana Bernal, Bronx Health Reach

Ms. Walles and Ms. Bernal proudly informed us about the number of physical activities done by the staff, teachers, students, and families of the P.S. 32 community throughout the neighborhood on Beaumont Avenue between Grote Street and East 183rd Street as part of the P.S. 32 Open Streets Initiative. This initiative was created to provide greater access to physical activity in your neighborhood, to connect community members, and to create opportunities and possibilities for community members to learn how to activate public spaces in their communities.

Marin Kurti

Mr. Kurti requested assistance from us to address the noise complaint from Belmont Community Day Care Center located at 2340 Cambreleng Avenue. He reported that this business frequently plays loud music during the early morning hours. Mr. Kurti has submitted NYC311 complaints and has contacted the business, but the issue persists.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will be forwarding this complaint to the Police Department and Department of Environmental Protection for action.

Jason Caraballo, representing Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mr. Caraballo informed us that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center is offering nicotine replacement therapy that can help individuals manage cravings and nicotine withdrawal when they are trying to avoid smoking, even if they are not ready to quit. They also have smoking cessation counselors available by appointments to provide guidance.

Anita Antonetty, representing Department of Youth and Community Development

Ms. Antonetty informed us that the District 6 Neighborhood Advisory Board is looking for individuals who are interested in joining the Neighborhood Advisory Board to help identify community priorities and recommend specific programs. She informed us that the Department of Youth and Community Development takes their findings into consideration when allocating federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. Ms. Antonetty also informed us that the Police Department partnered with the Department of Youth and Community Development, the City's District Attorneys, and community-based organizations to open 100 gyms and expand its Saturday Night Lights program. Saturday Night Lights is a summer program that provides access to free youth sports programming on Saturday nights.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report for the month of December was sent electronically.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Francisco Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Ramirez informed us that the New York State Senate Redistricting determined that Senator Rivera will lose 30% of the current district allocations that reside within this district. He also reported that their office successfully distributed food to families in their district. Mr. Ramirez informed us that their district office will be closed from December 19, 2022 through January 3, 2023 for the holiday season. Individuals who require constituent services can schedule a virtual appointment. Mr. Ramirez also announced that Ms. Flavia Salazar will be our Community Board Liaison going forward.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara informed us that their office distributed food throughout the West Farms and Parkchester areas of their district. She also informed us that their district office will be closed from December 21, 2022 through January 3, 2023 for the holiday season.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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

- **Ms. Capers informed us that she attended a tour of the Zeta Tremont Park Charter School and met with the school's leadership. She also informed us that the school is seeking our support for their federal grant to fund the expansion of their school network.**
- **Ms. Capers also informed us that there will be a Committee Chairperson Election this evening and there isn't a candidate for the Youth and Education Committee Chairperson role.**
- **Ms. Capers announced that there three amendments proposals for Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws**

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett thanked Board Members Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Magdamary Marcano, Francine Miller, Jacquetta Whaley, Bill Colona from Fordham University, and the Belmont BID for their toy donations for our Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett invited Board Members to our attend our Holiday Party on Friday, December 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the district office.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us about the upcoming possible implementations from the New York City Department of Transportation of the Fordham Road Better Bus Plan occurring in our district.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker informed us that the Disciplinary Committee finalized their Committee By-Laws, which will govern their investigations into complaints and attendance going forward and completed a file report for a conduct complaint. He reported that the Disciplinary Committee reviewed attendance records and identified Board Members that could potentially be removed for failing to attend Community Board and Committee Meetings and met with them.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee met with Bronx Borough Commissioner Jessenia Aponte and District 6 Park Manager Shirley Echevarria from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss the parks and playgrounds and concerns in our district.

Mr. Frank Franz, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz informed us that the Nominating Committee review the list of committees and the submitted nominations. The Nominating Committee created a ballot that will be used for the Election of Committee Chairpersons in October. He also informed us that the committee created By-Laws to establish future elections.

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety Committee discussed and review several liquor license applications for recommendation to the New York State Liquor Authority.

Ms. Maria Latimer, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Latimer expressed her concerns about rat sighting throughout the district and reported that the Sanitation Committee will be contacting the Department of Sanitation to determine a strategy to address this issue.

Ms. Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee hosted a presentation from Street Lab, which highlighted their Open Streets initiative with P.S.32. Ms. Sanchez also informed us about the New York City Department of Transportation's Fordham Road Better Bus Plan proposals.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-two (22) members.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to issue a conditional letter of support to New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz conditionally supporting the acquisition of the demapped Street on East 178th Street by 420 Morris Park Avenue, LLC was made by Ms. Laura James, Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Transportation opposing the Fordham Road Better Bus Plan was made by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, one opposition, and one abstention.**
- 3. A motion to sign Bronx River Alliance and Transportation Alternative's East Tremont Avenue and Devoe Avenue Pedestrian Safety Petition was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 4. A motion to issue a letter to Bronx Community Board #6's State Elected Officials to amend State law governing license renewal of automotive shops was adopted by Ms. Magdamary Maracano, seconded by Ms. Carmen Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 5. A motion to remove the following board members for failure to comply with Bronx Community Board 6's By-Laws regarding attendance:
Michele Bialek, Diana Diaz, Julisa Hamilton, Angela Hernandez, and Lillie Steed was made by Ms. Carmen Rivera, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons, and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, four oppositions, and two abstentions.**
 - a. An amendment to remove Clarita Bailon and Michael Caraballo from the motion to remove board members for failure to comply with Bronx Community Board 6's By-Laws regarding attendance was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 6. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of October 12, 2022 was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 7. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's special meeting of October 20, 2022 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 8. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of November 9, 2022 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**

9. A motion to suspend the rules of Bronx Community Board #6, allowing for a vote on a letter of support without committee recommendation for motion #11 was made by Ms. Kristine Rivera, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.
10. A to issue a letter of support to the New York State Department of Health supporting Keep It Simple and Safe becoming a Second Tier Syringe Exchange Program was made by Mr. Michael Caraballo, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.
11. A motion to suspend the rules of Bronx Community Board #6, allowing for a vote on a letter of support without committee recommendation for motion #13 was made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, one opposition, and zero abstentions.
12. A motion to issue a letter of support to Zeta Charter Schools, supporting their application for a federal grant. Zeta Charter Schools is looking to expand their elementary school system to add a middle school and high school was made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, three opposition, and one abstentions.
13. 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 April was made by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, two opposition, and one abstentions.

XI. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

As a result of an election that was performed by a ballot, the Community Board elected the following individuals to serve as the Committee Chairpersons for the two-year term that begins January 1, 2023 and ends December 31, 2024.

Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee
Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee
Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee
Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee
Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee
John Barzack, LGBTQI/TGNB Committee
Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee
Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee
Maria Latimer, Sanitation Committee
Michael Caraballo, Youth and Education Committee
Michael Nelson, Veterans Committee

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the December 14, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2022

NAME	ATTENDANCE	420 MORRIS AVENUE	LETTER TO DOI RE: FORDHAM ROAD BETTER BUS PLAN	SIGN PETITION RE: EAST TREMONT AND DEVOE AVENUE	LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS RE: AUTO SHOPS	REMOVE NAMES FROM FOLLOWING MOTION	REMOVE BOARD MEMBERS WITH POOR ATTENDANCE	MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2022	MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2022	MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2022	SUSPEND RULES FOR THE FOLLOWING MOTION	LOS TO KISS RE: SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM	SUSPEND RULES FOR THE FOLLOWING MOTION	LOS TO ZETA CHARTER SCHOOLS	REMOTE MEETINGS FOR THREE MONTHS	ADJOURNMENT
Charis Ballou	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Barzani	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michelle Blazek	Absent															
Isaac Bowen	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carroll Brown	Absent															
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Caraballo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole Carter	Absent															
Sadija Cokovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mamoudou Diallo	Absent															
Dianna Diaz	Absent															
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frank Franz	Absent															
Maria Garcia	Absent															
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Maribou Gurley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julisa Hamilton	Absent															
Andrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Angela Hernandez	Absent															
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Magdalary Marciano	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Leave of Absence															
Francene Miller	Absent															
Michael Nelson	Absent															
Floretta O'Brien	Absent															
Lanont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Absent															
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samsoudeen Raheem	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pavel Ramirez	Absent															
Carmen Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brendine Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes
Carol Robinson	Absent															
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lillie Steel	Absent															
Noorjahan Wells	Absent															
Monique Williams	Absent															
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes