



**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, November 8, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Maria Garcia, Melissa Guzman, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Jessii Parham, Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Raheem, Renee Reed, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Gladys Sotomayor, Monique Williams, and Annette Wright.

**Members Absent:**

Clarita Bailon, John Barzack, Isaac Bowen, Bridget Brantley, Sadija Cekovic, Sadonia Croom, Frank Franz, Gail Irby, Francene Miller, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Yamelith Rivera, Noorjahan Wells, and Angelina Zervos (Leave of Absence).

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz  
Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Elizabeth Marte, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda  
Raishiel Muniz, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres  
Jeff Montoya, representing United States Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The November 8, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Tremont Library located at 1866 Washington Avenue, and was called to order at approximately 6:37 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers

**II. INVOCATION**

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Parliamentarian Gil Simmons.

### **III. COMMUNITY PERIOD**

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

**Eric Urquiza, representing West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center**

**Mr. Urquiza informed us that the West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center can assist individuals with their Public Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, obtaining Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), applying for affordable housing, and completing recertifications for NYCHA and HPD at free of cost.**

**Ivanka Sanchez**

**Ms. Sanchez is a resident seeking assistance with a private homeowner issue from the Community Board. She informed us that there is flooding occurring regularly in the basement of the property, which the New York City Department of Environmental Protection has advised is a health hazard. Ms. Sanchez has sought assistance from the State, their homeowner's association, and the elected officials. She was also informed by the previous property owner that there may be legal ramifications if they try to create own sewage line. Ms. Sanchez wants to confirm whether creating their own sewage line is a legal issue, especially since this would be the most viable solution.**

**District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will be looking into this and will follow up with Ms. Sanchez.**

### **IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report was not presented.**

### **V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**Santiago Baena, New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz**

**Mr. Baena informed us that their office is hosting a Thanksgiving Fall Festival that will take place on November 21, 2023, from 3 PM to 7 PM to provide community members turkeys, fresh produce, and health bucks for this holiday season. Mr. Baena also informed us that their district office is located at 573 East Fordham Road and constituent services are available Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM.**

**Flavia Salazar and Brent Schneider, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera**

**Ms. Salazar informed us that their office is offering immigration and housing services on November 17, 2023, from 10 AM to 3 PM. They will also offer additional housing services virtually on November**

15, 2023, and in person on November 28, 2023. Individuals who are interested in receiving these services can contact their office at (718) 933-2034 to schedule an appointment. Ms. Salazar also informed us that their constituent services are available Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**Elizabeth Marte, New York Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Ms. Marte informed us of a new partnership with Bridge Builders to assist constituents with their SNAP applications and recertifications on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, from 10 AM to 3 PM, which will take place at their office located at 900 Rogers Place. Bridge Builders will be meeting with constituents on a first come first serve basis. Individuals can contact their office for more information and questions at (718) 991-3161. Ms. Marte also informed us that the appointments for the on-site legal assistance for constituents from NYLAG and NAICA are booked for the rest of the year, but their office is still able to send referrals.

**Raishiel Muniz, United States Congressman Ritchie Torres**

Ms. Muniz informed us that on October 25, 2023 Congressman Mike Johnson was elected Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. She also informed us that Congressman Torres awarded \$800,000 in Community Project Funding to New York Sun Works, a local nonprofit dedicated to integrating the science of sustainability and climate education into K-12 urban schools on October 30, 2023. He also awarded \$1,178,406 in Community Project Funding to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a nonprofit that operates the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium and is dedicated to conserving and promoting the Earth's natural habitats and biodiversity on November 6, 2023. Ms. Muniz also informed us that their office is currently accepting nominations for the Service Academy. Interested high school seniors can contact their office and apply by November 29, 2023. She also informed us that their office is offering housing, social security, tax, and immigration assistance to constituents.

**Jeff Montoya, representing United States Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Mr. Montoya informed us that Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez issued statements against the violence committed by Israel-Hamas and has called for a cease fire. He advised us that if we know someone who needs help contacting the U.S. Embassy in Israel, or if you have loved ones who are currently missing in the region, you may contact their office online or by phone at (718) 662-5970. Mr. Montoya also informed us that the House has not proposed a new resolution, nor an updated appropriations bill to prevent a government shutdown on November 17, 2023. The annual Congressional App Challenge and Service Academy Nominations have concluded, and winners will be announced on social media and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's newsletter. Mr. Montoya also informed us that their office is offering internship opportunities for students and individuals who may be interested in public service. The application for the internship program is available. He also informed us that the Medicare enrollment period is open until December 7, 2023, which is the deadline to join, switch, or drop a plan. Mr. Montoya also informed us that constituents who need help with a federal agency matters, they can contact their office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM by telephone, or by visiting their district office located at 1231 Lafayette Ave, Suite L-610, Bronx, New York, 10474.

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

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

- **Ms. Capers reminded the Board Members to sign Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Code of Conduct.**
- **Ms. Capers informed us that she has granted District Rafael Moure-Punnett the right to make a Point of Order motion during meetings if necessary. In addition, she reminded Board Members that they need to be recognized to speak at Community Board meetings, and that while she may choose to recognize Board Members to ask questions, Robert's Rules of Order only requires her to recognize Board Members when debating motions before the Board.**
- **Ms. Capers also reminded us that she proposed an amendment to Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws that will limit the amount Board Members can speak and debate during Community Board meetings.**

## **VII. DISTRICT MANAGER**

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

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that Board Members have been reviewing and finalizing the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also reminded the Board Members of the Robert's Rules of Order motion, Point of Order.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 is partnering with Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation (NIDC) to host an idea generation session for the New York City Civic Engagement Commission (CEC)'s The People's Money on Monday, November 13, 2023.**

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Ms. Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson**

**Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee discussed the Adult-Use Retail Dispensary License Applications. The Economic Development Committee will be issuing a letter of objection to the New York State Office of Cannabis Management for all of the applications. Ms. Carter also reported that the Economic Development Committee was informed about Ariva. Arva is a nonprofit organization that launched the Microentrepreneur Support Program in 2022 to offer small businesses start-up advice and one-on-one consultations to prospective entrepreneurs and current entrepreneurs in our district.**

### **Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson**

**Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025.**

**Maria Latimer, Sanitation Committee Chairperson**

Ms. Latimer reported that she will be meeting with the Bronx District 6 Superintendent of the New York City Department of Sanitation this month to discuss the district's sanitation concerns.

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

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee was presented with the updated plan for the Reconstruction of East 177<sup>th</sup> Street, Devoe Avenue, Sheridan Expressway Ramp Project by the New York City Department of Design and Construction. Ms. Sanchez also reported that Transportation Committee discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025. The Transportation Committee added various items related to traffic enforcement, traffic calming, and improved street safety in various locations through the District, which can be referenced in this year's District Needs Statement.

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

Mr. Caraballo reported that the Youth and Education Committee discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025. The Youth and Education Committee added requests for vocational programs and to expand programs for young adults 18-24 years old.

**IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

A roll call attendance was taken confirming a quorum with the presence of twenty (20) members.

**X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of October 11, 2023 was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
2. A motion to amend Article IV of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding rules for public speaking.

Article IV, Section 12 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would read as follows:

“Sec. 12 – Each member of the Board shall be entitled to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes during Community Board meetings when recognized by the Chairperson. This includes debate on motions or any questions the Chairperson allows to be asked.”

was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and one opposition.

3. A motion to issue a letter supporting Keep It Simple and Safe (KISS)'s Needle Exchange Program Certification application to the local New York State Elected Officials was made by

**Ms. Monique Williams, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and one opposition.**

- 4. A motion to support Renee and Friends' funding proposal request of \$500 for their Thanksgiving food distribution event was made by Ms. Monique Williams, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.**
- 5. A motion to issue a letter to the property owner of 439 Devoe Avenue asking if they are interested in selling their property to the City of New York was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstention, and zero oppositions.**
- 6. A motion to sign onto the Bronx Community Boards District Manager letter to New York City Council Member Diana Ayala regarding the Department of Homeless Services' shelter oversight and siting was made by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstention, and zero oppositions.**
- 7. A motion to issue a letter of support to Renee and Friends in support of their efforts to be utilized when requesting donations from organizations, companies, and/or elected officials was made by Ms. Monique Williams, seconded by Ms. Laura James, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstention, and zero oppositions.**
- 8. A motion to require groups or organizations who were sponsored by Bronx Community Board #6 to provide us with a spending report was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstention, and zero oppositions.**

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no other business to discuss, the November 8, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:34 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Carla Leon  
Community Coordinator**

