



**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

February 17, 2023

Keith Kalb
Interim Commissioner
Bronx Borough Office
New York City Department of Transportation

Bronx Community Board 6 members are extremely concerned with the current state of Fordham Plaza. As you are aware, the NYC Department of Transportation evicted the vendors and businesses operating in Fordham Plaza to reconstruct the site, finishing the work in 2016. At the time, DOT committed to filling the newsstands and retail stand with vendors by 2017. However, the Plaza's retail spaces remain vacant.

The Board's office initially requested an update on Fordham Plaza in the summer of 2022 and again this January and has yet to receive a response. The board is concerned that the ongoing quality of life issues in Fordham Plaza with homeless individuals and graffiti will continue unabated as long as the retail stands are vacant. This plaza was once a center for economic activity in the neighborhood and is now a source of quality-of-life issues for our community. The failure to find vendors for this site for 7 years is an unacceptable waste of \$34 million public dollars. The Board will be referring this project to the NYC Comptroller for a potential audit.

The Board is requesting a public explanation of DOT's failure to find vendors for this site. Because this project used an immense amount of public resources, the public is owed an explanation to why DOT has failed to fulfill its initial promises to the community. The Board asks that DOT provide a summary of its efforts to find vendors between 2016 and July 2022, when the concessionaire Request for Proposal was publicized. The Board would also like an update on the status of the RFP that DOT issued six months ago. We ask that this information be relayed to the board in writing and at our Transportation committee, so that a public record of this presentation can be created.

Regards,

Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

Lisa Sanchez
Chair, Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board 6

Rafael Moure-Punnett
District Manager
Bronx Community Board 6

CC: Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner, NYC DOT

Before:



After:

