



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

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

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Board Chairperson

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District Manager

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Anthony Perez
Bronx Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation

Bronx Community Board 6 is concerned about the longstanding state of mismanagement in Fordham Plaza. As stated in our letter to Interim Commissioner Keith Kalb in February 2023 – the Plaza has been without vendors in the kiosks and café since 2017.

The Board has learned that the Bronx Night Market (MASC Hospitality Group) is returning to the Plaza as a market operator, and that the Market hopes to gain access to the kiosks and café space. **The Board requests information on whether DOT is going to issue a Request for Proposal for the kiosks and café for vendors like the Bronx Night Market to respond to.** We welcome the Night Market's interest in providing programming in the Plaza, while also recognizing that the RFP process provides safeguards to the use of public resources, including competitive bidding and registration with the NYC Comptroller.

In addition, the Bronx Night Market's [Op-Ed on their closure](#) this fall highlights the need for improved support for licensed vendors in the Plaza. It is unfair to ask vendors to manage programming while simultaneously denying vendors long-term contracts and denying vendors the support of municipal agencies. Licensed vendors need support from the Department of Sanitation vendor enforcement, so that unlicensed vendors are not competing with licensed vendors in the same plaza. Vendors need support from the New York City Police Department to help clear space for set-up, as the Plaza has become an area frequented by individuals who interfere with scheduled programming. Those individuals likely need support from the Department of Homeless Service's contracted outreach organizations.

Bronx CB6 asks that DOT initiate an interagency task force to respond to concerns arising from Fordham Plaza programming. Bronx Community Board 6 is happy to host this task force at our monthly District Service Cabinet meeting. As property owner, DOT has the responsibility to facilitate successful programming - seven years after DOT's initial promise to find vendors for the retail spaces in the Plaza.

Regards,

Evonne Capers

Chair

Bronx Community Board 6