



**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-PUNETT
District Manager**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

Members Present:

Isaac Bowen, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Margarita Espinosa, Maria Garcia, Gail Irby, Lazarus Jackson, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Julissa Lora, Magdamary Marcano, Donald McLachlan, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Katrina Rawlins, Renee Reed, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Porscha Wilson, and Annette Wright.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Frank Franz, Fousani Hamidou, Nicole Ndiaye, Lamont Parker, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Marie Servius, Gil Simmons, Monique Williams, and Angelina Zervos.

Elected Officials Present:

New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

**Leonardo Coello, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Maritza Ogaldes-Wiggins, representing New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Daniel Osorio, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson
Sabrena Campbell, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Franklin Mateo, representing New York State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia
Jeffrey Peña, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Raishiel Muñoz, representing United States Congressman Member Ritchie Torres**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The October 16, 2024 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 Board Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Cornell Brown.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Carmen Rivera, representing the 48th Precinct Community Council

Ms. Rivera invited us to attend to a cancer walk sponsored by the New York City Department of Police Department on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 8:00 AM. The walk will start at 151 West 100th Street, New York , New York.

Julio Casado

Mr. Casado informed us that developers have recently purchased homes on Crotona Avenue to develop apartment buildings. Mr. Casado also shared his own experience receiving harassing phone calls from developers who are interested in buying his home.

Rashaun Buchanan, representing the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center

Mr. Buchanan addressed the board to advocate for the preservation of Mapes Ballfield in response to a recent petition to convert the baseball field into a tennis court. He explained how the baseball field was the result of years of community organizing and advocacy led by Astin Jacobo. Mr. Buchanan informed the Board about the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center's regular use of the baseball field and efforts to ensure it is accessible to the community by utilizing their reservations to for open practice. Mr. Buchanan assured us that The Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center will continue to explore ways to increase access to the baseball field by collaborating with potential partners and welcomes recommendations.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Deputy Director of Community Boards, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz informed us that Borough President Gibson's Community Board Report for the month of October was included in our meeting packet and can be read at our leisure. She also informed us that the Community Board Membership application portal will open on November.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Leonardo Coello, presenting New York City Mayor Eric Adams

Mr. Coello provided an update on the efforts by the Mayor Adams to improve public safety. He reported that over 18,000 guns and over 30,000 e-bikes and mopeds were confiscated. He also reported that random stop points at bridges were conducted which resulted in identifying over 3,000 vehicles with ghost plates which were also confiscated and the Sheriff's office assisted with the closure of 800 illegal smoke shops. Mr. Coello also reported that Mayor Adams launched the *Money in Your Pocket* initiative to help individuals identify take advantage of benefit programs for which they may be eligible. In the future, Mayor Adams hopes to expand the *Money in Your Pocket* initiative so that city residents are automatically notified of programs that they qualify for.

New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Council Member Salamanca presented Bronx Community Board 6 with a check for \$62,000.00 to purchase equipment. He also informed us of his role as the Chair of the Land Use Committee for the New York City Council and notified us of the upcoming hearings on the *City of Yes for Housing Opportunity*. He explained that all 59 Community Boards have submitted their recommendations, but City Council has not voted on the proposal yet. He informed us that members of the public are invited to testify virtually or in-person next Tuesday, October 22, 2024 when the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises convenes. Council Member Salamanca urged us to advise any individual we may know who operate an illegal car wash to apply for a permit because the New York City Department of Sanitation will be taking enforcement actions going forward. He also reminded us about the new residential containerization rules that will go into effect soon. Council Member Salamanca also encouraged community members to follow his office's online social media platforms to learn about the event he will be hosting this month.

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena informed us that their office is offerings immigration services in partnership with CUNY CitizenshipNOW every Tuesday at their district office located at 573 East Fordham Road, Bronx, New York. If you are interested in receiving services, you can schedule an appointment by calling (718) 842-8100.

Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Salazar informed us about the housing and immigration services offered in their office every month in partnership with NMIC and West Bronx Housing Resource Center. Individuals are encouraged to call in advance to book an appointment by calling (718) 933-2034 or by emailing grivera@nysenate.gov. Ms. Salazar also reminded us that early voting takes place from October 26th to November 3rd and that individuals are able to go online to request a mail-in ballot.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus shared a legislative update about bill S6670A, which was recently signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul. This bill known as the "COVID-19 livery vehicle recovery act" addresses the

financial challenges faced by taxi drivers as a result of the pandemic. It allows taxi drivers in the state a one-year window to renew their expired license without additional charges or fees. Mr. Cardus also informed us about the community partners offering assistance at the office. He mentioned that Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC) is providing immigration assistance, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) is providing legal assistance with housing, employment, and family related issues and Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs (NAICA) is providing eviction preventions assistance. He also mentioned that their office assist individuals with public assistance related applications. Individuals can contact their office by telephone at (718) 991-3161 to inquire about these services. Mr. Cardus also reminded individuals to submit their turkey requests.

Sabriena Campbell, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Ms. Campbell informed us that Assemblymember Chantel Jackson joined the New York State and New York City Department of Transportation for a press conference about the Reimagine the Cross Brown Expressway project and encouraged us to continue to provide our opinions about the project. Ms. Campbell also announced that Assemblymember Jackson will be recruiting for an advisory board covering the district.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara announced that a shredding event will be held at Vidalia Park on Friday, October 18, 2024 at 10 AM. Individuals can contact their office by calling (718) 931-2620 to inquire about the constituents services offered in their office.

Franklin Mateo, representing New York State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia

Mr. Mateo reminded us to register to vote. He also reported their office will be organizing turkey giveaways throughout the districts. Their office can be contacted by telephone at (718) 933-6909 and is located at 2175C Jerome Avenue, Bronx, New York.

Jeremy Peña, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Peña announced that Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark will be hosting her 7th Annual Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic event on Saturday, October 26, 2024. He also informed us that their office is collecting non-perishable items and coats in the lobby of 198 East 161st Street, Bronx, New York.

Raishiel Muñoz, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Muñoz reported that Congressman Torres is opposed of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program. She also informed us that he provided \$2 million in funding for research of the Reimagine the Cross Brown Expressway project. Ms. Muñoz also reminded us that passports are now available for renewal online.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Chairperson Evonne Capers' Chairperson's report included the following information:

- **Ms. Capers that she has completed the appointment process for the Board's committees. The Board will also elect Committee Chairpersons on this evening.**
- **Ms. Capers also informed us that the Board would be voting on whether to change the composition of our Executive Committee to include committee chairs. At the June Community Board meeting, a proposal was made to change the composition back. As a result, a proposed by-laws amendment was presented at our September Community Board meeting and a motion to adopt the amendment was voted on this evening.**
- **Ms. Capers also informed us that Jessii Parham was not aware that she was appointment to a one-year term and she did not reapply for community board membership. A motion will be made to ask Council Member Feliz to appoint Jessii Parham to the Board.**

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

Mr. Moure-Punnett's District Manager's report included the following information:

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us about the East Tremont Avenue Busway Proposal and the work the Board is doing to collect feedback from the community.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also announced that the Environment and Parks committee will be conducting a walk-through of community gardens in the district on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 3:00 PM.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also summarized the six ballot proposals that will be voted on at the upcoming election.**

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Marcano informed us that the Treasurer's Report for the month of September was included in the meeting packet. The report included expenses from September to October. She also reported that a health fair by Renee and Friends was funded. Ms. Marcano asked individuals to review the report in detailed at their leisure.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee was informed of the residential bin mandate that will be in effect on November 12, 2024. She also reported that they discussed the petition to convert Mapes Ballfield into a tennis court and it was determined that the ballfield is in fact active because of the permits that have been issued. Ms. Espinosa also reported that the Environment and Parks Committee was informed that the owner of 439 Devoe Avenue will be leasing the land to an energy company called Nine Dot Energy, which will use the area to store energy using batteries that will be filled during off-peak hours and sell the energy back into the grid during peak hours. A motion to issue a letter in support was voted on this evening.

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee discussed the liquor license renewal application for Caridad Sea Food Restaurant Corp. located at 410 East Tremont Avenue and the liquor license method of operation change application for Ayo Group Corp. (Ajo and Oregano Restaurant), located at 621 Crescent Avenue. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee discussed the adult-use retail dispensary licenses at 2500 Arthur Avenue and 2375 Arthur Avenue.

Ms. Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed plans for the Reconstruction of East 177th Street and Devoe Avenue project with the New York City Department of Design and Construction. She also reported that they discussed the one-way street conversion of East 183rd Street between Park Avenue and Washington Avenue from COGA Cathedral. The request will be submitted to the New York Department of Transportation. Ms. Sanchez also reported that the Transportation Committee has been conducting outreach regarding the proposed East Tremont Avenue Busway.

Ms. Annett Wright, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Ms. Wright reported that the Nominating Committee reviewed the committee chairpersons' nominations and discussed the outreach to additional Board Members for nominations. Ms. Wright also reported that they reviewed the election process.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-one (21) members.

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Feliz asking him to consider replacing the Mapes Ballfield with a tennis court was made by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, seconded by Mr. Cornell Brown, and not adopted by a vote of zero in favor, zero abstentions, and twenty-one oppositions.
2. A motion to name the new seating area in Quarry Ballfield as "Mr. Miller's Corner" was made by Mr. Cornell Brown, and seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
 - 2a. A motion to table name the new seating area in Quarry Ballfield as "Mr. Miller's Corner" was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
3. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6's Community Board and Committee Meetings of October 2024 was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Ms. Renee Reed, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.

4. A motion to issue a letter to the Aquinas Housing Corporation, asking that at least one tenant from an Aquinas Housing owned building be placed on the Aquinas Housing Corporation's Board was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
5. A motion to issue a letter of support of 9 Dot Energy's application for a sales tax exemption and a partial mortgage recording tax exemption from the New York City Industrial Development Agency (NYCIDA) was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero abstentions, and one opposition.
6. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Sanitation asking the agency to find a solution to trash bins being stolen was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and seconded by Ms. Renee Reed, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
7. A motion to remove Michael Caraballo for failure to comply with Bronx Community Board 6's By-Laws regarding attendance was made by Ms. Laura James, and seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
8. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board 6's Office protocol as it pertains to funding programs and events was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty- one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
9. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board 6's By-Laws as they pertain to executive committee membership was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
10. A motion to issue a letter asking New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz to appoint Jessii Parham to the remainder of the term for 2024-2025 was made by Ms. Lisa Sanchez and seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
11. A motion to support Renee and Friends' Thanksgiving Food Distribution was made by Mr. Paul Ramirez, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.
12. A motion to provide refreshments at Bronx Community Board 6's meetings was made by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.

XII. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

An election of Committee Chairpersons was conducted by Nominating Committee Member Annette Wright and District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett. Board Members were presented a ballot with names of candidates who had been nominated by the Nominating Committee. Prior to the voting of

Committee Chairpersons, nominations were opened to the floor, and Board Member Maria Garcia nominated Board Member Maria Latimer to the Environment, Parks and Sanitation Committee. As a result of this floor nomination, Board Member Carmen Rivera noted that the name of the Environment, Parks and Sanitation Committee was incomplete on the ballot. Board Member Magdamary Marciano nominated Board Member Angel Nunez-Garcia to the Disciplinary Committee. Board Member Annette Wright read through the results of each ballot and votes were documented by District Manager Moure-Punnett.

The results of the election was as follows:

**Angel Nunez-Garcia, Disciplinary Committee – 7 votes
Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee – 10 votes
Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee – 17 votes
Margarita Espinosa, Environment, Parks and Sanitation Committee – 15 votes
Maria Latimer, Environment, Parks and Sanitation Committee – 2 votes
Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services – 17 votes
Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee – 17 votes
Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee – 17 votes
Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee – 17 votes
Laura James, Youth and Education Committee – 17 votes**

Please note that there was one ballot that was submitted by a Board Member with no votes indicated.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the October 16, 2024 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 9:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Sonia Banegas
Community Associate**

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

