



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

EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT
District Manager

Bronx Community Board 6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Members Present:

Brigette Brantley, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Ashonda Culcleasure, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Fousani Hamidou, Shantavia Inabinet, Gail Irby, Laura James, Julio Jimenez, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Nicole Ndiaye, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Jessii Parham, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Katrina Rawlins, Renee Reed, Carmen Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Porsche Wilson, Annette Wright, and Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Sofia Delgado, Patrick Downer, Paul Ramirez, Kristine Rivera, and Hoshi Salcedo.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Emanuel Martinez, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams
Kenny Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes
Neil Jimenez, representing New York State Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia
Jeffrey Pena, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark
Ronn Jordan, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER

The November 19, 2025 meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was held at the Bronx River Art Center located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10460 and was called to order at approximately 6:39 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

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

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who addressed the Community Board during the meeting's Community Period were:

Sandy Liriano, representing the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board

Mr. Liriano informed us about the function and contact information for the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). The CCRB is a City Government agency that investigates allegations of police misconduct against members of the NYPD. Individuals may file a complaint if they feel an officer has used excessive force, abused their authority, been discourteous, or used offensive language during an interaction. Complaints can be filed through the following methods: - Phone: (800) 341-2272 - Online: www.nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint - NYC311: Contact 311 and ask to be routed to the CCRB.

Derek Milan, representing the Tremont Library

Mr. Milan announced three exciting new programs starting this December at the Tremont Library. The first event is "Peppers' Show" by Wonderspark Puppets, featuring the story of the Three Little Pigs. This program is designed for toddlers and families with small children and will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 10:30 AM. They will also have a Ballroom and Latin Dance Workshop Series. This free four-week workshop series is for adults 55 and up Tuesdays, beginning December 9, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM. A New Year's Eve dance party will be held on December 24th, showcasing the skills learned in the class. Lasty, the library's social worker for teens will host a series of self-care workshops called "Eulogy." The workshops' first session will be on Tuesday, December 16, from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. They will be ongoing until February 2026.

Carol Robinson, representing the Bronx 06 Neighborhood Advisory Board

Ms. Robinson reported on the Department of Youth and Community Development's Community Needs Assessment survey. The survey is currently experiencing a very low response rate. Only 100 out of 89,000 Bronx Community Board 6 residents have completed the assessment. This low response rate is reflected city-wide, with Bronx Community Board 5 also receiving only 100 responses. Ms. Robinson emphasized the critical importance of increasing participation, as the survey results will determine future programs and the needs addressed within our neighborhoods. The deadline has been extended to February 2026. She encouraged community members to complete the survey, which is available in multiple languages.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Community Liaison, Kenny Agosto.

Mr. Agosto announced that their office will soon launch the membership and reappointment membership application for the Bronx Community Boards. Board members who are unsure of their membership term end date should contact the Bronx Borough President's office for clarification. Mr. Agosto also announced that a Hurricane Melissa Relief Drive for Jamaica will take place on Saturday, November 22nd, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Northeast Bronx YMCA, located at 1250 East 229th Street. Organizers are requesting donations of items such as soap, toothpaste, and sanitary pads, along with other items listed on the event flyer. They will also be hosting a Thanksgiving Giveaway on Monday, November 24th at the Bartow Mall in Co-op City. Mr. Agosto can be contacted at (347) 213-0375 for more information.

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena announced that Councilman Feliz has been re-elected for another four years. His office, located at 973 East Fordham Road, will continue to assist with housing, immigration, and public benefits issues. The office telephone number is (718) 842-8100. Additionally, their office will be hosting a Turkey Giveaway event on Tuesday, November 25th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm outside of the office. We anticipate having nearly 2,000 turkeys available for distribution this Thanksgiving, along with chicken and roast pork.

Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Torreblanca informed us that in the past month, their office held an immigration and housing clinic, as well as a housing assistance clinic with the West Bronx Housing Neighborhood Resource Center. Their office will also host two giveaways on Monday, November 24th. One of the giveaways will be held at Pelham Parkway Houses located at 780 Astor Avenue at 1:00 PM and the other Bean Morris Garden located at 2096 Morris Avenue at 2:30 PM. Ms. Torreblanca also informed us that a dedicated team is actively engaging with small businesses, local businesses, and community organizations across their District to share essential rights information and distribute materials.

Ms. Torreblanca has also informed us that their office will be closed to the public, with staff operating remotely, from Monday, December 15th, through Friday, December 19th. Additionally, the office will remain fully closed from Saturday, December 20th, through Sunday, January 4th, during which time the team will be operating on an on-call schedule. Normal hours will resume on Monday, January 5th. During regular operating hours, office personnel can be reached at 718-933-2034 or by visiting the office Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at 2432 Grand Concourse, Room 506.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus informed us that Senator Sepulveda is supporting legislative bill A9230 in the Assembly, with the goal of securing a Senate bill number shortly. This legislation focuses on education and the rights of students with developmental disabilities. The key objectives are: accessibility, protections and enforcement, and IEP investigations. Mr. Cardus emphasized the office's commitment to constituent services and holding the government accountable. Community members are encouraged to reach out to them with any issues related to different agencies. The office is located at 975 Kelly Street, Suite 203, and can be reached by telephone at (718) 991-3161. Ms. Cardus also announced they will offer assistance with the public assistance applications in partnership with Bridge Builders on December 2nd, January 16th, and January 19th. They will also have immigration legal representation in their office on December 2nd and December 15th.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara announced that the Assembly Member Reyes assisted in distributing approximately 600 turkeys at Lambert Houses and other developments in the West Farms area. Their office will also be hosting its own Thanksgiving food distribution event on Monday, November 24th, at 5:30 PM. The event will be held on a first-come, first-served basis at their office located at 1973 Westchester Avenue. Items to be distributed include turkeys, chicken, pork, and salami. Ms. Vergara also noted that Bill A05311, which expands the membership of a task force on human trafficking, has passed and become law. The law now includes the commissioner of the department of transportation, the commissioner of the department of motor vehicles and the executive director of the New York state thruway authority to

better address human trafficking in the State. This is a critical development, particularly for girls and women of color, who are disproportionately targeted.

Neil Jimenez, representing New York State Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia

Mr. Jimenez announced that their turkey distribution event is scheduled for November 25th at 1:00 PM at MS 363. Community members can pick up tickets at the office. She also reported that Assembly Member Tapia participated in a round table discussion regarding Bill A9230. This bill aims to protect students with special needs by preventing disciplinary action when an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is not met. Mr. Jimenez emphasized the systemic issue of teachers failing to address the lack of resources available to special needs students in the Bronx. He also announced the availability of a flyer detailing the office's full legislative agenda and wallet cards listing available office services.

Jeffrey Pena, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Pena announced that District Attorney Clark will be hosting the "Beyond the Block Resource Fair," for students aged 13 to 21. This event will take place on Wednesday, December 3rd, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Reverend Foster Park Recreation Center. The Resource Fair will feature: GED information; university representatives; re-entry employment resources; health and wellness resources; and career and job opportunities. Additionally, a speaker who has been impacted by the justice system and has turned their life around will share their story. Pizza and resource materials will be provided to all student attendees.

Ronn Jordan, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Mr. Jordan reminded us that their hours of operation are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and they can be reached by telephone at (718) 503-9610. Mr. Jordan encourages anyone with issues related to the United States Postal Services, the IRS, immigration, or any other federal agency to call their office. They have interns available who are ready and able to support the public.

Emmanuel Martinez, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams

Mr. Martinez announced the Mayor's focus on beautification efforts along certain Bronx corridors. He informed us that a task force has been assembled to combat graffiti, and the team is working with the New York City Department of Transportation to address lighting issues contributing to resident safety concerns. They are also engaging with non-profit agencies to determine the best path forward for the community. He encouraged attendees to report any concerns regarding graffiti, illegal dumping, sanitation, or other issues so he can work with respective city agencies for resolution. Attendees were strongly encouraged to report any concerns related to graffiti, illegal dumping, sanitation, or other issues directly to Mr. Martinez. He will then work with the respective city agencies to ensure prompt resolution. He can be contacted via telephone at (646) 406-3346 or by email at EmMartinez@cityhall.nyc.gov. Mr. Martinez also announced that there are two available slots for the upcoming Thanksgiving parade and encouraged interested individuals to request additional information. Additionally, Mr. Martinez addressed a follow-up question from last month regarding safety concerns at NYCHA, explaining that the agency is currently in Phase Two of a multi-phase plan, which involves demolishing a wall to properly address safety issues while controlling dust to protect residents with asthma.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Evonne Capers reported the following information:

Chairperson Capers has formally announced the election for the vacant position of 1st Vice-Chairperson. The Nominating Committee reviewed the By-Laws and confirmed that, as this executive committee vacancy was created by resignation, the Board is authorized to "fast track the process" by accepting nominations from the floor at the upcoming meeting. The District Manager has already sought nominations from board members via email. The election will be held immediately before any motions are adopted. Ballots will be counted concurrently while motions are being presented.

Chairperson Capers reminded us that the duties of the 1st Vice-Chairperson include serving as Chairperson for meetings when the Chairperson is unavailable and occasionally attending Bronx Borough Board meetings, particularly when a voting item is scheduled. Chairperson Capers requests that any candidate for this position commit to attending all Board meetings or communicating their absence in advance.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett reported the following information:

Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that following the recent election, all housing charter amendments were approved. This means that any ULURP action considered by the Board—whether for a specific building or a neighborhood—will now be subject to a new appeals process. Under this new process, if a developer is dissatisfied with negotiations with the City Council on the details of a project, they may appeal the decision to an Appeals Board. The Appeals Board will include appointees from the Borough President, the Council Speaker, and the Mayor. Overturning a Council decision will require a two-thirds majority vote by the Appeals Board.

Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that there are the ongoing concerns regarding the traffic redesign and bike lane installation on Southern Boulevard. The New York City Department of Transportation has failed to provide the Board an adequate response to these concerns since.

Mr. Moure-Punnett also reiterated that it is critical that community members complete the the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) survey, which was brought up earlier in the Community Period section by Ms. Robinson. He further explained that the survey determines how federal funds are allocated and spent in our neighborhood to provide essential social services. It only takes a few minutes to complete. If specific community needs—such as after-school programs—are not indicated in the survey responses, City agencies will not be able to address them.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Magdamary Marcano reported the following information:

Ms. Marcano reported that we spent a total of \$93,724.57 last month on supplies, materials, equipment rentals, and various services. This leaves a remaining budget balance of \$205,992.52.

Ms. Marcano also mentioned that the proposed funding budget for community events and programming has been drafted. Currently, there is no additional funding available for further events unless the allocated dollar amounts for the existing events are adjusted.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker reported that the Disciplinary Committee reviewed attendance records for Board and committee meetings hosted in October. The Disciplinary Committee plans to continue sending formal letters to Board members who miss a meeting without prior notification. This initiative is intended to raise awareness of the Board's requirement for advance notification of all absences. To date, five members have received attendance notices.

Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported on the launch of the CNA survey, which aims to collect community feedback to determine program priorities and properly direct resources. It was noted that this survey is crucial for determining which DYCD programs and services will receive federal funding. The Economic Development Committee discussed the need to increase community involvement, as the survey has historically had a low response rate in the District and is only administered every three years. Plans to increase engagement, such as disseminating flyers within our networks, were discussed. Ms. Carter also announced a Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) meeting for Bronx Community Board 5 and 6, which was held on November 18th to collect residents' feedback on community needs.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee received an update received from the Bronx Borough Commissioner's office regarding capital projects. They were informed that the construction for the Bathgate Playground is fully funded with \$6 million allocated by the City. The project is anticipated to be finalized in the summer of 2026. They were also informed that there are no funds allocated for the renovation of Ciccarone Park. A cost estimate is expected in a few months. Follow-up information was requested regarding future plans for funding allocation. The Crotona Parkway Malls 4 (Elsmere Place and East Tremont Avenue) and 9 (East 181st and East 182nd Street) are now open to the public following the completion of reconstruction and the Crotona Parkway Malls. 6 and 7 (East 178th Street and East 179th Street) is anticipated to begin this winter. Ms. Espinosa requested clarification on the areas impacted by this work and an estimated construction timeline. Ms. Espinosa stated that she requested clarification on the areas impacted by this work and an estimated construction timeline. Ms. Espinosa also informed us that representatives from Beyond Plastics presented on the PRRIA, which aims to reduce plastic packaging by 30% over 12 years and increase recycling/reuse rates to 75%. The legislation holds companies that make over \$5 million or produce more than two tons of packaging annually financially responsible for waste management. The Environment and Parks committee discussed the status of the legislation and, in response to Beyond Plastics' request, drafted and sent a letter of support to State elected officials.

Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the need for a radar study to identify potential burials and conduct additional research for the proposed West Farms Memorial Garden. Conversations with the Presbyterian Church of New York City regarding the preservation of the burial ground are ongoing, particularly as the church is in contact with developers about building on the property. Board Members recommended specific information sources and potential partner universities. A motion was also passed to send a letter recommending the landmarking of the site. Mr. Franz also informed us that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the current land use and proposed building sizes for the Sojourner Mapes ULURP Project. Considerations included the needs of new residents, issues with units previously set aside for homelessness, history with other Phipps properties (e.g., Lambert Houses), potential loss of sunlight for the Bronx Zoo, and traffic concerns on Southern Boulevard. A motion was made, and the committee agreed, to issue a letter to Council Member Oswald

Feliz discouraging the granting of a ULURP to Phipps based on their record. A separate motion was also made to issue a letter to the Bronx Zoo. Mr. Franz also informed us that the District Manager provided an overview of the city's proposed neighborhood rezoning of Park Avenue, detailing the area under study and the potential inclusion of Third Avenue between St. Barnabas Hospital (SBH) and Fordham Plaza. Discussions included whether the Bathgate Industrial Business Zone should be part of the study, the potential plan to cap the Metro-North tracks along Park Avenue, and issues surrounding auto shops and the need for district investment post-rezoning. The Housing and Land-Use Committee proposed using the Cross Bronx Expressway as the start of the study area and designating Third Avenue as the manufacturing zone.

Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee reviewed several liquor license applications. The Public Safety and Licensing Committee reviewed the liquor license application for J&G Italian Restaurant Corp located at 2329 Arthur Avenue and determined that a favorable recommendation letter will be issued for the establishment. Regarding the all-night permit application for Fiesta Lounge and Festival at 4640 3rd Avenue, the Public Safety and Licensing Committee will withhold its recommendation to the New York State Liquor Authority pending receipt of a recommendation from the 48th Precinct. Additionally, the Public Safety and Licensing Committee was informed about two candidates who were interviewed for the Commanding Officer position at the 48th Precinct. Finally, Ms. Rivera informed us that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee received a report of an incident involving a male found with a gunshot wound to the head at 2111 Southern Boulevard on November 9th at 5:45 pm. This incident is currently under investigation, and further details will be provided as they become available.

Carol Robinson, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Robinson informed us that the Sanitation Committee received an update from the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY). They were informed that DSNY is hiring Emergency Snow Shovelers. The reported eligibility requirements for the position are: must be 18 years of age or older; must be eligible to work in the United States; and must be able to perform physical labor. Potential candidates are directed to visit nyc.gov/snow to learn more and register for a hiring appointment. Workers must bring the following items to the hiring events: two small photos; two original forms of ID with additional copies; and their Social Security card.

Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported on safety concerns related to biking and parking on Southern Boulevard that were discussed. The Board previously sent written communication to the NYC Department of Transportation regarding these dangers in 2023. Additionally, News 12 contacted our office regarding traffic concerns on Southern Boulevard. Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th were proposed as potential dates for interviews with the reporter. The District Manager will be contacting News 12 to coordinate the interview.

Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Ms. James Ms. James provided an overview of Da People's Assembly, a CBO supporting underserved communities in Harlem and the Bronx. They requested assistance with the following identifying a venue, connecting with CBOs willing to donate meals and toys, and disseminating information about the event. Ms. James also informed us that the Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) requested \$5,000 in financial support to increase access to resources. The Youth and Education Committee proposes to approve \$2,700 in funding for BRAC, contingent upon them successfully implementing a new plan for resource

utilization. Ms. James also reported that the Youth and Education Committee discussed the upcoming 5th annual Toy Giveaway and Holiday Party, which aims to distribute 200 toys. The Board agreed to support their resource needs, which included encouraging contributions via an Amazon Wishlist, obtaining a choir, food donations, and volunteers (including Board members).

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of quorum with the presence of twenty-nine (29) members.

XI. ELECTION OF FIRST VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The ballot for the 1st Vice-Chairperson position was created by District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett, based on email nominations received from Board Members. Magdamary Marcano nominated herself for the position from the floor. Following the nominations, the election was conducted.

The results of the election was as follows:

Laura James: 16 votes
Magdamary Marcano: 10 votes
No Selection of Candidate: 3 votes

Based on the results, Laura James was elected as the 1st Vice-Chairperson, effective immediately.

XII. ADOPTIONS OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6's October 2025 Community Board and November 2025 Committee Meetings was made by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Ms. Brigitte Brantley, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter to State Elected Officials representing Bronx Community Board 6 to support the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) was made by Ms. Shantavia Inabinet, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 3. A motion to issue a letter of support for Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons Project was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 4. A motion to issue a letter of support for the landmarking of the Beck Presbyterian Church and Graveyard to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz, the Presbytery of New York City, and the Landmark Preservation Commission was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
 - 4A. A motion to amend the motion issue a letter of support for the landmarking of the West Farms Memorial Garden to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz, the Presbytery of New York City, and the Landmark Preservation Commission to remove the word "*West Farms Memorial Garden*" and replace it with "*the Beck Presbyterian Church and Graveyard*"**

site” was made by Ms. Angelina Zervos, seconded by Ms. Nicole Ndiaye, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

5. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz regarding the Sojourner Mapes ULURP project highlighting concerns with Phipps Houses property management practices was tabled.

5A. A motion to table the motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz regarding the Sojourner Mapes ULURP project highlighting concerns with Phipps Houses property management practices was made by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, seconded by Ms. Gladys Sotomayor, and adopted by a vote of twenty-eight in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention

6. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz and the New York City Department of City Planning recommending that the Park Avenue Neighborhood Study include the manufacturing zone on Third Avenue as far north as East 188th street, and move the southern boundary of the study area to the Cross Bronx Expressway was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Ms. Gladys Sotomayor, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

6A. A motion amend the motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz and the New York City Department of City Planning recommending that the Park Avenue Neighborhood Study include the manufacturing zone on Third Avenue as far north as East 188th street, and move the southern boundary of the study area to the Cross Bronx Expressway to insert the word “*north*” after the word “*boundary*” was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Mr. Julio Jimenez, and was not adopted by a vote of four in favor, twenty-one oppositions, and four abstentions.

7. A motion to sponsor the 4th Annual Toy Giveaway and Holiday Party with \$3,000 to cover the necessary expenses, including toys, decorations, a DJ, face painting, and food was made by Ms. Angelina Zervos, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

8. A motion to establish a \$2,700 scholarship for students who reside in Community Board 6 and are enrolled in art classes at the Bronx River Art Center was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the November 19, 2025 meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was adjourned at approximately 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

