



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457
Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Email: BX06@cb.nyc.gov Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6
Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President
Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

Bronx Community Board 6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Members Present:

Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Ashonda Culcleasure, Sofia Delgado, Margarita Espinosa, Fousani Hamidou, Shantavia Inabinet, Gail Irby, Julio Jimenez, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Jessii Parham, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Katrina Rawlins, Renee Reed, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Hoshi Salcedo, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Porscha Wilson, Annette Wright and Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Brigette Brantley, Patrick Downer, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Laura James, Nicole Ndiaye, and Angel Nunez-Garcia.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

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 Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Ignacio Aracena, representing New York State Assemblymember George Alvarez
Jeffrey Pena, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 28, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was held on Zoom Video Communications and was called to order at approximately 6:32 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:

Cherelle Barnes

Ms. Barnes requested assistance in starting a petition to remove Metergy Solutions, the electricity provider at Lambert Houses. Residents have reported being double-charged and experiencing ongoing rate increases.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett stated that he will contact Ms. Barnes to obtain additional information in order to assist with addressing this issue.

Pleshette Carr

Ms. Carr, on behalf of residents at 950 East 176th Street, requested assistance in addressing ongoing maintenance and management issues, as well as support with tenant organizing efforts. Residents are seeking greater accountability and improved living conditions through collective action and engagement.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett stated that he will contact Ms. Carr to obtain additional information in order to assist with addressing this issue.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Mr. Agosto shared several important updates concerning community safety and upcoming events. Mr. Agosto reported that the Bronx has experienced a particularly challenging fire season, including recent tragic incidents resulting in the loss of two children and multiple fires across several districts. Borough President Gibson recently met with the newly appointed FDNY Commissioner and held an extended meeting with the NYPD Police Commissioner to address public safety concerns. Residents were strongly encouraged to request smoke and carbon monoxide detectors by contacting the Borough President's Office or calling 311. Fire safety remains a top priority, with ongoing collaboration among FDNY, the Mayor's Office, and other city partners. Borough President Gibson is also actively working to expand capital funding for community schools, improve athletic fields, and advance additional capital priorities throughout the borough.

Mr. Agosto also shared announcements, including Borough President Gibson's upcoming inauguration at Lehman College, a Hijab Day celebration at Borough Hall, and ongoing coordination with city partners to improve shelter options for residents displaced by fires.

For additional information, Mr. Agosto can be contacted at (347) 213-0375.

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena reported that Council Member Feliz has been appointed Chair of the Committee on Public Safety, a position that provides oversight of the New York City Police Department, District Attorneys' offices, and other municipal agencies. He also noted that the office is offering free tax preparation

services at 573 East Fordham Road, along with assistance for housing and immigration matters, including access to a weekly CUNY immigration attorney.

Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Torreblanca announced that the monthly immigration and housing clinics in partnership with NIMIC will continue; however, flyers will no longer include specific dates due to a recent online threat. She also noted ongoing review of the “autoshop bill” and continued coordination with the District Manager and the New York State Department of Transportation. Ms. Torreblanca shared the senator’s newsletter link as well as a link to palm cards for constituent use.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus provided updates on legislative and community initiatives. He highlighted Bill S8523, which would protect New York residents from unnecessary inquiries into immigration status by state agencies, restrict federal immigration authorities’ access to state buildings, and codify Executive Order 170, establishing New York as a sanctuary state. He also discussed Bill S8444, which prohibits discrimination based on housing status, and Bill S5816, the Homeless Protection Act, which designates certain violent offenses against homeless individuals as hate crimes. Mr. Cardus also shared upcoming community partnership events, including BridgeBuilders (assistance with Human Resources Administration applications) on February 3rd and 10th, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NIMIC) on February 23rd and March 23rd, and New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) on February 24th and March 24th. Individuals can reach their office at (718) 991-3161 or visited at 975 Kelly Street, Suite 203.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara provided updates on recent legislative and community initiatives. She noted that Governor Hochul adopted Assembly Member Reyes’s bill A1805, which raises the income eligibility limit for New York’s rent freeze programs (SCRIE and DRIE) from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and approved \$8 million in NORC funding to support neighborhoods with high senior populations. Legislative updates included the signing of Bill A5311, which expands the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking Persons by adding the Commissioners of Transportation, Motor Vehicles, and the New York State Police, and Bill A5206, which mandates training for Child Protective Services workers and police officers on sexual assault crimes and related trauma. Ms. Vergara also announced upcoming affordable housing pop-up events in partnership with Churches United for Fair Housing (CUFFH) on February 12th and March 12th, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM by appointment.

Ignacio Aracena, representing New York State Assembly Member George Alvarez

Mr. Aracena announced that their office is offering free tax preparation assistance. The office is located at 2633 Webster Avenue (ground floor) and is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with no appointment needed for general constituent services. He also noted that West Bronx Housing provides tenant and landlord mediation on the first Thursday of each month by appointment and that their office is currently accepting applications for a senior internship program.

Franklin Mateo, representing New York State Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia

Mr. Mateo did not provide a verbal report during the meeting; however, an electronic version of his report is available in the board’s shared drive folder.

Jeffrey Pena, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Pena announced that the reentry employment resource fair, originally scheduled for the previous day, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 24th, due to weather. The event will feature employment workshops, networking opportunities, refreshments, giveaways, health and mental health services, and business attire support. The flyer for the event was shared in the meeting chat.

Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Rothstein highlighted recent community and legislative initiatives, including commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., honoring the 17 victims of the Twin Parks fire, and supporting local programs such as Three Kings Day, food distribution at World of Life International (with \$500,000 in federal funding), and the MLK Day of Service at the Riverdale Y. In Washington, Congressman Torres has introduced legislation to increase transparency in immigration enforcement and reduce food waste through a national food rescue system. She also emphasized his continued opposition to policies that separate families and encouraged community members to share ideas for the office's weekly newsletter recognizing Bronx residents making a positive impact.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Evonne Capers reported the following information.

Ms. Capers presented a request for a bylaw amendment, included in the meeting packet, which would require Committee Chairs to attend in person for the committees they oversee. The Board will discuss and vote on this proposal next month; if approved, each Committee will need a Chair or Vice Chair present at every meeting.

Ms. Capers also announced the New York Yankees Youth Leadership Award for 2026 with the flyer included in the packet. The Board will seek applications, and the Youth and Education Committee will review submissions in March to submit candidates to the Yankees by April.

Additionally, she announced the Community Membership application period for Bronx Community Boards is now open through the Borough President's office.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett provided updates on committee attendance and virtual participation. Attendance sheets have been revised and are now included with meeting minutes to enhance transparency. Moving forward, virtual attendance requests will only be approved for reasons consistent with the law, including disability, illness, caregiving, or other unexpected events, and a system for communicating attendance and virtual requests with Committee Chairs will be developed at the February Executive Committee meeting.

He also reported that the Youth and Education Committee has engaged Dr. Sonia James-Wilson of Catalyst Research & Development to evaluate social service programs in the district, including performance analysis and best practices review, to support multiple Board committees. The project was recommended for full Board approval. For transparency, it was disclosed that Dr. James-Wilson is the sister of Laura James, who has abstained from related votes to avoid a conflict of interest.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Magdamary Marcano reported on the Board's financial activity for the month. Excluding personnel services, the Board incurred expenses totaling \$1,319.14. When including personnel services costs of \$19,072.79, total monthly expenditures amounted to \$20,391.93. To date, the Board has expended \$135,347.07, leaving a remaining balance of \$164,370.02 for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker reported that the Disciplinary Committee recently reviewed Board Member attendance records and related communications and issued letters to two members regarding attendance, which were shared for Board review. No motions for removal were made at this meeting. The Disciplinary Committee also examined quorum records for all committees, noting ongoing challenges in achieving in-person quorum. Guidance from the New York State Committee on Open Government regarding virtual attendance and Open Meetings Law standards was reviewed. Committees meeting in January were asked to review these records, and District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett was requested to provide a written summary of the issues for the Board.

Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported on a presentation by Brandon Kime of the Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation (NIDC) regarding merchant organizing efforts along East Tremont Avenue and East 180th Street. NIDC's work focuses on cleanliness and beautification, business support and retention, and merchant organizing. In partnership with DSNY and local organizations, NIDC has facilitated graffiti removal for over 165 businesses, hosted corridor events and clean-ups, coordinated towing operations, supported merchant access to city services and MWBE certification, and is planning future workshops and a "Made in East Tremont" event. NIDC emphasized its goal of connecting businesses to resources and helping lay the groundwork for a potential merchant association.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported on upcoming committee initiatives, including proposed Climate Change Workshops in partnership with the New York Sea Grant Foundation, with potential programming near Bronx River Garden and coordination with the Mayor's Office for Climate Justice. She also provided an update on planning for the 36th Annual Happy Land Social Club Fire Memorial on March 25th, including partner coordination and outreach to elected officials. Additionally, the committee discussed a March 28th clean-up at El Batey De Doña Provi Garden, By-Law assistance for community gardens, and the possibility of designating the event as "It's My Park Day."

Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported on a presentation by SBH Health System regarding planned improvements to its Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program (MMTP). SBH Health System secured state funding to construct one additional treatment room and two on-site showers to better address patient hygiene needs and support a new fentanyl treatment initiative. The project involves interior renovations only, with no building expansion. Exterior upgrades will include improvements to the entrance, roof repairs, replacement of cellar doors, lot maintenance, and painting to enhance the facility's appearance. SBH also highlighted supportive services for patients, including a coat program and food pantry. The project, which requires notification to the Board by OMH and OASAS, is expected to be completed within 12 months. Ms. Rivera also reported that the Health and Human Services Committee reviewed quorum

records and clarified that, although it meets on the same night as the Transportation Committee, the two committees are not merging.

Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee received a presentation from the New York City Department of Design and Construction, in coordination with Urbahn Architects, on the proposed capital improvements at the Bergen Building, 1932 Arthur Avenue, which houses the Community Board's district office. The project includes roof replacement, installation of photovoltaic panels, façade and interior upgrades, and construction of an ADA-compliant ramp, as well as other improvements. Measures to minimize disruptions during construction, which is anticipated to begin in 2027 and conclude in the second quarter of 2028, include phased relocations within the building, temporary swing offices, and remote work arrangements.

Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee reviewed liquor license renewal applications for Mario's Restaurant Inc. at 2342 Arthur Avenue, Ann and Tony's Restaurant at 2407 Arthur Avenue, and MME Banquet Hall at 868 East 180th Street. The Committee voted to issue favorable recommendations to the New York State Liquor Authority for all three establishments. The Committee also reviewed a new liquor license and temporary retail permit application from Blue 13 Restaurant and Lounge at 894 East Tremont Avenue. The Committee voted to request that the Authority deny both applications at this time, pending a meeting with the applicant, who did not attend despite multiple attempts to contact them. The applicant has been invited to the next Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting on February 18, 2026.

Ms. Rivera also provided public safety updates, reporting that 71 vehicles were removed from the district on January 7th and 8th. Additionally, the new 48th Precinct Commander, Andrew Lombardo, was introduced.

Carol Robinson, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Robison reported that the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) presented to the Sanitation Committee on sustainability initiatives, including Green Jobs, a Universal Organics Program, and a proposed Bronx Zero Waste Center. The Sanitation Committee discussed environmental justice concerns, waste reduction, and composting to limit odors and pests. SWAB also encouraged community participation and partnerships with local organizations. Public comments on the 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan were due on January 16th.

Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) presented the Safe Routes to Schools Phase 4D Project, a \$23 million initiative spanning Bronx Community Board 5 and Bronx Community Board 6. Improvements include a bus pad near P.S. 85, sidewalk extensions, pedestrian ramps, traffic-calming measures, and utility upgrades, with construction beginning in winter 2026 and completing by summer 2028 in phased stages. Advisories and weekly updates will be provided to the community, and a DDC representative will attend Board Cabinet meetings. The committee also discussed community concerns regarding the Southern Boulevard East 182nd Street to Fordham Road Street Redesign, including congestion, broken bus pads, sidewalk safety, and lack of signage, and requested New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) attend a Transportation Committee meeting to review the redesign and traffic study. Additionally, DOT denied the Board's request to convert

East 188th Street between Webster Avenue and Park Avenue to two-way traffic, citing increased vehicle conflicts.

Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Ms. James reported on the Youth and Education Committee's recent activities. The committee heard from representatives of Fordham University's Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) regarding ongoing challenges in obtaining official club recognition and concerns over university responses to their off-campus contraceptive distribution efforts. The committee requested a written summary from YDSA to outline needed support and agreed to consider the matter further. The committee also reviewed the 5th Annual Toy Giveaway and Holiday Party, which served over 400 attendees with more than 300 toys distributed, noting the success of volunteer coordination and discussing plans to make it an annual event with additional resources. Additionally, the committee considered a proposal for a consultant-led year-long evaluation of district youth and afterschool programs to improve understanding of program effectiveness; the proposal was unanimously approved for advancement to the full board. Finally, updates were provided on the upcoming New York Yankees Community Youth Leadership Award, including outreach, application deadlines, and coordination with local schools and youth programs.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of quorum with the presence of twenty-seven (27) members.

XI. ADOPTIONS OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6's December 2025 Community Board Meeting and the January 2026 Committee Meetings was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Cornell Brown, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and two abstentions.
2. A motion to issue a letter of support for the Department of Design and Construction's Bergen Building Envelope Stabilization Project, contingent upon the provision of updated scheduling information and confirmation of coordination with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services regarding other planned or ongoing building renovations was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-six in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.
3. A motion to issue a letter to Fordham University requesting clarification regarding the status of the Young Democratic Socialists of America student club was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, four opposed, and six abstentions.
4. A motion to authorize the initiation of the Best Practices of Out-of-School Programs evaluation project with Catalyst Research and Development, with an allocation of \$5,500 for Fiscal Year 2026 was made by Mr. Reggie Powell, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers; however, the motion was not voted upon as it was tabled.
 - 4A. A motion to table the authorization of the Best Practices of Out-of-School Programs Evaluation Project with Catalyst Research and Development, including an allocation of \$5,500 for Fiscal Year 2026, was made by Mr. Julio Jimenez, seconded by Mr. Paul Ramirez, and carried with twenty-five in favor, two opposed, and no abstentions.

5. **A motion to issue a letter of support for the SBH Health System’s Methadone Treatment Center project was made by Ms. Kristine Rivera, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-six in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to address, the January 28, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was adjourned at approximately 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2026

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MEETING MINUTES	NYC DDC BERGEN BUILDING	LETTER TO FORDHAM UNIVERSITY YDSA CLUB	CATALYST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FUNDING	LETTER FOR SBH METHADONE TREATMENT	ADJOURNMENT				
	Motion By: Second By:	Lamont Lamont	Lamont Lamont	Magdani Magdani	Beje Beje	Kristine Kristine	Paul Paul	Paul Paul	Paul Paul	Paul Paul	Paul Paul
Brigitte Brantley	absent										
Cornell Brown	present										
Evonne Capers	present			abstain	yes						
Nicole Carter	present			abstain	yes						
Ashonda Culcleasure	present			abstain	yes						
Sofia Delgado	present				yes						
Patrick Downer	absent										
Margarita Espinosa	present				yes						
Frank Franz	absent										
Maria Garcia	absent										
Fousani Hamidou P	absent										
Shantavia Inabinet	present				yes						
Gail Irby	present			opose	no						
Laura James	absent										
Julio Jimenez	present			opose							
Maria Latimer	present	abstain		abstain							
Magdamary Marciano	present										
Nicole Ndiaye	absent										
Angel Nunez-Garcia	absent										
Jessii Parham	present			opose							
Lamont Parker	present			opose							
Reggie Powell	present										
Paul Ramirez	present										
Katrina Rawlins	present										
Renee Reed	present										
Carmen Rivera	present			no							
Kristine Rivera	present			opose							
Carol Robinson	present	opose	abstain	opose							
Hoshi Salcedo	present										
Lisa Sanchez	present			abstain							
Glady's Sotomayor	present										
Porscha Wilson	present										
Annette Wright	present			abstain							
Angelina Zervos	present					abstain					
Present:	24										
Absent:											
Total:		34	34	11	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Quorum:	18										

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