



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457
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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, March 18, 2026

Members Present:

Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Sofia Delgado, Fousani Hamidou, Shantavia Inabinet, Gail Ibry, Julio Jimenez, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Jessii Parham, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Renee Reed, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Brigitte Brantley, Ashonda Culcleasure, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Laura James, Nicole Ndiaye, Katrina Rawlins, Hoshi Salcedo, Gladys Sotomayor, Porcha Wilson, and Annette Wright.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Kenny Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER

The March 18, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was at Abraham Plaza located at 1870 Crotona Avenue and was called to order at approximately 6:38 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:

Pablo Cruz, representing Tabernaculo Pentecostal

Mr. Cruz raised concerns regarding neighboring residents placing garbage in front of the church, Tabernáculo Pentecostal, located at 660 East 180th Street, which has resulted in sanitation tickets being issued to the church. Despite efforts to dispute the fines and report the issue, the problem persists due to ongoing enforcement challenges.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett acknowledged the concern and committed to following up with the New York City Department of Sanitation to address the situation.

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 Bronx Week will move forward following productive meetings with state leadership, including the Speaker and members of the New York State Senate. He highlighted the Borough President's ongoing efforts to strengthen fire safety across community boards and precinct councils and noted her recent participation in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Bronx's first blood donor center. He also addressed concerns related to federal immigration enforcement, emphasizing that individuals cannot be detained without a warrant. He added that the office is actively supporting residents by offering training sessions and immigration clinics.

In addition, Mr. Agosto shared updates on borough cultural grants and upcoming events celebrating the Bronx's diverse communities, including observances of Dominican, Irish, and Greek heritage. Finally, he informed attendees of his upcoming temporary absence and provided contact information for constituent services. The office, located at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 123, can be reached at (718) 590-3500 or (718) 590-3535 for assistance during that time.

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Torreblanca highlighted Senator Rivera's office's ongoing small business outreach in the district, which began in November 2025 and has seen strong engagement. However, she noted that submissions for PM card requests have been limited and may now require in-person pickup due to security and capacity considerations. She also shared that the office hosts monthly clinics in partnership with West Bronx Housing and the Neighborhood Resource Center, as well as NME Housing and Immigration Services. Updates and flyers for these events are distributed through the office newsletter and WhatsApp channel.

Additionally, Ms. Torreblanca also reported that Senate Bill S2329, which would require a review of all motor vehicle repair shop applications to incorporate community input, has passed the Senate. She highlighted continued outreach to local auto shop owners, including a recent follow-up walkthrough during which informational letters were distributed to explain the proposed legislation and encourage the use of 311 to report concerns. She noted that some business owners had previously been unaware of these resources. She added that amendments to the Assembly version of the bill are anticipated, which could restart the legislative process, and emphasized that the effort remains ongoing.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara provided updates on upcoming events, services, and legislative activity. She announced that the office will host a New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) Express event on Thursday, April 9, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. The event will offer drivers and passengers an opportunity to ask questions about TLC operations, including accessibility, licensing, inspections, and complaints. She also shared details about the office's annual Easter egg hunt, scheduled for Saturday, April 4, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Castle Hill Houses, located at 580 Castle Hill Avenue. Community organizations interested in tabling are invited to participate.

Ms. Vergara also noted that the office continues to host monthly affordable housing pop-ups, with the next event scheduled for Thursday, April 9, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Residents are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment. She highlighted recent community efforts, including two Ramadan food distributions that each provided approximately 500 halal chickens along with vegetables, as well as a co-hosted community iftar with New York State Senator Nathalia Fernandez.

In addition, Ms. Vergara shared that bill A1755A, which would require New York State homeless shelters to provide adequate internet access, has advanced from the Assembly Social Services Committee to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. She also provided information about the 2026 Garden Grants program, a partnership between Shipt and Target, which will support community-based gardening projects. Finally, she reminded attendees that their district office is located at 1973 Westchester Avenue and can be reached at (718) 931-2620 for constituent services and additional information.

Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Rothstein provided an update on Congressman Torres' recent work and priorities, highlighting his focus on addressing rising costs, increasing food insecurity, and the growing strain on working families across the community. She noted that the Congressman has recently met with local physicians training in the Bronx, advocates supporting patients with lung cancer, and the Food Bank for New York City, which is experiencing increased demand for its services. Ms. Rothstein also shared that, in Washington, Congressman Torres is advocating for the protection of food assistance programs and underscoring the importance of preserving Congressional authority in major national decisions. The office reaffirmed its commitment to serving as a resource for constituents and encouraged residents to reach out for assistance with federal agencies or to raise community concerns.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Capers announced that applications for the New York Yankees Community Council Youth Leadership Award have been received and asked Board Members to submit their votes by Monday, March 30, 2026. The top five applicants will be selected. She noted that District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will distribute the application materials along with an online voting form.

Chairperson Capers also reported that several committees did not meet this month due to a lack of quorum, largely stemming from insufficient notice of member absences. As a result, those committees were unable to conduct business or report to the full Board. To improve coordination, District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will promptly share absence notifications with committee chairs.

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Chair of the Public Safety and Licensing Committee, raised additional concerns about quorum. She explained that recent schedule changes related to the Happy Land anniversary service contributed to several committees being unable to meet quorum. She noted that adjusted meeting dates and unclear communication led to lower-than-usual attendance for her committee. While Chairperson Capers indicated that advance notice had been provided, Ms. Rivera suggested that the information may not have reached all board members effectively.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett clarified procedural rules regarding a question of privilege, explaining that it may interrupt proceedings, does not require a second, and is ruled on by the Chair without debate before returning to the original motion. He also noted that, under Robert's Rules of Order, members who are present for roll calling, including those who arrive late, are permitted to vote, and that meeting minutes consistently reflect attendance and voting status. Additionally, District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett reviewed Open Meetings Law requirements, emphasizing that

committee members participating remotely must use video to be considered present. He added that he will work with committee chairs to ensure compliance move forward.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Magdamary Marcano reported on the Board's financial activity for the month. Excluding Personal Services, the Board incurred expenses totaling \$6,152.45. When including Personal Services costs of \$19,072.79, total monthly expenditure amounted to \$25,225.24. To date, the Board has expended \$182,564.66, leaving a remaining balance of \$117,112.43 for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Board members raised concerns regarding the timely utilization of funds, noting that unspent funds cannot be carried over into the next fiscal year. They emphasized the importance of clearer planning and more consistent tracking of committed funds. In response, the Treasurer agreed to provide a more comprehensive report in the following month, including both allocated and projected expenses, to offer a clearer picture of the remaining budget.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

District Manger Rafael Moure-Punnett, on behalf of Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson (Absent)

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett requested that board members review, at their convenience, the letters issued by the Disciplinary Committee included in the meeting packet.

Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee received updates on the NYC Civic Engagement Commission's participatory budgeting program, encouraging community members to participate in upcoming voting on Bronx proposals. The Committee also discussed the City's Outdoor Dining Program expansion, expressing support for legislation that would allow year-round outdoor dining and broaden eligibility.

The Economic Development Committee recommended that the Board issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz urging him to review and support Intro 0655-2026 to promote increased participation in the City's outdoor dining program. Additionally, since the Public Safety and Licensing Committee did not convene due to a lack of quorum, the Economic Development Committee reviewed and discussed items that had been scheduled for that committee.

Ms. Angelina Zervos, Environment and Parks Committee Vice Chairperson

Ms. Zervos reported that the Parks and Environment Committee had previously received a request for a letter of support from the Teddy Bear Project. She noted that the organization has since withdrawn their request and no longer requires a letter.

Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Health and Human Services Committee did not convene due to a lack of quorum. However, an update was provided regarding St. Barnabas Hospital, which has received \$4 million to expand its emergency department, including pediatric services. The hospital will be invited to a future Health and Human Services Committee meeting to share additional details.

District Manger Rafael Moure-Punnett, on behalf of Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson (Absent)

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett summarized the recommendation from the Housing and Land Use Committee regarding the Affordable Housing Fast Track initiative. He explained that recent changes to the New York City Charter allow certain housing developments in low-density areas to bypass portions of the traditional public review process, including City Council approval, by applying directly to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). While the initiative is intended to promote 100% affordable housing, he noted that the current language may permit developments under the Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC) model that are not fully affordable. As a result, the Board will submit testimony to the BSA with recommendations to better align the program's implementation with voter intent and to preserve meaningful community input.

Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. However, their agenda items were discussed at the Economic Development Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed and discussed the liquor license renewal for Parisienne Cafe Inc. at 2339 Arthur Avenue. The Committee will issue a favorable recommendation to the New York State Liquor Authority for this establishment.

Ms. Rivera also provided updates on community safety. The 48th Precinct reported two incidents on Wednesday, March 4. There was a fatal shooting at 2254 Hughes Avenue, where the victim was declared dead on arrival, and a non-fatal shooting later that evening, with the victim in stable condition. Investigations into both incidents are ongoing. Additionally, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) shared plans to divide the Bronx Borough command into North and South divisions to enhance oversight and response.

Carol Robinson, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Robinson reported that the Sanitation Committee received an update on the Environmental Literacy and Climate Resiliency Resource Fair, scheduled for Sunday, April 26, at Walter Gladwin Park. The event is open to all ages, will run from late morning to early afternoon and feature tables hosted by environmental organizations and agencies. A representative from the New York Sea Grant Foundation will lead a workshop on either "Litter and Plastics" or "Our Community in 2036."

Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

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

XI. ADOPTIONS OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6's February 2026 Community Board and March 2026 Committee Meetings was made by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and was adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.

2. A motion to issue a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals, providing recommendations for the Affordable Housing Fast Track rulemaking hearing was made by Mr. Reggie Powell, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and was adopted by a vote twenty-one in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
3. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz, recommending that he review and sign on to Intro 0655-2026 to promote increased participation in the City's outdoor dining program was made by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and was adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
4. A motion to approve funding of \$1,000 to support a senior luncheon at Drew Gardens, covering expenses for food and a DJ was tabled.
 - 4A. A motion to table the approval of funding of \$1,000 to support a senior luncheon at Drew Gardens, covering expenses for food and a DJ was made by Mr. Angel Nuenz-Garcia, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, five opposed, and one abstention.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to address, the March 18, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was adjourned at approximately 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2026

4A

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MEETING MINUTES	LETTER TO BSA RE: ADPT	LETTER TO CM FELIZ RE: INTRO 0685-2026	PENDING OF \$1,000 FOR SENIOR LUCHEN AT DRUM GARDENS	ABJOURNMENT	MOTION TO TAKE UP
		Motion By: Angel N. Reggie Second By: Nicole Carter Magia		Nicole Carter Magia Carmen R.	Renee Renee	Lisa Renee	Angel Nunez Lisa Sanchez
Brigitte Brandley	X absent						yes
Cornell Brown	/						abstain
Evonne Capers	/						
Nicole Carter	/						
Ashonda Culcleasure	X						yes
Sofia Delgado	X						
Margarita Espinosa	X						
Frank Franz	X						
Mario Garcia	X						no
Fousani Hamidou	/						no
Shantavia Inabinet	/						no
Gail Irby	/						
Laura James	X						
Julio Jimenez	/						yes
Maria Latimer	/						yes
Magdamary Marciano	/						yes
Nicole Nduaye	/						
Angel Nunez-Garcia	/						yes
Jessii Parham	/						yes
Lamoni Parker	X absent						
Reggie Powell	/						no
Paul Ramirez	/						yes
Katrina Rutwills	/						no
Renee Reed	/						yes
Carmen Rivera	/						yes
Kristine Rivera	/						yes
Carol Robinson	/						yes
Hosht Saleedo	/						yes
Lisa Sanchez	/						yes
Gladys Sotomayor	/						
Porsche Wilson	/						
Annette Wright	/						
Angelina Zervos	/						no
Present:	Yes:						
Absent:	No:						
Total: 33	Abstain:						
Quorum: 17	Total:	33	33	33	33	33	33

12 yes 1 abstention