



**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, April 29, 2026

Members Present:

Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Fousani Hamidou, Shantavia Inabinet, Gail Irby, Laura James, Julio Jimenez, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Nicole N'diaye, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Jessii Parham, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Katrina Rawlins, Renee Reed, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Hoshi Salcedo, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Annette Wright, and Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Brigitte Brantley, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Ashonda Culcleasure, Sofia Degaldo, and Maria Garcia (Leave of Absence).

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Kenny Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
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
Anne-Marie Batista, representing New York State Assembly Member George Alvarez
Jeffrey Peña, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 29, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was held at Madison Square Boys and Girls Club at John E. Grimm III Clubhouse located at 543 East 189th Street, Bronx, New York and was called to order at approximately 6:39 PM by 1st Vice-Chairperson Laura James.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Mr. Kenny Agosto, Community Liaison for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

The following individuals addressed the Community Board during the meeting's Community Period:

Shakima Rogers, representing Belmont Library

Ms. Rogers presented information on two upcoming vendor programs. The first, an "Improv for Kids Show," is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM. The interactive children's program will feature humorous and musical comedy skits designed to engage young audiences. The second program, geared toward adults, is a summer concert presented by Concept in Motion featuring Wayne E. Tucker. Scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at 3:00 PM, the event will showcase a live performance featuring trumpet, piano, and vocals.

Mario Figueroa, representing Drew Gardens

Mr. Figueroa spoke in favor of a proposal to honor his longtime mentor, Nessie Patton, in celebration of her upcoming 89th birthday. He shared that Ms. Patton has had a profound impact on his life and noted that she is currently undergoing chemotherapy, making the recognition especially meaningful. The proposal included hosting a senior luncheon in her honor, inviting close friends and community members to celebrate her contributions. It was noted that the luncheon would be open to all seniors in the community. Mr. Figueroa also highlighted the successful reopening of community garden by the New York State Department of Transportation in July of the previous year, emphasizing the importance of community collaboration and resilience. He expressed his gratitude to Bronx Community Board 6 and Laura James for their continued support.

Erica Figueroa, representing New York City Health + Hospitals–Jacobi and North Central Bronx

Ms. Figueroa provided an overview of the facilities and services available to the community. She explained that NYC Health + Hospitals is the largest public healthcare system in the country, consisting of 11 hospitals and multiple post-acute care facilities. She highlighted North Central Bronx Hospital's commitment to serving all New Yorkers regardless of insurance status, ability to pay, or immigration status. Ms. Figueroa discussed key services offered at both North Central Bronx Hospital and Jacobi Medical Center, including labor and delivery programs and comprehensive behavioral health services. She also announced the addition of a new state-of-the-art MRI machine at the facility, bringing more advanced medical technology to the community. Ms. Figueroa emphasized the hospital system's dedication to helping residents live healthier lives and expressed interest in continuing to strengthen partnerships within the community.

Yvette Vargas, representing Drew Gardens

Ms. Vargas also spoke in support of the proposal for a senior luncheon honoring Nessie Patton. She recognized Ms. Patton as a longtime community leader whose work reflects the spirit of the Bronx. She highlighted her decades of service as a steward of the Bronx River Garden and as a founding member of one of the borough's oldest community gardens. She noted Ms. Patton's active role in improving the community through efforts such as cleaning and restoring the river and creating spaces where residents could gather and thrive. Ms. Vargas described Ms. Patton as a symbol of commitment, resilience, and love for her neighborhood, emphasizing that the proposed luncheon would appropriately recognize her lasting contributions and the positive impact she continues to have on future generations in the Bronx community.

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 several upcoming community events and initiatives as part of Bronx Week, taking place from Friday, May 1st through Sunday, May 17th. Planned events include a silent disco skate party, an LGBTQIA+ Straight Alliance Bronx mixer, a parade and food festival, a bankers' breakfast, a health day, and other community activities. Additional announcements included the 2026 Virtual Graduate Fair on May 7th, the annual prom dress and suit giveaway on May 8th at Bronx Borough Hall, and "Tennis Night with Dad," hosted in partnership with Bronx Fathers Taking Action on May 14th at the Cary Leeds Tennis Center. Information was also shared regarding senior resources and constituent services available through the Bronx Borough President's Office. The report further addressed ongoing fire safety concerns following recent fires in the district, emphasizing the importance of closing apartment doors during emergencies. The office continues to conduct fire safety workshops and maintain partnerships with the FDNY and the American Red Cross to support community education and preparedness. Mr. Agosto can be contacted by telephone at (347) 213-0375 for further information.

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Torreblanca provided updates on assistance efforts following the recent fire in the community. She expressed condolences to the families affected and reported that the office has been coordinating with the American Red Cross, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and other agencies to support displaced residents. She informed us that 18 households had been placed in ARC hotels, with additional households either referred for services, granted extensions based on availability, or currently in the registration process. She encouraged community members to contact the office if they know of residents who are still in need of assistance or who have not yet received services. Ms. Torreblanca also shared information about the office's ongoing partnership with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) to assist constituents facing landlord-tenant disputes, harassment, evictions, and housing court cases, and provided contact information for residents seeking support.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus announced his recent promotion to Legislative Aide while continuing in his role as Community Affairs Liaison. He explained that the expanded role allows him to serve as a bridge between the district office and Albany by elevating community concerns for consideration as potential legislation. He discussed two bills currently being advanced by the office. The first, S9593, would prohibit highway expansions in communities with high asthma rates, addressing environmental and public health concerns in the Bronx. The second, S9332, known as the Anti-Slumlord Act, seeks to hold large property developers accountable by requiring hazardous housing violations to be corrected before additional property expansion can occur. Mr. Cardus also announced several upcoming events, including a Healthy Lifestyle Convention on May 15th and the 3rd Annual Health and Wellness Fair on May 16th, both focused on providing health education, wellness resources, and community support services. In addition, he shared information on constituent services available through the office, including assistance for residents affected by fires, landlord-tenant issues, immigration matters, legal services, and eviction-related cases, in partnership with local organizations. Residents were encouraged to contact the office for support and access to community resources.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara provided updates on the New York State budget and ongoing legislative matters. She noted that the state budget remains delayed due to continued negotiations on several policy issues, including auto insurance reforms and proposed changes to climate legislation. She also shared information on Bill A7291, which would require standardized labeling on food products to distinguish safety dates from quality dates and would direct the Department of Agriculture and Markets to educate consumers on the new labeling system. The bill has advanced from the Assembly Agriculture Committee to the Assembly Codes Committee for further consideration. In addition, Ms. Vergara reported that the office is working closely with Bronx Community Board 6 and the tenant association at Lambert Houses to address concerns related to recertification and building security. This includes coordinating a meeting with the 48th Precinct, the building's security company, and legal partners, as well as efforts to secure additional staffing support for the recertification process. Lastly, Ms. Vergara announced plans for a tentative community shredding event scheduled for May 30th at the district office on Westchester Avenue, with further details to be provided once confirmed.

Anne-Marie Batista, representing New York State Assembly Member George Alvarez

Ms. Batista acknowledged the recent fires affecting the community and informed residents that those in need of assistance may contact or visit the district office on Webster Avenue for support. She also announced a new senior internship opportunity through the office for older adults interested in learning more about government operations, legislation, and the day-to-day work of the Assembly Member's office. Although unpaid, she noted that the program offers valuable community engagement and educational experience. Additionally, Ms. Batista shared that the office recently completed its tax assistance season, during which more than 150 residents received support with filing their taxes.

Jeffrey Peña, representing Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Ms. Peña announced an upcoming Reentry Employment Resource Fair scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Northeast Bronx YMCA. He noted that the previous two events had been postponed due to snow and expressed hope for a successful turnout this time. The event will feature employers, free business attire, food, music, complimentary haircuts provided by barbers, and DMV services for identification card issuance. Mr. Peña encouraged attendees to share the information with anyone seeking employment opportunities or reentry support services.

Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Rothstein announced that the Congressman Torres recently secured \$350,000 in funding for "Guns Down Life Up," a youth violence prevention program based at Lincoln Hospital. She also highlighted recent public engagements, including hosting Congresswoman Maxine Waters in the Bronx for a full day of events and attending the Chatoyer Awards and Celebration of Garifuna Heritage Month. In Washington, D.C., the Congressman sent a letter to major airline CEOs urging them to lower ticket prices once fuel shortages subside, and raised concerns regarding unusual activity in betting markets tied to geopolitical events, calling for closer scrutiny of potential insider influence. Additionally, she noted that the Congressman has recently met with a range of stakeholders, including medical professionals, community leaders, and civic organizations. Residents were encouraged to subscribe to the office newsletter via the official website and to contact the office for assistance with federal agency matters.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Laura James, 1st Vice Chairperson, presented the Chairperson's Report on behalf of Chairperson Evonne Capers, who was absent.

She thanked all those who participated in the Yankees Leadership Award selection process and announced this year's recipients: Jamarri Walters, Taniya Johnson, Jose Martinez, Fatou Barry, and Juarianny Viscaino. Ms. James also reported that, at a prior Executive Committee meeting, Chairperson Capers raised concerns regarding funding for National Night Out and requested that the District Manager explore the possibility of redirecting those funds toward the annual 5K Run for Diabetes Awareness. This would include consideration of items such as participant shirts at a cost comparable to current precinct allocations. She noted that this will be included in an upcoming proposal, along with a review of remaining fiscal year funds. Finally, Ms. James announced that an Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for next week to continue these discussions and address committee quorum coordination.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the Board that the Disciplinary Committee has proposed a recognition award for Board Members who demonstrate outstanding integrity, fairness, and commitment to the committee's standards and responsibilities. Members were asked to submit nominations for consideration, and an email will be circulated to formally request submissions from the Board. He also highlighted a motion on tonight's agenda from a Board Member related to ongoing advocacy in West Farms concerning proposed New York State Department of Transportation renovations to the Cross Bronx Expressway. He noted that a coalition led by the Bronx River Alliance has drafted a sign-on letter, which the Board has previously supported. The current letter outlines recommendations to mitigate environmental and community impacts, including tree planting, flood mitigation, acquisition of the adjacent concrete plant, and protections for Starlight Park during construction. It also calls for broader neighborhood investments, such as street improvements (including East 177th Street), non-highway freight transportation, redevelopment of the bus depot, workforce development initiatives, STEM and environmental programming, and expansion of the Bronx Asthma Initiative supported through congestion pricing.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Magdamary Marcano reported on the Board's financial activity for the month, providing an update on the Board's financial status as of April 1. She stated that personal services expenses, primarily covering staff salaries, totaled \$19,072.79 for the period, and acknowledged staff contributions to the Board's daily operations and community work. She further reported that other office-related expenditures, including supplies and equipment such as food services, machines, and copiers, amounted to \$2,725.14, bringing total monthly expenses to \$21,077.93. Year-to-date expenditures were reported at \$204,362.59. Ms. Marcano also reviewed the Board's overall budget, noting an initial allocation of approximately \$125,329.59 and projecting total annual spending of approximately \$225,329.59 by the fiscal year-end on June 30. She highlighted that approximately \$20,000 has been allocated toward community-based programming and events supporting children, seniors, and broader community initiatives.

She concluded by emphasizing the importance of continued support from elected officials to sustain these programs, noting that a significant portion of the Board's programming serves youth and families.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker informed us that the Disciplinary Committee reviewed a complaint regarding Board member conduct at the March meeting and determined that there was no violation of the Code of Conduct. Guidance and responses were issued to both parties. The Disciplinary Committee also reviewed attendance records and advanced a motion for removal of Fousani Hamidou due to six consecutive absences from the Youth and Education Committee. In addition, two members were placed on probation for low attendance. However, one case was deferred following a request for leave of absence, and no removal action will proceed at this time.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee received an update from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) regarding the Garden of Youth. She explained that the City is working to repurchase a portion of the community garden that was mistakenly sold to a private developer due to a tax lien. DCAS has completed its assessment and is currently awaiting final approval from the Mayor’s Office, with funding already secured through Council Member Feliz’s office. The Environment and Parks Committee also reviewed plans for the upcoming Earth Day event on April 26, confirming participation from multiple city agencies and community partners, including the Department of Sanitation, Fire Department, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Emergency Management, Bronx River Garden, Excellence Community Schools, and the New York Sea Grant Foundation. The event will feature environmental education programming, wellness activities, and a “passport” system to distribute Bronx Zoo tickets to participating attendees. Members then discussed the upcoming 5K Run/Walk scheduled for May 30th, including a proposed \$2,000 budget to cover medals, refreshments, and related supplies, noting that t-shirt costs were not included in the estimate. Ms. Espinosa’s report concluded with expressions of appreciation for support of the Happy Land Memorial event, as well as discussion of upcoming site visits to Bronx Park, Vidalia Park, and surrounding community gardens.

Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Health and Human Services Committee did not convene due to the lack of a quorum; consequently, no official business was conducted. However, it was noted that the committee’s annual 5K Run supporting diabetes awareness is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th.

Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee reviewed the proposed development at 680 East Fordham Road, the former DMV site, where a 13-story mixed-use building with approximately 370 residential units and ground-floor commercial space is planned. While the project complies with existing C4-5 zoning and may proceed as-of-right once permits are secured, the committee acknowledged community concerns related to neighborhood character, parking, and infrastructure impacts. The committee also discussed the Department of Housing Preservation and Development’s response regarding the Universal Affordability Preference program, raising concerns about affordability levels, voucher accessibility, and long-term housing impacts. Members expressed interest in inviting developers to future meetings to improve transparency and community engagement.

Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee reviewed several liquor license applications, including renewals, new applications, and a relocation request. Concerns were raised regarding Tina Bar and Restaurant due to repeated noise complaints, with the applicant committing to soundproofing improvements expected in June, and the Committee recommending additional soundproofing and security measures. Favorable recommendations were issued for 1002 Lounge +

Restaurant, El Braserito Taqueria Corp. (with suggested operating hours of 2:00 AM on weekends and 11:00 PM on weekdays), Fiestas Mexicanas Restaurant and Bar (with recommendations for 2:00 AM closing on Mondays and Tuesdays and soundproofing improvements), Michael Angelo's Brick Oven Inc., the relocation of Praga VIP Lounge Corp., and new applications for Roots Coffee & Wine LLC and El Nuevo Capri Express Inc., both without stipulations. Ms. Rivera also reported that the Committee also heard an update on the citywide shortage of school crossing guards, particularly impacting Bronx District 12 and the 48th Precinct, and voted to send a letter supporting restoration of funding and expanded coverage, including charter schools. In addition, the Committee received a 48th Precinct Community Council update highlighting recent fires, violent incidents, and ongoing emergency response efforts, including community-based relief coordination with local organizations. Finally, Ms. Rivera reported that the Committee reviewed and approved a funding proposal for the annual National Night Out event scheduled for August 4th, including proposed programming and contingency plans for inclement weather. To avoid any potential conflict of interest, the proposal will be presented again at a future committee meeting by a non-board member.

Carol Robinson, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Robinson reported that the Sanitation Committee confirmed the participation of several agencies in Bronx Community Board 6's Earth Day event scheduled for Sunday, April 26th, including the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), Fire Department (FDNY), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the NYC Office of Emergency Management (NYCEM). Ms. Robinson also reported that the Committee received an update on the East Tremont clean-up initiative, noting the recent involvement of VIP Community Services and the NYPD Explorers in volunteer efforts. The next clean-up is anticipated in June and may take place more frequently than the current bi-monthly schedule.

Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

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

Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Ms. James reported that the Youth and Education Committee did not meet due to the absence of a quorum.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of quorum with the presence of twenty-two (22) members.

XI. ADOPTIONS OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6's March 2026 Community Board and April 2026 Committee Meetings was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to approve the allocation of \$1,000 to support a senior luncheon at Drew Gardens, with funds to be used for food and DJ services was made by Ms. Shatavia Inabinet, seconded by Ms. Renee Reed, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.**

3. A motion to approve the allocation of \$1,870 in funding for the Annual 5K Run in support of Diabetes Awareness was made by Ms. Kristine Rivera, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.
4. A motion to approve the allocation of \$2,750 to support the 48th Precinct Council's National Night Out event was tabled.
 - 4A. A motion to table the approval of the allocation of \$2,750 to support the 48th Precinct Council's National Night Out event was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Ms. Gail Irby, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, five opposed, and zero abstentions.
5. A motion to issue a letter to Council Member Oswald Feliz regarding the ongoing shortage of school crossing guards in Bronx Community District 6 was made by Mr. Julio Jimenez, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
6. A motion to authorize signing onto a coalition letter addressed to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul advocating for reinvestment in the Bronx in connection with the Cross Bronx Expressway 5 Bridges Project was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Kristine Rivera, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.
7. A motion to remove Board Member Fousani Hamidou from Bronx Community Board 6 for failure to comply with the attendance requirements set forth in the Board's bylaws was made by Mr. Lamont Parker and seconded by Mr. Frank Franz. The motion failed by a vote of two in favor, seventeen opposed, and two abstentions.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to address, the April 29, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was adjourned at approximately 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

