



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 – Email: BX06@cb.nyc.gov – Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

June 22, 2026

The Honorable Oswald Feliz
New York City Council Member
15th District, Bronx

The Honorable Julie Menin
Speaker
New York City Council

The Honorable Zohran K. Mamdani
Mayor
City of New York

The Honorable Gale Brewer
Chair, Committee on Government
Operations, State & Federal Legislation
New York City Council

Bronx Community Board 6 would like to join with our colleagues across the city in calling for a baseline budget increase for New York City Community Boards. We are heartened to see a renewed focus on service delivery in New York City's leadership and want to highlight the role Community Boards play in that process. Every week, residents call our Board offices seeking assistance with quality-of-life concerns with agencies like DOT, DOB, DSNY, and NYPD. Our Board's committees serve as the interface between these agencies and the public to learn about new initiatives and address community concerns.

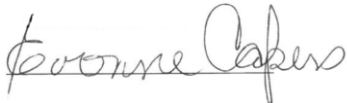
For the past two decades, Community Board budgets have increased by about 1.5% per year, while inflation averaged 2.5%. This has effectively cut Community Board budgets in a time where Community Boards have taken on more responsibilities that continue to grow. Recently, Community Boards have reviewed and opined on six comprehensive zoning text amendments, the new Universal Affordability Program developments, Open Dining permits, retail cannabis licenses, Open Street applications, city charter amendments, as well as their ongoing review of ULURP actions, liquor licenses, and traffic redesign projects. The voters of New York City have chosen to amend the ULURP process to allow development to bypass the City Council (under certain circumstances), but not the Community Boards. If the city's assumptions with this proposal prove true, we will see an increase in the number of buildings that move through ELURP or UAP and will continue to be reviewed by their local Community Board.

What do Community Boards use their budget for? Most of our funding is used for staff salaries, with Boards typically employing 2-4 city employees, many of whom are represented by SSEU Local 371. Our Board, like many others, uses our remaining funds for our office operations and to support community programming. Bronx Community Board 6 has supported vocational training, educational workshops, National Night Out, health fairs, holiday toy giveaways, know your rights trainings, and more to address needs in our community. These events are often with groups too small to access

discretionary funds through the City Council or city agencies. Nearly all those events and programs are made possible by staff and Board Members using unpaid time outside of work hours.

Fortunately, we know that the City Council and Mayor value community service and local community input. The functions of Community Boards must be supported with an adequate budget to facilitate that input. With only approximately 175 community board staff citywide, we serve 8.5 million residents, as well as local businesses and community organizations. Please support an agency-wide adjustment of \$50K per community board to redress a 20-year funding gap. It is a small request in the budget sense but meaningful to the staff and members of Community Boards and the people of the districts they serve.

Regards,



Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6



Rafael Moure-Punnett
District Manager
Bronx Community Board 6