



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, June 24, 2026

Members Present:

Brigette Brantley, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Shantavia Inabinet, Gail Irby, Laura James, Julio Jimenez, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Nicole N'diaye, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Renee Reed, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Annette Wright, and Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Jessii Parham, Paul Ramirez (Leave of Absence), Katrina Rawlins, and Hoshi Salcedo.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Maxwell Dickinson, representing New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani
Kenny Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, 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
Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 24, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was held at the Belmont Boulevard Apartments located at 780 East 185th Street, Bronx, New York and was called to order at approximately 6:37 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Mr. Cornell Brown.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Keisha McCroskey, representing Seeds for Growth and Development

Ms. McCroskey introduced her nonprofit organization, founded in 2017 to support survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence and individuals experiencing homelessness. She described the organization's resource center at 2403 Hoffman Avenue, which provides wraparound services, including food, housing assistance, training, and educational programs. Ms. McCroskey reported that the organization is experiencing financial difficulties and requested assistance identifying funding, grants, and other resources to sustain operations and continue serving the community. She also emphasized the organization's efforts to educate residents and youth about human trafficking and domestic violence prevention.

Jenifer Herrera, representing Neighborhood SHOPP

Ms. Herrera announced that Neighborhood SHOPP is collaborating with the Stryker Project to open a new senior living facility at 1886 Crotona Avenue, anticipated to open in late summer or early fall. She stated that she plans to remain engaged with the Community Board and encouraged older adults served by the organization to participate in future meetings and community activities.

Rosa Peraza

Ms. Peraza addressed the Board and urged members to fulfill their responsibilities and uphold their oath to represent the community. She encouraged Board members to participate in the voting of Board officers and emphasized the importance of accountability, diligence, and representing the interests of community residents.

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 completed nearly 632 interviews for community board appointments across all 12 Bronx districts, with applicants to be notified of appointment decisions by email. He also highlighted June as Gun Violence Awareness Month and discussed their ongoing efforts with the NYPD, elected officials, and community partners to increase patrols, cameras, and other public safety measures. He also promoted the launch of New York City's first 2-K program, which will provide at least 2,000 free early-childhood education seats, and encouraged families to apply through the New York City Department of Education's website.

Mr. Agosto can be contacted by telephone at (347) 213-0375 for further information.

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena responded to concerns regarding the condition and safety of Belmont Playground. Community members raised concerns about deteriorated steps and courts, drainage and flooding issues, overgrown vegetation, limited park access, and recent safety incidents. Mr. Baena acknowledged the concerns and stated that Belmont Playground remained on the Council Member's radar. He explained that the Council Member's office had allocated significant capital funding for parks and continued to work with the Parks Department and other City agencies to address delays in capital projects. He encouraged continued community advocacy and stated that the office would work to place Belmont Playground in the capital project queue and continue pursuing improvements to the playground. If individuals require assistance or additional information, Mr. Baena can be reached at (718) 842-8100.

Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Torreblanca provided several community updates. She announced an upcoming partnership with the university and invited Board Members and constituents to attend the office's 10th Annual Senior Health Fair and Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, July 23. She requested that individuals interested in attending, as well as those who know constituents who may be interested, contact the office to be added to the invitation list beginning July 6. Ms. Torreblanca also announced that the Mexican Consulate would be visiting the Bronx to provide services to constituents who would otherwise need to travel to Brooklyn or Manhattan. Appointments would be required, and the event is scheduled to take place at a local church on Tuesday from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus provided an update on recent state legislation. He discussed legislation addressing immigration protections, including measures limiting federal immigration enforcement access to sensitive locations, providing New Yorkers with avenues to pursue claims involving alleged constitutional rights violations, and restricting certain formal agreements between federal immigration authorities and local law enforcement agencies. He also discussed new restrictions concerning the 3D printing of firearm components and related safety software requirements. Mr. Cardus provided information regarding the Senator's district office and available constituent services, highlighted the office's recent Father's Day event, and announced plans for an upcoming veterans' brunch. Community members raised questions and concerns regarding immigration enforcement, data sharing, wrongful detention, and methods for circumventing 3D-printer safety measures. Mr. Cardus encouraged residents to contact the district office for assistance and stated that the office could provide immigration legal referrals and follow up on legislative concerns.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara provided updates on recent legislation and community services. She reported that Bill A1755A, which would require the State to provide adequate internet service, had passed the Senate and was awaiting the Governor's signature. The office also announced that it would host a virtual pop-up event on July 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 1973 Westchester Avenue. Ms. Vergara further reported on ongoing concerns at Lambert Houses, including broken doors and loitering. The office had met with the local precinct and building management and security personnel and planned a follow-up meeting to address door repairs, increased security, and the installation of additional cameras to eliminate blind spots and address safety concerns.

Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Rothstein announced that Congressman Torres had secured \$833,000 in federal funding for the construction of a large-scale oyster reef in the Hudson River. The project is intended to improve water quality, restore marine habitats, and provide STEM learning opportunities for local students. She also reported on efforts to urge federal officials to halt proposed reductions to Medicare-funded home health care services that could affect constituents. Additionally, he advocated for a federal investigation into a plane crash in Honduras that resulted in the deaths of 12 people, including Garifuna singer Aurelio Martínez. Ms. Rothstein further reported that the Congressman had secured \$3.15 million in funding to replace aging water and wastewater infrastructure in Concourse Village. She also noted the Congressman's participation in Juneteenth celebrations throughout the district.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Evonne Capers clarified that Board Members returning early from a leave of absence are required to notify both the Chairperson and the District Manager in writing. She further reminded Board Members that the executive elections and Board Member Recognition Awards would be conducted following the consideration of the evening's motions. Additionally, Chairperson Capers announced that the proposed bylaw amendment establishing additional guidelines for Board funding of events conducted in partnership with outside organizations would be presented for a vote that evening. The proposed amendment would limit the Board's financial contribution to a maximum of \$1,000 and clarify that such funding would be provided as reimbursement for services rendered, in accordance with applicable City procurement policies.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett provided an update on the Board's ongoing evaluation of publicly funded social service programs, including provider interviews and site visits. He requested approval to restructure contract payments to ensure the continuation of funding through Fiscal Year 2027. District Manager Moure-Punnett also presented a draft letter addressed to Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson outlining the Board's policy recommendations for consideration in the Borough President's forthcoming Strategic Policy Statement. Additionally, District Manager Moure-Punnett highlighted the Board's recent advocacy efforts and accomplishments, including support for crossing guards, youth programs, arts programming, and community events; increased accountability in the ULURP process; opposition to highway expansion; and efforts to strengthen committee participation.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Magdamary Marcano presented the financial report for the month and noted that additional expenditures for the remainder of June were still pending and would be incorporated into the September financial report. She reported that total expenses amounted to \$23,619.15, including \$4,529.86 for supplies, food, and overhead and \$19,089.29 for personal services. The Treasurer further reported that total expenditures to date were approximately \$251,962.21 and noted that a financial review would continue throughout the summer.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annette Wright, Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee

Ms. Wright informed the Board that the Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee reviewed the election procedures, nominated candidates, member eligibility, potential runoff for Secretary, nomination deadlines, and term limits. The Ad-Hoc Committee also discussed and finalized new Board member recognition awards for service and attendance, including separate recognition for committee chairs, committee members, committee attendance, and Board meeting attendance.

Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker informed the Board that the Disciplinary Committee initiated attendance probation for one member and discussed attendance requirements for two others. The Disciplinary Committee also asked the District Manager to confirm which members are eligible to run in the upcoming executive election and discussed procedures for ending a leave of absence and a potential bylaw amendment regarding leave reasons.

Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter informed us that the Economic Development Committee received an update from Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation (NIDC) on merchant organizing along the East

Tremont Avenue corridor, efforts to address street conditions, attract new businesses and banking services, and upcoming community events. The Economic Development Committee unanimously approved a letter supporting NIDC's efforts to bring an additional bank to the area. Members were also encouraged to participate in the People's Money participatory budgeting process. The Economic Development Committee unanimously approved \$450 in funding for Renee & Friends' 2nd Annual Block Party on July 18.

Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee received a presentation from Bronx River Garden on its 2025 Gardening 101 and Wellness in West Farms programs. The \$2,800 Board sponsorship supported free gardening, wellness, and educational activities that served more than 180 registered participants and strengthened community engagement with local green space. The committee was informed that the sponsorship funds had not yet been disbursed, requiring the garden to cover program expenses in advance. The committee also discussed scheduling community garden visits for July 18 or July 25 to assess potential spaces for future community events and programming.

Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Health and Human Services Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. However, she highlighted the success of the Diabetes Awareness 5K Walk/Run on May 30, which had 89 participants and included health screenings and community resource vendors. Christine thanked the event's partners, volunteers, Board members, and staff for their support and noted plans to build on the event in 2027. She also shared the committee's priorities of expanding services and outreach for seniors and veterans, addressing gun violence as a public health issue, and partnering with local schools to launch a youth vaping awareness initiative in September.

Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land Use Committee received updates on proposed Universal Affordability Preference (UAP) and City of Yes housing projects, including developments along Third Avenue. Members discussed affordable housing requirements, development costs, zoning incentives, financing challenges, and affordable homeownership models. The Housing and Land-Use Committee emphasized the importance of transparency, early community engagement, and communication between developers and residents. The Housing and Land-Use Committee also discussed the proposed 197-a Plan for West Farms, which would explore potential zoning changes while preserving the neighborhood's low-density residential character. Members agreed to conduct community outreach, gather information from property owners, and continue discussions with the Department of City Planning. Mr. Franz also informed us that a second public hearing was held on ULURP applications #240206ZMX and #N240207ZRX regarding a proposed rezoning to higher-density districts and a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing area. Members reiterated concerns about the potential impacts on neighborhood character, density, and future development and agreed to continue advocacy, outreach to elected officials, and community engagement as the application moves forward.

Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee reviewed liquor license renewal applications for Enzo's of Arthur Avenue and Howl At The Moon Restaurant and unanimously approved favorable recommendations to the New York State Liquor Authority. The Committee also discussed a temporary summer review process for liquor license applications during July and August, including authorizing the District Manager to conduct reviews and process applications on the Committee's behalf when regular meetings are not held. Additionally, Chairperson Carmen Rivera provided an update on a

June 3 enforcement operation by the 48th Precinct targeting illegal parking, abandoned vehicles, and “ghost cars,” which resulted in 17 parking summonses, 39 vehicle tows, 12 vehicle removals, and 26 sanitation summonses. Members encouraged residents to use 311 and participate in Community Council meetings to report quality-of-life concerns.

Carol Robinson, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Robinson reported that the Sanitation Committee discussed plans for an upcoming community cleanup on East Tremont Avenue. The cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, with volunteers meeting at Walter Gladwin Park before working in teams along the East Tremont Avenue corridor.

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 approved a \$100 funding request for the Annual Love Day Back-to-School Drive and Community Basketball Tournament, scheduled for August 15, 2026, at Belmont Playground, with a rain date of August 22. The event aims to serve approximately 1,000 families through school-supply distribution, basketball activities, and community resources. The Committee also unanimously appointed Gladys Sotomayor as Vice Chairperson. For FY2027, members discussed plans for the Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway, a borough-wide Youth Talent Show, and a youth Anti-Vaping Initiative focused on education and prevention through student-created videos, skits, and interviews. The Committee emphasized early planning, community partnerships, sponsorships, and outreach to support these initiatives.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of quorum with the presence of twenty-five (25) members.

XI. ADOPTIONS OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6’s May 2026 Community Board and June 2026 Committee Meetings was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
2. A motion to amend the payment schedule for the Best Practices of Out-of-School Programs Evaluation Project, conducted in partnership with Catalyst Research and Development, Dr. Sonia James Wilson, by allocating \$4,250 of the contracted amount to Fiscal Year 2026 and \$2,750 to Fiscal Year 2027 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Brigitte Brantley, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, one opposed, five abstentions, and one refusal.
3. A motion to amend the Bronx Community Board 6’s Bylaws by incorporating the following Office Protocol provisions:
“Non-Profit Organizations may request funding of no more than \$1,000 per event and may receive support for no more than three events per calendar year.

Approved non-profit organizations shall be reimbursed by the Board following the completion of the event upon submission of an invoice and completion of the required payment process through the Payee Information Portal.

This amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption on June 24, 2026, and shall not apply retroactively to funding proposals previously approved by the Board.”

was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.

3A. A motion to amend the motion to amend the Bronx Community Board 6’s Bylaws by incorporating the following Office Protocol provisions:

“Organizations may request funding of no more than \$1,000 per event and may receive support for no more than three events per calendar year.

Approved organizations shall be reimbursed by the Board following the completion of the event upon submission of an invoice and completion of the required payment process through the Payee Information Portal.

This amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption on June 24, 2026, and shall not apply retroactively to funding proposals previously approved by the Board.”

by adding the words “non-profit” before the word “organizations” was made by Ms. Kristine Rivera, seconded by Ms. Laura James, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstention.

4. A motion to approve \$100 in funding to the Da People’s Assembly for the Love Day Back-to-School Drive and Community Basketball Tournament scheduled for August 15, 2026 was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Angelina Zervos, and adopted by a vote of twenty-three in favor, one opposed, zero abstentions, and one recusal.
5. A motion to approve \$450 in funding to support the Renee & Friends Block Party for DJ services and event supplies was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, one opposed, and zero abstentions.
6. A motion to issue a letter to the Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation (NIDC) requesting that it pursue and facilitate the establishment of a new bank or credit union branch location along East Tremont Avenue was made by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Mr. Angel Nunez-Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
7. A motion to authorize District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett to act on behalf of the Public Safety and Licensing Committee for the review and processing of liquor license renewal applications during July and August 2026, and to convene one virtual liquor license review meeting each month during that period was made by Ms. Nicole N’diaye, seconded by Mr. Reggie Powell, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
8. A motion to issue a letter of comment to Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson regarding the Strategic Policy Statement, identifying key long-term issues affecting our district and proposing strategies and recommendations to address those challenges by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Ms. Shantavia Inabinet, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.

XII. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

An election of officers of Bronx Community Board 6 for the two year term commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028 was conducted by the Nominating Committee. District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett reviewed the election procedures with the Board. Nominating Committee Chair Annette Wright presented the nominations for each office. The nominees presented were Evonne Capers and Kristine Rivera for Chairperson, Laura James for First Vice Chairperson, Angelina Zervos for Second Vice Chairperson, Margarita Espinosa, Annette Wright, and Carmen Rivera for Secretary, Magdamary Marcano for Treasurer, and Lamont Parker for Parliamentarian.

Ms. Wright opened the floor for additional nominations. Magdamary Marcano withdrew her candidacy for Treasurer and was nominated for Chairperson. Carmen Rivera withdrew her candidacy for Secretary and was nominated for First Vice Chairperson. Kristine Rivera withdrew her candidacy for Chairperson and was nominated for Second Vice Chairperson. Julio Jimenez was nominated from the floor for Treasurer, and Reggie Powell was nominated from the floor for Parliamentarian. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and the election proceeded by ballot.

The ballots were collected and tabulated by the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee. During the tabulation of the ballots for Secretary, it was determined that three members had not voted for that position. The members were asked to cast their ballots for Secretary, and the additional ballots were collected and included in the final tabulation.

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee member Gladys Sotomayor announced the results of the election. The results were as follows. Evonne Capers received 15 votes for Chairperson, Magdamary Marcano received 9 votes, and 1 vote was cast for neither candidate. Laura James received 15 votes for First Vice Chairperson and Carmen Rivera received 10 votes. Angelina Zervos received 16 votes for Second Vice Chairperson, Kristine Rivera received 8 votes, and 1 vote was cast for neither candidate. Margarita Espinosa received 13 votes for Secretary and Annette Wright received 12 votes. Julio Jimenez received 19 votes for Treasurer and 6 votes were cast for neither candidate. Lamont Parker received 15 votes for Parliamentarian, Reggie Powell received 9 votes, and 1 vote was cast for neither candidate.

Based upon the tabulation of ballots, Evonne Capers was elected Chairperson, Laura James was elected First Vice Chairperson, Angelina Zervos was elected Second Vice Chairperson, Margarita Espinosa was elected Secretary, Julio Jimenez was elected Treasurer, and Lamont Parker was elected Parliamentarian. The elected officers will serve for the term commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028 or the last date of membership due to term limits.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Mr. Cornell Brown presented the Bronx Community Board 6 Board Member Recognition Awards, honoring members for their outstanding attendance, dedication, service, and leadership during the 2025/2026 meeting cycle. The “Perfect Board Meeting Attendance” awards were presented to Angelina Zervos, Carmen Rivera, Jessii Parham, and Julio Jimenez for attending every Community Board meeting throughout the meeting cycle. The “Perfect Committee Meeting Attendance” awards recognized Laura James for her attendance at the Disciplinary, Youth and Education Committee meetings; Gladys Sotomayor for her attendance at the Housing and Land Use Committee meetings; Carol Robinson for her attendance at the Economic Development, Sanitation, Environment and Parks Committee meetings; and Margarita Espinosa for her attendance at the Sanitation Committee meetings. Lamont Parker received the “Perfect Committee and Board Meeting Attendance” award for his consistent attendance at both Disciplinary Committee and Community Board meetings. The “Board Member Recognition Award” was presented to Angelina Zervos in recognition of her dedication to the Environment and Parks Committee, where she consistently participated in the committee’s monthly work and volunteered to serve as vice-chairperson. Ms. Zervos was also recognized for organizing Bronx Community Board 6’s first Earth Day event and coordinating with partner organizations to develop programming for the

community. The “Committee Chair Recognition Award” was presented to Nicole Carter for her leadership of the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Carter was recognized for regularly developing new topics and guiding the committee’s work, attending other committee meetings to remain informed of their activities, and supporting and onboarding new members. Mr. Brown and the Board congratulated all recipients and expressed appreciation for their continued service, commitment, and contributions to Bronx Community Board 6 and the community.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to address, the June 24, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was adjourned at approximately 9:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

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