



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

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6

Meeting minutes of Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Members present:

Jannie Armstrong, Virdjil Asanov, Evonne Capers, Alice Charles, Claudette Coles, Sahre Davis, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, April Hurley, Sara N. Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta A. O'Brien, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Wendy Rodriguez, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons and Carrie Taft.

Members absent:

Bernard Abudu, Tair Aziov, Virginia Bird, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Jerry L. Jackson, Dr. Helene Jones, and Octavia Lewis.

Elected officials present:

Senator Gustavo Rivera
Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Elected officials representatives present:

Thomas Lucania, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Louisa Benedetto, representing City Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Ramon Cabral, representing US Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
John Fitzsimmons, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The October 12, 2016 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Columbus Clubhouse Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, which is located at 543 East 189th Street, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by board Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez.

*Honorable Ritchie Torres,
City Council Member, 15th Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca,
City Council Member, 17th Council District*

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II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who asked to address the community board as part of the meeting's Community Period included:

Sean Todd, representing the College Democrats at Fordham University

Mr. Todd announced on behalf of the Fordham College Democrats that they want to become more involved with the local community. They would like to plan events that would include both the Fordham community and the District community.

Cristina Rodriguez, representing the Institute for Family Health

Ms. Rodriguez informed the community about a program called 'On Track NY'. The program is for individuals that have schizophrenia and want to get back into the world. This program would help someone with the disorder by placing them into the workforce or back into school.

Mario Abreu

Mr. Abreu brought to attention the illegally parked cars that have been affecting the business activity of a few local stores. The cars do not have license plates or registration, which limits accountability, and when they do get towed it seems as though they always return. A petition has been started and signed by the local community surrounding corner of 180th and Crotona Avenue.

Mary Law

Ms. Law lives in the community and wants to raise awareness for her charity, The Isaiah and Ezekiel Law Foundation. This foundation is an organization that aims to help poor, needy, and hungry children and elderly of our society in various emergencies.

IV. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of eighteen (18) members.

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Assistant Director Denise Major and Center Director Joelle Jones of Workforce 1, on job opportunities for community residents

Ms. Denise Major and Ms. Joelle Jones presented a Workforce 1 program at the West Farms location that is exclusive to individuals between the ages of 18-21 that have not finished high school, but would like to earn an equivalent degree. The programs include training in three fields of work which are Front Desk Medical Assistant, Cable Installer and Web Developer. The program spans 6 to 11 months long; half of the program is spent learning and the other half is spent training. They noted that Workforce 1 itself is not exclusive to persons between ages of 18-21. They extend resources to anyone else that is in search for a job.

VI. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was presented by his community liaison, Mr. Thomas Lucania. The report included the following information:

- a. Mr. Lucania reaffirmed that the board must abide by the laws so every member understands the legalities of their new positions. There will be an event occurring once in the Spring and again in the Fall to further inform the members about conflict of interest laws.
- b. The Children's Aid Society is working with the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative and Community Action to create programs that aim to reduce the level of poverty in the Bronx.
- c. Arthur Avenue was named on one of America's favorite streets, and the Borough President expressed gratitude for Bronx Community Board 6 and its residents for its upkeep.
- d. There are two events happening in October. 'Spooktacular' will occur on Halloween at the Clarewood Center from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. 'Tour de Bronx' is occurring at 9:30 AM on Sunday, October 23rd. 'Tour de Bronx' is a 25 to 40 mile bike tour starting at Harris Field and ending at New York Botanical Gardens. Registration is available at ilovebronx.com.

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Gustavo Rivera encouraged anyone not registered to vote to do so before the cutoff on Friday, October 14th. He also brought attention to the Senior Resource Guide, which was created to help seniors understand their community and the resources available to them. Topics in the guide include Transportation, Employment, Education, Health, etc. The manual can be mailed, downloaded online, or picked up at his office. Senator Rivera also made it known that the office hosts weekly free legal advice to tenants that are at risk of eviction. He also announced that the FDNY will be giving out free smoke detectors and installation the week of October 13th. Lastly, Senator Rivera announced that he will be hosting a holiday canned food drive and is accepting donations at his office.

Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Assemblyman Pichardo informed the district that there are free breast screenings available at P.S. 315 on October 21, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He also informed the district that there is a need to provide relief to the victims of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. The drop off is not yet finalized, but the Assemblyman is accepting food and clothing at his office.

Councilman Ritchie Torres

Councilman Ritchie Torres reported that the redevelopment of the Lambert Houses is the largest redevelopment project in the Bronx, and will only sign off on it under the following conditions: that affordable housing remains affordable, that an elementary school is built within five years, and that the quality of transportation and retail stores is upgraded.

John Fitzsimmons, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake

Mr. Fitzsimmons reported that the Assemblyman's office will hold 'Tenant Tuesdays' from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM for those needing assistance with housing issues. He also announced that their office partnering with the City Commissioner to inform the public on their basic rights. Mr. Fitzsimmons also stressed that they need a venue space to host events in addition to satellite hours for Tenant Tuesdays.

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VIII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sanchez's District Manager's report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- a. During the week of September 12th, Frank Franz was able to supply The Bronx River Arts Center with space at Rex Hall.**
- b. Mr. Sanchez emphasized the need for a school on the land of Parcel 10 of the Lambert houses redevelopment.**
- c. 'Bronxtober' will be held Thursday October 20th at Tremont Branch Library between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. 'Bronxtober' is a Halloween event involving a magic show and free candy.**
- d. The NYPD has been hosting a Flag Football Event every Monday and Friday at Mapes Ballfield. The Jets have donated uniforms and might show up one day within the next six weeks.**
- e. Councilman Salamanca has granted funding for extra street cleaning on East Tremont, East 180th Street, and Crotona Park Malls until June 2017.**
- f. Mr. Sanchez encouraged community members within Councilman Salamanca's district to contribute ideas for Participatory Budgeting in their community.**

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Housing and Land-Use Committee: Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, Committee Chair

Ms. Sara N. Mejia reported that the committee meeting was held on September 22, 2016. A letter of support was granted to VIP Community Services for the continuation of a program at Abraham Apartments located at 1790 Clinton Avenue. The committee agreed to support Mega Group NYC in regards to an As-of-Right proposed project to be located between 4181 Third Avenue and 1888 Bathgate Avenue.

Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Claudette Coles, Committee Chair

Ms. Coles reported that there were two successful community nights: Bronx Community Board #6 and the NYPD softball game and National Night. Ms. Coles reported statistics

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that included as follows: crime is down 12%, grand larceny is down 9%, and gun violence is up 55%. The captain suggested that we educate the children on gun violence and the advantage of the Neighborhood Coordination Officers program. There has been an increase in 311 calls and illegally parked cars without plates since the Neighborhood Coordination Officers program.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of September 14, 2016 was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers and unanimously adopted by acclamation (18 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).**
- 2. A motion to adopt Bronx Community Board #6 Fiscal Year 2018 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests as submitted or with the following changes, if any, was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia (16 in favor, zero opposed, and 2 abstentions).**
- 3. A motion to issue a letter of support for Mega Group NYC for the proposed project located at 4181 Third Avenue and 1888 Bathgate Avenue. The project at 4181 Third Avenue will provide an 8-Story residential building containing approximately 114,803 gross square feet of floor area, inclusive of 103 residential apartments. The project at 1888 Bathgate Avenue will also provide 8-Story residential building containing approximately 107,437 gross square area, inclusive of 87 residential apartments. Motion was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia (18 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).**
- 4. A motion to issue a letter of support to VIP Community Services for a grant contract renewal from the Department of Homeless services for its SRO Support subsidy program at Abraham Apartments located at 1790 Clinton Avenue. Motion was made by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and seconded by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia. The motion was unanimously adopted. (18 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions)**
- 5. A motion to issue a letter of no objection to continue the existing use of 174-14-BZ located at 820 East 182nd Street. Motion was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia (18 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).**

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XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Carrie Taft announced the Bronx Veterans Parade on Saturday, November 5, 2016. The parade will line up at 11:00 AM and begins on East 175th Street parallel to Southern Boulevard.

Ms. Wendy Rodriguez announced that committee meetings are open to the public.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The October 12, 2016 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

**Respectfully submitted:
Carla J. Leon
Community Assistant**