



**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, December 14, 2016**

**Members present:**

**Jannie Armstrong, Virdjil Asanov, Tair Azivov, Alice Charles, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, April Hurley, Jerry Jackson, Octavia Lewis, Sara N. Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta A. O'Brien, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Wendy Rodriguez, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons and Carrie Taft**

**Members absent:**

**Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers (on personal leave), Sahre Davis, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Dr. Helene Jones**

**Elected Officials representatives present:**

**Eva Medellin, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo  
Ashley Torres, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Rebecca Ou representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake  
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Rosaly Ruiz, representing City Councilmember Ritchie Torres**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

**The December 14, 2016 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Grand Slam Banquet Hall, which is located at 478 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:45 p.m. by board Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez.**

**II. INVOCATION**

**The meeting's invocation was delivered by board Secretary, Ms. Floretta O'Brien.**

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**III. COMMUNITY PERIOD**

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

**Natalie Giaccio representing Bronx Community Board #6's Interns**

Ms. Giaccio thanked District Manager John Sanchez and Community Assistant Carla Leon for giving her and the fall 2016 semester interns the opportunity to be a part of the Board. She also extended her well wishes and gratitude to the present board members.

**Gregory Pereira representing First Steps Urban Outreach**

Mr. Pereira informed us that the First Steps Urban Outreach provides CPR and First Aid certification training. They also provide Child Care Provider and Child Abuse & Neglect training. Mr. Pereira also informed us that First Steps Urban Outreach offers driver education for student drivers. They are located at 465 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York. For more information, Mr. Pereira can be reached at (347) 270-9623 if you are interested in signing up for any of the mentioned courses.

**IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.'s report was written and distributed for us to read at our leisure.

**V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**Eva Medellin representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo**

Ms. Medellin informed the community that their office will be closed from December 19, 2016 to January 2, 2017. She also announced that their office will be hosting a Christmas celebration in partnership with Assemblyman Michael Blake, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo and Councilmember Salamanca on Thursday, December 22, 2016.

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**Ashley Torres representing Comptroller Scott Stringer**

Ms. Torres announced that she is now the Bronx Borough Director of the Public Affairs Unit. She also informed us that their office proposed to begin a New York City Nest Egg program that ensures that every New York City private sector worker has access to retirement savings plan.

**Jay Baez representing Senator Gustavo Rivera**

Mr. Baez reminded the community about the information sessions they conduct for tenants. The office holds two meetings a month regarding housing. He provided a brochure for veterans containing information to help veterans understand their community and the resources available to them. Their office also provides an employee bulletin for anyone seeking employment. Mr. Baez informed the community that their office will be closed from December 19, 2016 to January 2, 2017.

**Rebecca Ou representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake**

Ms. Ou reported that the Assemblyman's office will hold 'Tenant Tuesdays' from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**Rosalyn Ruiz representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres**

Ms. Ruiz introduced herself to the community. She also provided the community with brochures containing information about different lawyers defending various issues. Ms. Ruiz also stated that their office provides free immigration services especially for those undocumented individuals. Lastly, she informed the community that their office will be closed from December 19, 2016 to January 2, 2017.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**Ken Small representing Bronx Works**

Mr. Small presented the proposed Senior Homelessness Prevention Project (SHPP) to the community. He informed us that SHPP is a project that will serve low income seniors 60 years of age or older who are susceptible to eviction. This project assists with facilitating rent arrears and with alternative housing. This includes placement in another apartment,

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provisions for living arrangements with other family members (if present), or placement into an adult living complex. Mr. Small also specified that seniors have to be referred by the New York City Housing Court in order to be assisted. He mentioned to the community that two housing specialists and a program director were added to give SHPP needed depth and flexibility. He shared that SHPP has served 424 seniors over the past two years and majority of those seniors were from Bronx Community Board #6's district.

**Dior St. Hillaire representing GreenFeen**

Ms. St. Hillaire informed us about the Local Organics Carting (LOC) Pilot Program. Their organic waste collection program will connect local bars and restaurants with either a carting company that specifically handles organics or a local alternative. Ms. St. Hillaire also informed us about the green educational program that utilizes Hip-Hop as a tool to promote waste diversion and the reality of landfills in order to inspire business owners and students towards taking action. She emphasized that both programs will answer the call to constructively and proficiently impact the current existing system.

**Nihat Guvercin and Harold Lee representing the Bronx Arts and Science Charter School**

Mr. Lee informed us about the Bronx Arts and Science Charter School (Bronx ASCS) that is proposed open in September of 2018. This school will be located in Community District 10 and will serve 180 students with an enrollment of 60 students per grade level in kindergarten through grade 2 in its first year of operation. One additional grade will be added each subsequent year until the school reaches a total enrollment of 420 students, serving 60 students per grade level in kindergarten through grade 5. Mr. Lee also informed us that Bronx ASCS will offer a digital learning environment. Their classrooms will be fitted with Smart Boards, reflective cameras, digital classroom response systems and digital pens. The curricula will be accessed online and digital platforms will be used to enhance and personalize student learning. Mr. Guvercin informed that Bronx ASCS will also provide extra time and resources devoted to literacy and mathematics. Students will be able to participate in school events such as annual Marker's Festival, Science Olympiad, Robotics Club and DRONE Flying Competition.

**Carmen Rivera representing VIP Community Services and**  
**Vanessa Smith representing the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

Ms. Smith introduced to us the NYC Mural Arts Project that promotes the building of social cohesion by partnering with communities to support mental health consumers' recovery and reduce stigma through art. Ms. Smith stated that 41% of New Yorkers with

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serious mental illness do not receive or delay treatment. The Belmont Avenue and East Tremont area ranks third for drug-related hospitalizations, ranks fifth for alcohol-related hospitalizations and ranks seventh for psychiatric hospitalizations. The NYC Mural Arts Project is currently partnering with VIP Community Services and is searching for additional community collaborators and supporters. Ms. Smith also informed us that they currently have two possible locations in our district. The two possible locations are P.S. 44 located at 1825 Prospect Avenue and a private building located at 1822 Crotona Avenue.

**VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- Mr. Sanchez thanked community board members for attending and providing a dish for the Thanksgiving Potluck.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that he began the intern recruitment for the spring semester. He anticipates having 10-15 interns again.
- On December 5, 2016, Mr. Sanchez visited Help USA Bronx Crotona to discuss possible ways the community can assist with employment opportunities for their residents.
- Mr. Sanchez attended a presentation at the Mary Mitchell Center on their ideas for the Mapes Ballfield and building renovations. Mr. Sanchez invited the community to the Bronx Community Board #6 Holiday Celebration and Toy Giveaway on December 16, 2016 at Mt. Carmel Church.

**VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of nineteen (19) members.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Economic Development Committee: Ms. April Hurley, Committee Chair**

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**Ms. Hurley reported on the Economic Development Committee Meeting of November 15, 2016. At this meeting, the committee held their first resume workshop presented by Mr. Anthony Salvatore of Workforce One. The committee was introduced to different types of resumes based on job titles and resume structure. Ms. Hurley thanked Ms. Perquida Williams and Ms. Dior Doward who assisted in editing resumes during the workshop. The committee discussed future workshops that will benefit small business in our district.**

**Health and Human Services Committee: Ms. Diana Diaz, Committee Chair**

**Ms. Diana reported that an informational session with Mr. Amjad Mujaahid a health promoter from the Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center was held at the Health and Human Services Committee Meeting on November 15, 2016. The committee had a discussion in regards to “#NOT 62” which was determined in 2009 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Ranking Report that ranked the Bronx as a number 62 out of New York State counties in terms of health outcomes. She also discussed that the Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center provides assistance with the filling of an application for Medicaid, Financial Assistance, and SNAP.**

**Housing and Land Committee: Mrs. Sara N. Mejia, Committee Chair**

**Mrs. Mejia reported that an informational session was held on November 17, 2016 with the students from Fordham University that focused on the pedestrian and traffic patterns. She attended this session with District Manager John Sanchez. They were able to discuss with the students the possibility of working with the business owner of 608 East Fordham Road on how they are able to utilize the location. The students from this particular class proposed to bring food trucks to the district to provide community residents with the opportunity of exploring cultural foods.**

**Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Claudette Coles, Committee Chair**

**Ms. Coles reported that she attended the Precinct Council meeting at the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct on November 22, 2016. She also announced that Deputy Inspector McCormack and District Attorney Darcel Clark are currently working together on strategies to address vehicle break ins. The community council’s next meeting will be on December 20, 2016 beginning at 7:00 PM at 608 Essentials, which is located at 608 East Fordham Road where they will also host their holiday celebration.**

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**Parks and Recreation Committee: Ms. Margarita Espinosa Committee Chair**

Ms. Espinosa reported business that was conducted at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting of November 16, 2016. The committee discussed the results of the Bronx Borough Commissioner Iris-Rodriguez-Rosa's visit in regards to the Mapes Ballfield proposal. She also announced that she attended a presentation at the Mary Mitchell Center on Saturday, December 3, 2016 that continued the discussion of the planning for the future of Mapes Ballfield.

**Youth and Education Committee: Mr. Moussa Siby, Committee Co-Chair**

Mr. Siby announced that on December 15, 2016 Community School 211 will be hosting a kindergarten open house and encourage the community to attend. He also mentioned that later on in January the committee will be announcing an art contest.

**X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa and unanimously adopted by acclamation (19 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).
2. A motion to issue a letter of support on the proposal to develop Bronx Arts and Science Charter School serving the grades K-5 was made by Mr. Moussa Siby and second by Mr. Gil Simmons (12 in favor, 4 opposed and 3 abstentions).
3. A motion to issue a letter of support of Bronx Works' Senior Homelessness Prevention Project (SHPP) proposal serving low-income seniors who are vulnerable to homelessness was made by Ms. Floretta O'Brien and seconded by Ms. Carrie Taft (18 in favor, zero opposed and 1 abstention).
4. A request to issue a letter of support for a proposal from the New York City Department of Transportation and the School Safety Division of the New York City Police Department, to convert East 187<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Webster avenues from a two-way to a one-way street was tabled upon a motion made by Ms. Alice

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Charles and seconded by Ms. Octavia Lewis (19 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

5. A request to issue a letter of supporting a proposal from the New York City Department of Transportation to uniform “No Standing 7 AM – 7 PM” on the north curb of East 177<sup>th</sup> Street between Bronx River Parkway off-ramp and Devoe Avenue was tabled upon a motion made Ms. Alice Charles and seconded by Ms. Octavia Lewis (19 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Carla Leon**  
**Community Assistant**