



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

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

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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, September 13, 2017

Members Present:

Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Glenda Bond, Evonne Capers, Alice Charles, Nelson Chimilio, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Kia Ferguson, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Octavia Lewis, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas, Rosa Peraza, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, Jacquetta Whaley, and Michael Yu

Members Absent:

Virdjil Asanov (on leave), Tair Aziov (on leave), Irene Borgen, Lanell Gardenhire, Jerry Jackson, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Marie Louise Ocran, and Paul Ramirez

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Nathalia Fernandez, representing NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo
Israel Sanchez, representing City Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Evangelina Medellin, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The September 13, 2017 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Wings Academy, which is located at 1122 East 180th Street, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:40 p.m. by Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Reverend Marilyn Oliver from Gethsemane Baptist Church.

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

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

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Jose L. Rivera, representing X-Tremitez Entertainment

Mr. Rivera invited the community to Dia De las Hispanidad, a health fair and concert occurring on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at 183rd Street between Crotona Parkway and East Tremont Avenue. The mission of the event is to inform the community about health services provided by the Bronx Lebanon Hospital and to provide the community with health and wellness activities. There will be offering free zumba classes and music performances by DJ Mario. Mr. Rivera also thanked Detective Rivera for his assistance with obtaining a sound permit and JAL Community Service for cosponsoring the event.

Kristalynn Leonard, representing Idente Youth and WYP

Ms. Leonard announced that Idente Youth Group holds meetings for 3rd graders to 6th graders every Wednesday evening from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM and that teenagers in grades 6 through 12 meet every Thursday evening from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. These gatherings promote the highest of ideals among youth and assist the students' goals and achievements through workshops and seminars. Ms. Leonard is also a part of a group called Encounter NYC that hosts events every third Friday of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for those who can appreciate music and enjoy connecting with others.

Jason Caraballo, representing Montefiore Medical Center

Mr. Caraballo invited the community to a woman's health event on October 7, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at 1695 Eastchester Road. There will be free breast and cervical screenings for uninsured and underinsured individuals for ages 18 and above. Mammograms will be provided for women over 40 years of age. Copay will be accepted from those with appropriate insurance. Preregistration is required.

Flerida Diaz, representing Mount Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center

Ms. Diaz invited seniors over 60 years of age to join Mount Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center located at 2405 Southern Boulevard. She announced that there are many activities, social services, and transportation options available to members. There are computers available, dance classes, and meals are provided. The center is open Monday through Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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Lisette Paulino, representing Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center

Ms. Paulino informed the community about the available services and amenities at Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center located at 1826 Arthur Avenue. There is a multipurpose room located on the first floor of the building available to community groups. There is a health clinic on the second floor in addition to a family wellness room and a lactation room for mothers. Starting on September 22, 2017, IDNYC enrollment will be available at the center for two weeks. Ms. Paulino also invited the community to a child safety seat training on September 29, 2017 at the health action center. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM there will be tenant specialists offering rent assistance and job placement services.

Gail Nathan, representing Bronx River Arts Center

Ms. Nathan invited the community to attend the fall workshop sessions taking place at the Bronx Community Board 6's district office located at 1932 Arthur Avenue. Classes are \$8 per child and \$15 per parent-child pair, and are open to all ages. They will take place on Saturdays starting October 14, 2017 and ending December 2, 2017. The workshops will be split into two sessions. The first session will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and the second will be from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Students will learn drawing, painting, cartooning, collaging, and working with clay. Individuals who are interested are to sign-up online.

Helga Berenguel, representing Real Life Domestic Violence Initiatives

Ms. Berenguel informed the community about The Real Life Domestic Violence Initiatives, an initiative taking place at her church to provide domestic violence victims with a platform to share their stories and to prevent further incidents from occurring.

Linda Rosenthal, representing Volunteers of America: Bronx Early Learning Center

Ms. Rosenthal announced that there are still a few remaining openings in the Pre-K for All Program located at 1887 Bathgate Avenue. The program runs all day, is free of charge, and provides breakfast and lunch for the children. It has been accredited by the National Association for Education of Children, and the organization has been offering its Pre-K services since 1998 in both English and Spanish.

Takisha Dozier, representing Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center

Ms. Dozier announced that her organization, Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, is now located in a new studio at 3415 Olinville Avenue. The Bronx Dance Theatre, the program's former location, has finally closed after 40 years. The Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center offers music classes, dance classes, voice lessons and will be hosting an open house, street fair, and talent show on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The entire block will be closed off for

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the event.

Perquida Williams, representing Primerica Financial Services

Ms. Williams began with explaining that September is life insurance month and then offered her services at Primerica to provide individuals with affordable life insurance, financial planning, and credit counseling. Their office is located on the 9th Floor of 225 West 34th Street and she can be reached at (646) 938-7456.

Taino Guerra, representing University of the Streets

Mr. Guerra discussed the non-profit organization, University of the Streets (UOTS), which is located at 2381 Belmont Avenue. He explained that the program takes place after school and throughout the summer at a low cost. While the organization originally aimed to provide coaching solely for The Bronx Ravens, their own football team, it has developed into a larger and more inclusive sports program. The program's mission is to recruit children in order to get them off of the streets and spend hours on the field with them instead.

Vronzella Ross, representing Teacher's Paradise

Ms. Ross informed us that her educational supply store, Teacher's Paradise, located at 1057 East Tremont Avenue. The store offers faxing, copying services, and laminating services all at a minimal fee. The business is open to the community and had been around for five years now. For more information call (718) 328-1100.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was included in our meeting packages. Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez asked that we read the report at our leisure.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Nathalia Fernandez, representing Governor Andrew Cuomo

Ms. Fernandez introduced herself to the community as Governor Cuomo's regional representative for the Bronx.

Israel Sanchez, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez began by welcoming the new board members, and then informed the public that their office is hosting a HPD Code Enforcement session on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 from 10:00

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AM to 1:00 PM. Any individual who has reported a complaint to 311 or code violation and has not been fixed is welcome. He also announced that there is a CUNY Citizenship Now event happening in Manhattan. For any further questions or concerns, individuals can reach Councilman Torres' office at (718)-842-8100.

Jay Baez, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Baez announced that the Department of Citywide Administrative Service will be hosting an informational session on September 20, 2017. The event is RSVP only, as seats are limited. He also mentioned that there is a canned food drive currently taking place at their office. They are accepting nonperishable food items until December 8, 2017. The food will be donated to a local church that conducts a food pantry three times a week. Mr. Baez also informed us about the ACCESS Human Resources Administration mobile application that includes information on cash assistance, Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps). The mobile application it's free on iOS and Android devices. Additionally, Mr. Baez reminded us that their office is currently providing legal assistance for individuals suffering from domestic violence and concluded his report by informing the public about Tenant Tuesdays in their offices from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Evangelina Medellin, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Ms. Medellin informed us that their office is hosting an immigration forum on September 19, 2017 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM called Know Your Rights along with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. This forum intends to elucidate the rights immigrants have and the resources they are entitled to. The forum will also have a Spanish translation in order that Spanish-speaking individuals are able to understand the information in full. Ms. Medellin also mentioned that a peace march is taking place on September 21, 2017 on West 183rd Street and Aqueduct Avenue in order to promote peace over violence.

Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Mr. Ortiz informed us that the Department of Education is provided \$160 billion, however, they have not been completely transparent in regards to the allocation of these funds. The Department of Education was audited and convicted of negligence and the misuse of keeping accountability for electronic devices: 3,500 devices not accounted for, including 1,800 laptops and tablets. He informed the public that \$85 million in funding was not properly allocated towards creating assistance programs for children with disabilities. He also mentioned that President Trump's decision to end DACA will negatively affect 800,000 youth nationwide with 60,000 of that number coming from New York City. He announced that on September 16, 2017 the African-American Parade is taking place in Harlem and Comptroller Stringer will be attending. All those interested in being a part of the event and meeting Mr. Stringer must RSVP. Also, on September 26, 2017 there is a free event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which will have music, performances, and food. Mr. Ortiz

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can be reached at either (646) 294-3300 or (646) 951-3076 if you have any questions or need any additional information.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez announced that he attended a number of neighborhood block parties in an effort to increase community awareness about Bronx Community Board #6.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that he met with other Bronx District Managers to set the agendas for our Borough Consultation meetings with city agencies for this month.
- Mr. Sanchez met with the new Student Government President of Fordham University to discuss ways Fordham University can collaborate with Bronx Community Board #6.
- Mr. Sanchez mentioned that The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and VIP Community Services hosted a mural unveiling at Community School 211, which was attended by Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo, Assemblyman Michael Blake, and Senator Gustavo Rivera.
- In late August and early September, Mr. Sanchez met with the branch managers of the West Farms Library and Tremont Branch Library individually to learn about their programming and budget needs for Fiscal Year 2019.
- In late August, Mr. Sanchez attended the 48th Precinct Council's school supplies giveaway.
- Mr. Sanchez introduced two of Bronx Community Board #6's fall interns, John Kuyat and Christie Klima.

Mr. Sanchez concluded his report by showing "Bronx Community Board #6's Summer and Fall 2017 Highlight" video.

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-eight (28) members.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth and Education Committee: Moussa Siby, Committee Chair

Mr. Siby informed the community about two presentations that were given at the committee meeting of June 21, 2017. Emily Kim, founder of Zeta Charter School, presented to the committee about her proposed plan to open up a school in district 12. The school is intended to be for grades kindergarten through 5th grade, and will incorporate technology in the classroom. The committee is in supportive of the school's application.

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He also informed us that the Wildlife Conservation Society presented to the committee about the Future Leaders Program and the NYS Department of Health's Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative. The Future Leaders Program offers skills and job training, professional development, college readiness, service learning, and career mentoring to youth that are accepted into the program. The deadline to apply is Sunday, September 24th. The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative is an in-classroom program for high schools that discuss pregnancy prevention and healthy relationships.

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

Mrs. Nunez-Mejia announced that the Housing and Land-Use Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21st at 6:30 PM.

Health and Human Services Committee: Mrs. Diana Diaz, Committee Chair

Mrs. Diaz announced that the Health and Human Services Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 21st at 6:30 PM rather than on the normal Tuesday meeting date.

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

Ms. Espinosa announced that the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 PM with the Law Enforcement Committee and the Youth and Education Committee.

Transportation Committee: Ms. Maria Garcia, Committee Chair

Ms. Garcia announced that the Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21st at 6:30 PM.

Senior Citizens Outreach Committee: Mrs. Virginia Bird, Committee Chair

Mrs. Bird invited the community to attend the Senior Citizens Outreach Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21st at 6:30 PM.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 14, 2017 was made by Ms. Margie Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and unanimously adopted by a vote of 28 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.
2. A motion to hire the Part-Time Community Associate candidate recommended by the District Manager was made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and

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adopted by a vote of 21 in favor, 4 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Margarita Espinosa announced that the St. Thomas Aquinas Church will be conducting a memorial mass on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 4:00 PM. It will be a commemoration honoring those who died during the 9/11 attacks and the first responders whose daily work involves placing their lives on the line for us.

Mrs. Diana Diaz announced that Bishop Jerome Crawford Jackson is requesting volunteers for an event happening September 29, 2017 and anyone interested should call her (917) 535-5295.

Ms. Maria Garcia thanked District Manager John Sanchez and the interns for volunteering at St. Thomas Aquinas Family Day event.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The September 13, 2017 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla J. Leon
Community Assistant