



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. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Members Present:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Christopher Collazo, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Eduardo Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Floretta O'Brien, Marilyn Oliver, Victoria Pamas, Wendy Rodriguez, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Carrie Taft, Jacquetta Whaley, and Michael Yu.

Members Absent:

Glenda Bond, Diana Diaz (Leave of Absence), Kia Ferguson, Maria Garcia, Audrey Harden, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Rosa Peraza (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez (Leave of Absence), Hiram Ratliff, Angel Rosario, Moussa Siby, and Gil Simmons.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Miguel Rondon, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Julian Sepulveda, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Senator Jose Rivera
Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The November 14, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Belmont Library, which is located at 610 East 186th Street, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Chaplain 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:

Tanjila Rahman, representing the Department of Consumer Affairs

Ms. Rahman informed the community that the Department of Consumer Affairs is at the end of their outreach campaign regarding the 10 year anniversary of the Office of Financial Requirement centers. The centers have helped over 50,000 New Yorkers improve financial health by reducing debt by \$54 million and increasing savings by \$4 million. There are 22 financial empowerment centers in the 5 boroughs, 4 in the Bronx, and 1 in Bronx Community Board #6. Regardless of income and immigration status, free financial counselling is available for anyone who needs it. Financial counsellors can help individuals build credit, prioritize debt, and increase savings. Ms. Rahman encourages individuals to make an appointment with one of their financial counselors. The office has also filed lawsuits against for-profit educational institutions such as Berkeley College for predatory financial practices regarding student loans.

Jannie Armstrong, representing Bronx Community Board #6

Ms. Armstrong called on community members to join the community board and help the community solve its issues.

Cesar Negrón

Mr. Negrón expressed the concerns of his neighbor, Ms. Vivian and her family regarding a hookah bar being established at 441 East 187th Street. Instead, Ms. Vivian would like to see a bakery or another establishment in the space.

Michelle Brody, representing The Bronx River Arts Center

Ms. Brody invited the community to an open art exhibit and fundraising event beginning Friday, November 16, 2018 at 6:30PM. She also invited the community to attend Romeo and Juliet performed by the Stella Adler Studio of Acting at the Bronx River Art Center on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 1:00 PM. Ms. Brody announced that the Bronx River Art Center is hosting a series of art making workshops on Fridays and Sundays leading up to their fundraising event and art auction on December 6, 2018. The art making sessions and exhibition will take place at their newly opened space at 1087 East Tremont Avenue.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was reported by his Community Board Liaison, Mr. Justin Sanchez. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Mr. Sanchez informed us that the referendum for board member term limits passed in this past midterm election. The term limits will begin next cycle. Newly appointed board members will be able to serve for four (4) consecutive two-year terms, and current members will be able to serve for

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five (5) consecutive two-year terms. Once the term limit is up, members are eligible to re-apply for the board after one term has passed.

- Mr. Sanchez announced that the new community board member applications will be finalized by the end of November. He encouraged community members to apply.
- Mr. Sanchez reminded the Community Board Members about the required annual training session entitled: *Sexual Harassment Prevention: What to Know About Unlawful and Inappropriate Behaviors in the Workplace* that must be completed by all Community Board Members by Friday, December 14, 2018. The Community Board Members can complete this training session at the community board district office and take the course on a computer, at the Bronx Borough President's office and take the course on a computer or as a lecture.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is hosting a Puerto Rican Heritage celebration on November 15, 2018 at 6:00 PM at their offices in the Bronx County Building at 851 Grand Concourse.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Bronx Fathers Taking Action are holding a Fathers and Youth Unity Event on November 27, 2018 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at their offices in the Bronx County Building at 851 Grand Concourse.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz and the Bronx Civil Court Committee on Equality in the Courts will host a program on *How to Navigate Civil Court When Sued for a Credit Card Debt or Loan*. The purpose of the Program is to provide people, who do not have attorneys to represent them in court, with an introduction and understanding of the workings of Civil Court and the roles of the participants, with a specific focus on credit consumer cases. The program will be conducted on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 12:30 PM at their offices at 851 Grand Concourse.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Josue Melendez, representing Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Melendez announced that their office is seeking college-aged interns. He also informed us that Councilmember Salamanca Jr. is advocating for legislation that would require a 15% set-aside for all new buildings that receive city funding. Mr. Melendez informed us that their office is available to assist with housing issues and benefit support. Their district office is located on 1070 Southern Boulevard and can be reached by telephone at (718) 402-6130. Their office will also be releasing details for turkey giveaways.

Jay Baez, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Baez informed the community about Senator Rivera's Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway for needy families. He encouraged the community to spread the word. Additionally, their office is hosting a free Veterans dinner to honor their service. The dinner will take place on November 20th at Lehman College at 6:00 PM. To RSVP call the office at (718) 933-2034. Mr. Baez informed the community that the November 6th election resulted in a democrat supermajority in the State Senate. Lastly, those with housing issues are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their tenant specialist on Tuesdays between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

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Julian Sepulveda, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Sepulveda also informed the community about the supermajority of Democrats in the State Senate. He encouraged the community to bring their ideas to their office so that the senator can make them reality. Mr. Sepulveda invited the community to a blood drive on November 26th from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The blood drive will take place at their district office at 900 Rogers Place. He also informed the community that their office is giving away turkeys. For more information call (718)991-3161.

Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake

Ms. Daurte also informed the community about the Veterans dinner happening in collaboration with Senator Gustavo Rivera's office. Additionally, their office is also hosting a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway on Tuesday, November 20, 2018. Vouchers can be picked up at their office. Lastly, she informed that their office provides tenant services every Tuesday from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. If you need more information, the district office can be reached at (718) 538-3829.

Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Pichardo

Mr. Peters informed the community about their office's turkey giveaway occurring on Monday, November 19, 2018. Assemblyman Pichardo's office offers resources for housing, immigration, and other concerns. On Thursdays from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM, a tenant specialist is available to help residents with housing issues. Lastly, their office is closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving. The office will reopen the following Monday. Their office is located at 2175 Jerome Avenue and can be contacted by phone at (718) 933-6909.

Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Ortiz informed the community about Comptroller Stringer's report on the commercial waste removal. The report analysis examines safety inspection and traffic records relating to the commercial garbage industry. The report revealed that aging truck fleets, failed violations, and traffic violations among 273 commercial waste haulers comprise public safety. Comptroller Stringer has long supported the implementation of a zoned system for commercial waste disposal that will reduce miles traveled. Mr. Ortiz also reported on Comptroller Stringer's report about earnings of Latina. The report discusses Equal Pay where women's earnings catch up to what men made during the previous year. Latinas experience the largest wage gap among women of color. In 2016, Latinas working full-time in New York City made 49 cents for every dollar paid to white men. If the gender wage gap were closed, the more than 300,000 Latinas working full-time, year-round in New York City would have collectively contributed roughly \$11.8 billion more in earnings to the local economy. Comptroller Stringer is making sure that the anti-discrimination laws remain enforced.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez congratulated Mr. Michael Nelson and Ms. Carrie Taft for organizing a Vendors License Orientation and Application Assistance Workshop for Veterans on October 13, 2018.

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- **Mr. Sanchez reported that the youth volleyball programming at the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club on Saturday mornings are a success. Bronx Community Board #6 will continue to sponsor sports and activities for the youth through the year.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that the Economic Development Committee will be organizing financial literacy workshops beginning Saturday, January 12, 2019.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that Friends of Tremont Park is having their Daffodil Bulb Planting day on Thursday, November 15, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Tremont Park playgrounds.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that the Stella Adler Studio of Acting will be performing Romeo and Juliet at the Bronx River Art Center on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 1:00 PM.**
- **Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Community Board #6's Third Annual Holiday Party and Toy Giveaway will be at Grand Slam Banquet Hall, 478 East Tremont Avenue, on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM. The holiday party and toy giveaway is being organized for the homeless families in the district. Individuals who are interested in donating toys can mail or drop off the toys at the district office. Individuals who are interested in volunteering should contact the district office at (718) 579-6990 or by email at bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org to register.**

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

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

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports were included in our meeting packages. Chairperson Evonne Capers requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of October 10, 2018 was made by Mrs. Virginia Bird, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the November 14, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Christopher Collazo, seconded by Mr. Michael Yu and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-five in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).

Respectfully submitted:

**Carly Wine
Community Associate**

**Carla Leon
Community Associate**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2018

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2018	ADJOURNMENT				
Stephanie Addo	Present	Yes	Yes				
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes				
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes				
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes				
Glenda Bond							
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes				
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes				
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes				
Chris Collazo	Present	Yes	Yes				
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	Yes				
Diana Diaz	Leave of Absence						
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes				
Kia Ferguson							
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	Yes				
Eduardo Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes				
Maria Garcia							
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes				
Audrey Harden							
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes				
Frank Kolovic	Present	Yes	Yes				
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes				
Michael Nelson							
Sara Nunez-Mejia							
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes				
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence						
Marilyn Oliver	Present	Yes	Yes				
Victoria Pamiás	Present	Yes	Yes				
Rosa Peraza	Leave of Absence						
Paul Ramirez	Leave of Absence						
Hiram Ratliff							
Wendy Rodriguez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Angel Rosario							
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	Yes				
Moussa Siby							
Gil Simmons							
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes				
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes				
Michael Yu	Present	Yes	Yes				