



**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, December 11, 2019

Members Present:

Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nelson Chimilio, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, , Maria Latimer, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Reggie Powell, Helga Robles, Wendy Rodriguez, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, Carrie Taft, Noorjahn Wells and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Nicole Carter, Christopher Collazo, Julisa Hamilton, Laura James, Frank Kolovic (Leave of Absence), Marilyn Oliver, Jorge Ortiz, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez (Leave of Absence), Hiram Ratliff, and Angel Rosario.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Surey Miranda-Alarcón, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres
Shayra Reyes, representing United States Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Rafael Peña, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Nipa Ruyees, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Yaz Duarte, representing New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Charisse Suarez, representing New York State Assemblyman Jose Rivera
Wilfredo Mercado and Sonya Tennell, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Victor Martinez, representing New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The December 11, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Fordham University McGinley Center Ballroom, the entrance was located at East 191st Street and Bathgate Avenue Bronx, New York 10458 and was called to order at approximately by 6:35 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by the Associate Director of Campus Ministry for Spiritual and Pastoral Ministries at Fordham University, Mrs. Carol Gibney.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Michele Brody, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Brody informed us that Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) has an exhibit that will be up until Saturday, December 14, 2019, called "Two Painters". She also announced that they have started registration for their winter classes, which are available to students, children and adults. Ms. Brody informed us that BRAC is having community exhibits to showcase all the artwork that the past Fall class created, which will open on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Ms. Brody also announced that BRAC will be selling student artwork on Saturday, December 21, 2019. She informed us that there are free programs for young adults and teenagers for team project studio and design studio, where they will be designing textiles using pattern and graphic design.

Fallon George, representing Freedom Youth LLC

Ms. George informed us that Freedom Youth LLC is an organization that aims to prevent human trafficking and prostitution with young adults ages 12 to 21 both male and female in high risk communities by providing mentorship, preventive awareness training and support to those seeking refuge. Ms. George also informed us that there is a proposed bill that would decriminalize prostitution and Freedom Youth LLC is presently fighting against that bill. Ms. George announced that the also have a Bronx Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Task Force will be Strategic Safety Planning meeting on December 12, 2019 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at 1826 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457. Freedom Youth LLC can be contacted at (929) 367-4754 or by visiting their website, freedomyouthllc.com.

Shannell Arroyo, representing Union Community Health Center

Ms. Arroyo informed the community that the Mobile Community Health Center has been launched in February. There have been active mobile units in the community since May. The mobile units provide screenings, primary care services, and provide referrals and other services. The Union Community Health Center is located on 260 East 188th Street. There are six mobile sites in the Bronx. Their centers open seven days a week and the services are available to everyone including those who are undocumented. Ms. Arroyo also informed us about services available, for instance, Part of the Solution (POTS), which assist in SNAP enrollment at their location located at 2759 Webster Avenue.

Rachel Sherman, Student from Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism

Ms. Sherman informed us that she is a CUNY Journalism Graduate student and she has been reporting on Bronx Community Board #6. She is presently working on a story about used syringes

that have been identified in Bronx parks. She also informed us that Mayor de Blasio worked on a plan to implement syringe drop off kiosks around the parks. Ms. Sherman wants to get some community voices on the plan evaluation process to determine whether the initiative has been effective. Ms. Sherman asked for the community to contact her by email at rachel.sherman@journalism.cuny.edu or telephone at (214) 687-8312 at if they have any information that would contribute to her reports and findings.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Sonya Tennell, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Ms. Tennell informed the community that Judge Darcel Clark will come to speak to the community about bail reform and criminal justice reform. After Judge Clark speaks to the community, there will be a senior ADA, who will be addressing questions and concerns from the community. Ms. Tennell said that she doesn't know exactly what was said at the last meeting but she understands the tone that was used at the meeting. Ms. Tennell informed the community that this reform wouldn't let people out of jail and no one will be coming into the resident's homes. Ms. Tennell also told the community that if the DA's office isn't asking for jail time in a case, then the question is whether it is appropriate to ask for bail. If someone can't make bail, then the office might offer a diversion program depending on the case instead of the person sitting in jail awaiting their trial. However, the situation would be different with repeat offenders. The bails and sentences that are going to be asked for will be more thoughtful and with a lot of consideration appropriate to the crime. According to Ms. Tennell, the DA will be asking for jail time in gun cases of about 2 years and additional 2 years post-supervision. Ms. Tennell told the community to remain as vigilant as they have been before. There are new laws about how much information would be provided to the defendant but the safety of the witnesses is paramount to the DA. Ms. Tennell suggested that the community look into the DA's position through interviews regarding criminal justice and bail reforms. Ms. Tennell also asked the community to provide her with specific questions that she can relay to the DA, who then would address them to the community. Ms. Tennell's number is 718-838-7356 and she asked the community members to leave their full name, which community board they are from and the number that they can be reached. Ms. Tennell explained to the community that if they Google "New York State Bail Reform", then they will receive a lot of information. Ms. Tennell explained that the NYPD is entitled to how they view the reforms and she is not in any position to criticize their position but she told the community that it is best to understand all sides of the reform. Ms. Tennell said that a more violent crime will be punished more heavily than a lesser crime.

Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez announced that Council Member Torres will be having a Holiday Music Festival on December 20, 2019 at 12:00 PM at William Hudson Senior Center located at 1320 Webster Avenue. He informed us that their office had a successful turkey giveaway where they were able to distribute 500 turkeys to the elderly at the Tremont United Methodist Church. He also reminded us that their office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for constituent services, which includes housing services, health, immigration and family law. Their district office can be reached by telephone at (718) 842-8100.

Surey Miranda-Alarcón, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio

Ms. Miranda-Alarcón introduced herself and informed the community that she is already working with District Manager John Sanchez on some projects for the Community Board, for instance, the internship fair, which is proposed to occur at the Theodore Roosevelt Educational Campus. Her office telephone number is (212) 788-1412 and her cellphone number is (347) 985-5692 should you need to contact her.

Shayra Reyes, representing United States Congressman Jose E. Serrano

Ms. Reyes reminded the community to fill out the 2020 Census. Ms. Reyes also informed the community that the 2020 Census is hiring and interested individuals can apply through census2020.gov/jobs. Ms. Reyes also informed us that their district office is located on 1231 Lafayette Avenue and they can be reached by telephone at (718) 620-0084.

Rafael Peña, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Peña informed the community that on September 24, 2019, Senator Rivera along with other Bronx State Senators called out the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit to prioritize building additional ADA compliant stations in the Bronx. Their office encourages the community to review the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit's Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign and to submit an electronic comment at new.mta.info/bronxbusredesign. He also announced that starting December 16, 2019, New Yorkers age 16 and older can apply for a standard, not for federal purpose, non-commercial driver license or learner permit regardless of their citizenship or lawful status in the United States as a results of the "Green Light Law" that was enacted on June 17, 2019. Mr. Peña also informed the community that Senator Rivera will be in his Albany office in January and through June. He reminded us that their office offers tenant assistance and free notary services. There is also offer free family law consultations on the last Friday of every month. They require appointments for all of the services. Appointments can be made by contacting their district office at (718) 933-2034 or by visiting the district office which is located at 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506, Bronx, New York. Mr. Peña encouraged the community to follow Senator on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. They can also visit his website at nysenate.gov/senators/gustavo-rivera. His website obtains further information about the proposed bills and established laws.

Board Members requested that legislators provide further information about legislations that they are going to vote on, how it will affect the community and voting results. They requested that the legislators present and discuss the proposed bills prior to voting with the community. The Board Members also

requested information in regards to the actions that are or will be taken towards the malicious practices in the Mitchell-Lama Housing apartments as it pertains to the lottery and appointing of apartments.

Mr. Peña told the community members to expect a town hall meeting within the first two months of the New Year to inform the community about legislations.

Nipa Ruyees, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Ms. Ruyees informed us that she will be taking back the requests of information on laws being passed. She announced that there will be a Community Holiday Party in partnership with Assemblywoman Karines Reyes on December 14, 2019 at St. Helena's Church at 1:00 PM. She also announced that there will be a Three King's Day celebration on January 4, 2020. Ms. Ruyees reminded us that their district office is open Monday to Thursday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Their office also offers constituent services Mondays through Fridays.

Yaz Duarte, representing New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake

Ms. Duarte informed the community that Assemblyman Michael Blake is an advocate of the Bail Reform bill. She offered to speak with any community member who has any questions or concerns with the Bail Reform bill. Ms. Duarte also informed the community that Assemblyman Blake is the Chair of the Mitchell-Lama Housing Committee and she offered to speak with any community member who has any questions or concerns with the Mitchell-Lama Housing Program. Ms. Duarte also encouraged us to review Assemblyman Blake's newsletter, which includes all of the legislations that have been passed this year, which will be going into effect next year and how it will affect the community. She also announced that their office will be hosting a toy drive on December 18, 2019 at the BronxWorks Classic Center from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Nicholas Peters, representing New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters informed us that she will be taking back the requests of information on laws being passed. He also reported that their office held a turkey drive that were distributed to schools, community-based organizations and constituents on November 28, 2019. Their office also held a Grant Information Session in collaboration with the Citizens Committee for New York City on December 10, 2019. Mr. Peters reminded us that their office has a representative from the New York City Human Resources Administration that provides tenant support every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Their office also provides immigration services. The next date for appointments is January 31, 2020. Mr. Peters also informed us that their office will be closed for the holidays from Friday, December 20, 2019 through Monday, January 6, 2020. He encouraged members of the community to contact their office at (718) 933-6909 with any questions or concerns. They will be reviewing voice messages during their break. After their holiday break, their district office will resume to their normal hours of operation from Mondays through Fridays between the hours 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Charisse Suarez, representing New York State Assemblyman Jose Rivera

Ms. Suarez informed us that she will be taking back the requests of information on laws being passed. Ms. Suarez also reminded us that their office offers constituent services Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Their office also has free notary services. She also encouraged the community to review the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit's Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign and to submit an electronic comment at new.mta.info/bronxbusredesign.

Victor Martinez, representing New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Mr. Martinez informed us that will now be covering Bronx Community Board #6. He also informed us that a report has been released by Comptroller Stringer on the Department of Correction (DOC) due to concerns about increased spending with a decrease in the inmate population. Mr. Martinez informed us that we are spending \$300,000 for each incarcerated person. Mr. Martinez will also share the report that was released to those members of the public who are interested in reviewing the report.

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 Bronx Community Board #6 is still looking for applicants for their Second Annual Scholarship Contest where they will be rewarding five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors from their district. The applicants have to live within the district of Bronx Community Board #6. The application deadline is on May 1, 2020.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that the next sessions of the Bronx Civics and Organizing Workshops will be conducted at the Murphy Cornerstone Center on Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The discussion topics for this session include, voting, the census, and organizing.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be sponsoring free fitness classes starting in the New Year. The classes will be held on Saturdays from January 18, 2020 to February 22, 2020 at Aquinas High School from 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM.

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

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

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Capers announced that all committee meetings for the month of December are cancelled.

Chairperson Capers also announced that District Manager Sanchez will be sending the Board Members information regarding the Bail Reform for 2020 and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit's Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of November 13, 2019 was made by Mrs. Virginia Bird, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention.**

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the December 11, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:48 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-five in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

**Sanzida Talukder
Community Associate**

**Carla Leon
Community Associate**

City Council Member, 15th Council District

City Council Member, 17th Council District

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2019

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2019	ADJOURNMENT				
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes				
Clarita Bailon							
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes				
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes				
Nicole Carter							
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes				
Christopher Collazo							
Diana Diaz	Present	Yes	Yes				
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes				
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes				
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes				
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes				
Julisa Hamilton							
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes				
Laura James							
Frank Kolovic	Leave of Absence						
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes				
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes				
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes				
Rev. Marilyn Oliver							
Jorge Ortiz							
Rosa Peraza							
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes				
Paul Ramirez	Leave of Absence						
Helga Robles	Present	Yes	Yes				
Rev. Hiram Ratliff							
Wendy Rodriguez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Angel Rosario							
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	Yes				
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes				
Lillie Steed	Present	Yes	Yes				
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes				
Noorjahn Wells	Present	Yes	Yes				
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes				