



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**  
**1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457**  
Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: [bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org](mailto:bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org)  
*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, May 8, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Christopher Collazo, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Hiram Ratliff, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Carrie Taft, and Jacquetta Whaley.

**Members Absent:**

Virginia Bird, Eduardo Garcia, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Victoria Pamas (Leave of Absence), Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario and Gil Simmons.

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Famod Konneh, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Ronn Jordan, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres  
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.  
Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda  
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblymember Victor Pichardo  
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblymember José Rivera  
Glendalys Salgado, representing NYS Assemblymember Karines Reyes

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The May 8, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Bronx Zoo's Schiff Family Great Hall, which is located at 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:43 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

**II. INVOCATION**

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Ms. Floretta O'Brien.

**III. COMMUNITY PERIOD**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019**

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

**Jose L. Rivera, representing American Cancer Society Relay for Life**

Mr. Rivera invited the community to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of the Bronx event. Relay for Life is a community event that will raise awareness and funds to save lives, help those touched by cancer, and empower people to fight back against the disease. The event will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM and will take place at the Mall at Bay Plaza.

**Bridget McBrien, representing The Jewish Board**

Ms. McBrien invited the community to attend the celebration of their new location, Cedar Knolls House. Cedar Knolls House is their youth residential program that will provide a confidential, safe, and supportive environment for youth aged 12-21. The celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 between the hours of 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Cedar Knolls House located at 4462 Park Avenue. Ms. McBrien also informed the community that The Jewish Board are recruiting for the following positions: Care Coordinators, Licensed Psychiatrists, Nurses, Social Workers, Case Managers, Case Assistants and more. Individuals who are interested in applying to any of the positions can apply by visiting [JewishBoard.org/careers](http://JewishBoard.org/careers)

**Max Resnick, representing Local Voices**

Mr. Resnick informed the community about Local Voices, a community project occurring in three Bronx neighborhoods, including Tremont. In order to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month, Local Voices will be hosting conversations around the neighborhood and invited community organizations to get involved. Conversations can be recorded at Tremont Branch Library.

**Clifton Harris**

Mr. Harris expressed his concerns and disagreement with the New York City of Transportation's proposed Safety Improvement Project on Southern Boulevard between East 182<sup>nd</sup> Street to East 191<sup>st</sup> Street.

**Max Resnick, representing Local Voices Network**

Mr. Resnick informed the community about Local Voices Network, a new Bronx project where ordinary people share stories from their community in small group discussions around the topic of education. The conversations are recorded and transcribed and made available to participants, community partners and local reporters. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Bronx Early Learning Center located at 1887 Bathgate Avenue.

**Wil Francis, representing Tremont Library**

Mr. Francis announced to the community about the Sound Lab Launch Event on Wednesday May 29, 2019 at 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the Tremont Library located at 1866 Washington Avenue. The Tremont Library Sound Lab is a first of its kind free multimedia lab featuring the latest music technology for individuals to create, learn and play.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019**

**Gail Nathan, Bronx River Art Center**

Ms. Nathan announced to the community that during Bronx Week 2019 the Bronx River Art Center will be having three events. The Bronx River Art Center will be having a Digital Media Screening of Current and Past BRAC Photography and Animation Teaching Artists on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Bronx River Art Center located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue. They will also be having an Artist Panel Discussion and Performance for *Tableau*, a four person exhibition of works that reveal identity through a range of perspectives spanning socio-economics and culture, community and family, and individual memento. The discussion and performance will be held on Friday, May 17, 2019 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. In addition, they are going to be conducting the workshop, Into the Woods, a workshop that will provide students with an introductory experience at creating sustainable sculptures with recycled materials. The workshop will be conducted on Saturday, May 25, 2019 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**Krystallyn Leonard**

Ms. Leonard informed the community about Encounter NYC, a young adult organization that encounter Christ through adoration, arts, and fellowship. The group meets every third Friday of each month. The next meeting will occur on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 7:00 at 1735 Unionport Road, Bronx, New York. They also have a gatherings available for kids and teens every Thursday from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM.

**Caroline Davis, representing St. Barnabas Hospital Health System**

Ms. Davis informed the community the violence was listed as a present health issue on the New York State Prevention Agenda that was released by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo.

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

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

- Mr. Sanchez reminded the Community Board members that Borough President Diaz Jr. will be hosting the Community Board Members Appreciation Evening that will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Veterans' Memorial Hall located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Borough President Diaz Jr. kicked off Bronx Week 2019. During the celebration, he announced singer-songwriter Regina Spektor, championship boxer Iran Barkley and planetary scientist Carolyn Porco would be honored as the newest members of the Bronx Walk of Fame.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that Borough President Diaz Jr. announced the creation of the Bronx 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. The committee will be tasked with increasing turnout in the upcoming 2020 Census and ensuring that Bronx residents participate in this important civic function.

## **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**

### **Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019**

- **Mr. Sanchez also informed us that Borough President Diaz Jr. attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of The Lit.Bar, an independent bookstore and cafe in Mott Haven on National Bookstore Day.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that Borough President Diaz Jr. appointed Liliam A. Perez as the Bronx representative to the newly-created New York City Civic Engagement Commission.**
- **Mr. Sanchez also announced that Borough President Diaz Jr. will be hosting his Annual Ramadan Iftar Dinner on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Veterans' Memorial Hall located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York.**

## **V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

### **Famod Konneh, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio**

**Mr. Konneh informed us that Mayor de Blasio unveiled the NYC Care Card, the key to quality and affordable health care for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who cannot afford or are ineligible for insurance. He informed us that NYC Care is set to launch in the Bronx on August 1, 2019. This will allow residents to use their NYC Care Card to receive their own doctor, get preventive screenings and tests, and connect to a 24/7 service to help individuals make appointments. Mr. Konneh announced that Mayor de Blasio is hosting his 4<sup>th</sup> Annual IFTAR in the City event on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Raymond Avenue between Olmstead Avenue and Purdy Street. He also announced that Mayor de Blasio will be conducting a Forum for African/Immigrant Communities on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 (during Bronx Week) from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at International Community High School located on 345 Brook Avenue, Bronx, New York. The forum will provide individuals with resources and presentations from Housing Preservation Development: Affordable Housing and Lottery Application Assistance, Taxi and Limousine Commission: Fine Settlements/Office of Inclusion/Driver Income, and Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs: Public Charge/Immigrant Workers Right.**

### **Ronn Jordan, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres**

**Mr. Jordan announced the community about the Council Member Torres' Participatory Budgeting results pertaining to Bronx Community Board #6's district. He announced that video and audio upgrades for Public School 205's cafeteria, new playground for Public School 32, and security cameras installments were funded as a result of 7,294 ballots. He also informed us that Council Member Torres was in support of the package of seventeen bills intended to protect tenants from landlord abuse. The legislation includes closing the "Kushner loophole", which had allowed landlords to file false paperwork with the city's Department of Buildings.**

### **Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.**

**Mr. Melendez reported on legislative bills that were introduced by Council Member Salamanca Jr. For instance, Int 1509-2019, which would require New York City Police Department to report on false personation arrest. He also introduced Int 1511-2019, which would require the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to create zones surrounding schools and parks where the parking of mobile homes and trailers would be prohibited. Mr. Melendez informed us that their office provides housing assistance, immigration and constituent services.**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019**

**Fiorella Bini, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Ms. Bini announced that Senator Sepulveda will be cosponsoring a job fair on Friday, May 17, 2019 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center located at 1666 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York. Ms. Bini informed us that Senator Sepulveda is in support of the “Green Light” bill that allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver’s license. She also informed us that their office provides housing, employment, education, medical insurance and community resources services.

**Nicholas Peters, representing New York State Assemblymember Victor Pichardo**

Mr. Peters informed the community that legislative session is currently ongoing in Albany. He informed us that Assemblymember Pichardo sponsored Assembly Bill A2351, which relates to rent increases after vacancy of a housing accommodation. He also informed us that their office will be providing free immigration services that assist individuals with the citizenship application on Friday, May 10, 2019 between 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM. Mr. Peters announced that Assemblymember Pichardo is updating his electronic newsletter. Individuals who are interested in signing up to receive the newsletter can do so by contacting their office at (718) 933-6909.

**Glendalys Salgado, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes**

Ms. Salgado encouraged community members to follow Assemblymember Reyes on Twitter (@KarinesReyesNYC), Facebook, and Instagram (@KarinesReyes87) to be informed of her upcoming events. She announced that Assemblymember Reyes has partnered with Bronx Community Board #6, Popular Bank, and the West Farms Library to host free financial literacy workshops on Saturday mornings. The next workshop will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 11:00 AM. Ms. Salgado also announced that Assemblymember Reyes is partnership with Roadmap to Health to provide free health screenings on Friday, May 10, 2019 between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM at her district office located at 1973 Westchester Avenue.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation by New York City Department of Transportation on the proposed Safety Improvement Project on Southern Boulevard between East 182<sup>nd</sup> Street to East 191<sup>st</sup> Street**

Mr. Nick Carey presented on the proposed Safety Improvement Project on Southern Boulevard between East 182nd Street and East 191st Street. Mr. Carey informed us that there has been an increase of 55% in daily cycling in New York City from 2012 to 2017 and 49% in commuting to work in the Bronx between 2012 and 2017. Because of this significant growth, the Department of Transportation proposed the following designs:

- Implementation of a Two-way Delineator Protected Bike Lane on Southern Boulevard between East Fordham Road and East 191<sup>st</sup> Street. This design will include a narrower northbound roadway that will discourage speeding and will shorten pedestrian crossings and a two-way protected bike lane that will create dedicated space for cyclists, discourage wrong way and sidewalk riding and will reduce conflicts with pedestrians.
- Implementation of a Two-way Delineator Protected Bike Lane on Southern Boulevard between East 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and East Fordham Road. This design will include a narrower organized roadway that will discourage speeding and will shorten pedestrian crossings, have a rush hour lane that will maintain

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019**

capacity and calm during peak and off-peak periods and overnight parking hours.

This proposal also includes design changes to the bus stops. The design will include bus boarding islands that will improve bus operations by reducing lag time at each bus stop, will clear indication of bus stops, and ramps will reduce cyclist speed.

**Presentation by New York City Police Department's Legislative Affairs Unit on the proposed plans for 1932 Arthur Avenue's lot on Belmont Avenue**

Ms. Ashbery informed us that New York City Police Department is proposing to temporarily utilize the Department of Citywide Administrative Services' empty lot that is located on Belmont Avenue between East Tremont Avenue and East 176<sup>th</sup> Street behind 1932 Arthur Avenue to park the New York City Police Department's School Safety Division vehicles. In the interim, the City of New York will be pursuing a feasible proposal for the lot for community usage.

Captain Michael Weiss informed the community about the capacity of the New York City Police Department's School Safety Division.

**VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

The District Manager's report was included in our meeting packages. District Manager Sanchez requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

**VIII. DISTRIBUTION OF STIPEND CHECK TO THE COMMUNITY BOARD'S 2019 NOMINEES TO THE NEW YORK YANKEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP CORP.**

Stipend checks of \$750 from the New York Yankees' Community Council were distributed to the community board's five nominees to the council's Youth Leadership Corp. The nominees were: Luis Castellano, Brandon Hadley, Zakiya Johnson, Kelvin Owusu-Ansa, and Charles Williamson.

**X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

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

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Chairperson Capers informed us that Committee meetings are always the third week of the month. Unless otherwise specified, all committee meetings will begin at 6:30 PM and take place at the Community Board's district office at 1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019**

Chairperson Capers announced that Bronx Community Board #6 and Friends of Tremont Park are hosting a 5K Walk/Run for Lupus Awareness at Tremont Park on Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 AM. All proceeds will be donated to Lupus Research Alliance, an organization that works to improve treatments for lupus while advancing towards a cure. Chairperson Capers also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be having a trip to the Bronx Zoo for the seniors on Monday, June 3, 2019.

**XII. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of March 13, 2019 was made by Mr. Christopher Collazo, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention. (Please note that board member Ms. Lanell Gardenhire left the meeting prior to this motion.)
2. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Transportation in support of the proposed Safety Improvement Project on Southern Boulevard between East 182<sup>nd</sup> Street to East 191<sup>st</sup> Street was made by Ms. Diana Diaz, seconded by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley and was not adopted zero in favor, twenty-four opposed and zero abstention. (Please note that board member Ms. Lanell Gardenhire left the meeting prior to this motion.)
3. A motion to issue a letter in support of New York City Police Department's Legislative Affairs Unit proposed temporary plans for 1932 Arthur Avenue's lot on Belmont Avenue while the City of New York pursues a long-term plan to use the site for community usage was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Ms. Evonne Caper and adopted by a vote of fifteen in favor, five opposed and four abstentions. (Please note that board member Ms. Lanell Gardenhire left the meeting prior to this motion.)

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to discuss, the May 8, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM pursuant to a motion made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-four in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon  
Community Associate

Carly Wine  
Community Associate

**ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF MAY 8, 2019**

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2019	LOS DOT	LOS NYPD	ADJOURMENT	
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	
Virginia Bird						
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Christopher Collazo	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Diana Diaz	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Eduardo Garcia						
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Lanell Gardenhire	Present					
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Laura James	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Frank Kolovic	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Sara Nunez-Mejia	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence					
Marilyn Oliver	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Victoria Pamas	Leave of Absence					
Rosa Peraza						
Paul Ramirez						
Hiram Ratliff	Present	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	
Wendy Rodriguez						
Angel Rosario						
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Gil Simmons						
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	