



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6

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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, January 9, 2019

#### Members Present:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilo, Christopher Collazo, Claudette Coles, Frank Franz, Eduardo Garcia, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamias, Hiram Ratliff, Angel Rosario, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, and Michael Yu.

#### Members Absent:

Virginia Bird, Diana Diaz (Leave of Absence), Margarita Espinosa, Michael Nelson, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Marilyn Oliver, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Wendy Rodriguez, and Jacquetta Whaley.

#### Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
John Zaccaro, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.  
Yazmerlyn Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake  
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo  
Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The January 9, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Mary Mitchell Community Center, which is located at 2007 Mapes Avenue, 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 Vice Chairperson Maria Garcia.

#### **III. COMMUNITY PERIOD**

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

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**Bridget McGuire, representing the Jewish Board**

Ms. McGuire informed the community that their new Park Avenue residence just opened. She introduced a team member and thanked the community for welcoming their residence.

**Maria Crespo, representing parents of P.S. 59 students**

Ms. Crespo requested funding for a community recreation center for students of P.S. 59. Currently, students at P.S. 59 do not have a gymnasium. In response to her concern, Mr. Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., encouraged Ms. Crespo to reach out to her local council member to participate on the allocation of the participatory budgeting process.

**Brandon Martin, representing Phipps Neighborhoods**

Mr. Martin informed the community that Phipps Neighborhoods is currently recruiting youth for their Opportunity Youth Internship program. The internship is open for youth aged 16 to 24 that live in West Farms and are currently out of school and work. Interns will be paid \$15 per hour for 10 hours a week.

**Sandra Fonseca, representing St. Barnabas Health Center**

Ms. Fonseca informed the community about the CAHA meeting occurring at St. Barnabas Hospital on Wednesday, January 30th, from 9:30 AM until 10:30 AM. She also informed the community about free workshops offered in both English and Spanish.

**Victoria Pamas, Legal Hand**

Ms. Pamas informed the community about services offered at Legal Hand. Legal Hand provides free assistant, referrals, and legal issues Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary. Additionally, Legal Hand is providing a free training for parents of children aged 2 through 4. The training will teach parents how to apply for Pre-K and Head Start. Legal Hand is also hosting a Teen Dating Violence Healthy Relationship workshop on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Legal Hand is located at 713 East Tremont Avenue.

**Michael Wheeler, representing Bronx River Art Center**

Mr. Wheeler informed the community about art classes offered at Bronx River Art Center. Winter classes begin in January and run through March. Bronx River Art Center is also offering free art workshops for teens.

**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:

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- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. is inviting Bronx residents to join their local Community Board. He's also encouraging young individuals ages 16 and 17 to apply for community board membership. The deadline for submission for applications for the new round of appointments is February 8, 2019.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. announced the launch of the #CleanUpNYCHA social media campaign. The initiative will encourage New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenants, as well local residents, businesses and elected officials to call attention to any subpar living conditions encountered in public housing facilities, on the grounds of developments and within individuals' apartments.
- Mr. Sanchez also informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. issued a reported, titled "*The Preferential Rent Crisis in New York City.*" The report examines the scope of the preferential rent issue in the five boroughs and features profiles of the four neighborhoods with high numbers of preferential rent tenants. Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. recommends that the New York State Legislature pass legislation ending the preferential rent loophole in the coming year.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. kicks off the 8th Annual "Savor The Bronx" Restaurant Week by celebrating at Beatstro, a Hip Pop themed restaurant located in the South Bronx. "Savor The Bronx" takes place from January 7, 2019 through January 19, 2019.
- Mr. Sanchez invited the community to join Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. at the upcoming Martin Luther King Tribute event on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Trinity Baptist Church located at 808 East 224<sup>th</sup> Street.

**V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio**

Mr. Konneh informed us that Mayor de Blasio has announced a plan to guarantee health care for all New Yorkers. The plan will serve New Yorkers without insurance by strengthening New York City's public health insurance option, MetroPlus, and guaranteeing anyone ineligible for insurance including undocumented New Yorkers has direct access to NYC Health + Hospitals' physicians, pharmacies and mental health and substance abuse services through a new program called NYC Care. These services will be affordable on a sliding scale. He also informed us that Mayor de Blasio proposed that New York City become the first city to mandate Paid Personal Time for workers. Mayor de Blasio's proposal calls for a maximum of ten days of Paid Personal Time per year. He also informed us that Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson launched a Fair Fare Program for Low-Income New Yorkers. The program will provide discounted MetroCards to working New Yorkers at or below the federal poverty level who are receiving cash assistance or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits from the New York City Department of Social Services.

**John Zaccaro, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.**

Mr. Zaccaro informed us that City Council passed a bill that will mandate GPS tracking systems on all school busses. He also informed us Council Member Salamanca proposed a bill that will require developers who receiving City funding to set aside 15% of the units for the homeless. Mr. Zaccaro announced that

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**Councilmember Salamanca in partnership with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development will be conducting a tenant resource fair on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at 760 Melrose Avenue. He also announced that their office is looking for an individual to fill the Director of Communications position. He also informed us that Council Member Salamanca approved the Belmont Cove Rezoning on East 176th Street between Belmont Avenue and Avenue. However, the Council Member is not in full support of the proposed parking spots for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene employees.**

**Yazmerlyn Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake**

**Ms. Duarte informed us that their office provides tenant services every Tuesday between the hours of 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. If you need more information in regards to their services, their district office can be reached at (718) 538-3829.**

**Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Pichardo**

**Mr. Peters reported that Assemblyman Pichardo is chairing a task force on immigration rights. He also informed the community about literacy services available at their office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. 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. Their office is located at 2175 Jerome Avenue and can be contacted by phone at (718) 933-6909.**

**Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer**

**Mr. Ortiz announced that 2019 is the "year of the tenant." This year, the comptroller's office is focusing on the housing affordability crisis.**

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation by Emily Kim, representing Zeta Charter Schools**

**Ms. Kim presented on Zeta Charter Schools' proposal for two new K-5 charter schools in the Bronx. Currently, there are two Zeta Charter Schools in New York City in the Bronx and in Inwood. What separates Zeta Charter School apart from other schools is that builds upon Success Academy's curriculum and incorporates a foundation of innovation culture, meditative breathing, and family service. Zeta Charter School will provide Bronx residents world class school option so that all families have access to a great education, rather than just those who can afford it. When concerns about students with special needs in the classroom were raised by a board member, Ms. Kim ensured board members and community residents that students with special needs are fully integrated into the classroom setting**

**The proposed charter school would first start with a kindergarten and first grade class, adding one grade each year until it fully services grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Kim's hope is to serve students through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the future. Zeta Charter School has received 12 letters of support from elected officials in the Bronx and are seeking a letter of support from Bronx Community Board #6.**

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**VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- Mr. Sanchez informed the community that Friends of Tremont Park planted over 1,600 daffodils at their Daffodil Bulb Planting day on Thursday, November 15, 2018.
- Mr. Sanchez thanked the board members, Belmont and Fordham Business Improvement District, and residents for donating to the Third Annual Bronx Community Board #6 Holiday Party and Toy Giveaway. He announced that more than 150 families from our district homeless shelters attended.
- Mr. Sanchez invited the community to participate in a series of four free financial literacy workshops conducted by My Money Workshop. The workshops will be held on Saturdays starting on January 12, 2019 and ending February 2, 2019. There will be two sessions per Saturday at 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM.
- Mr. Sanchez informed the community about Bronx Community Board #6's Scholarship Competition. The five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in the district attending college or completing a professional certification. The applications are due April 1, 2019.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that the membership application to become a Bronx Community District #6 Board Member is open. The applications are due February 8, 2019.

**VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-six (26) 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 December 12, 2018 was made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and adopted by a vote of twenty-six in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention.
2. A motion to provide a letter of support for Zeta Charter Schools to open two new proposed K-5 charter schools was made by Mr. Christopher Collazo, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

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**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to discuss, the January 9, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-six in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

Carly Wine  
Community Associate

Carla Leon  
Community Associate

*Honorable Ritchie Torres,  
City Council Member, 15<sup>th</sup> Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca Jr.,  
City Council Member, 17<sup>th</sup> Council District*

**ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF JANAUARY 9, 2019**

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12 2018	LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ZETA CHARTER SCHOOLS	ADJOURMENT			
Stephanie Addo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Virginia Bird							
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Chris Collazo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Diana Diaz	Leave of Absence						
Margarita Espinosa							
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Eduardo Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes			
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Frank Kolovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Michael Nelson							
Sara Nunez-Mejia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence						
Marilyn Oliver							
Victoria Pamas	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Rosa Peraza							
Paul Ramirez							
Hiram Ratliff	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Wendy Rodriguez							
Angel Rosario	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Jacquetta Whaley							
Michael Yu	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			