



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, June 12, 2019

Members Present:

Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilo, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Eduardo Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Rosa Peraza, Hiram Ratliff, Gil Simmons, and Jaquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Christopher Collazo, Audrey Harden, Maria Garcia, Frank Kolovic, Floretta O'Brien, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Reverend Marilyn Oliver, Victoria Pamias (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, and Carrie Taft.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Famod Konneh, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Israel Sanchez, representing City Council Member Ritchie Torres
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Lillian Barreto, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Yaz Duarte, NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Glendalys Salgado, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The June 12, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at West Farms Library, which is located at 2085 Honeywell Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:42 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Ms. Jannie Armstrong.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

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Hector Torres, representing Union Dominicana del Bronx

Mr. Torres thanked the community board and District Manager John Sanchez for their assistance in resolving his complaints.

Angel Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez is a resident of the community. He expressed concern about his neighbors who play loud music at all hours of the day. He has attempted to contact the 48th Precinct's Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs), but the nuisance has prevailed.

Chantal, representing River Garden

Ms. Chantal thanked the community board for their assistance getting the sidewalk along River Garden repaired. She also expressed a desire for more community engagement with River Garden, and she mentioned that she would be polling to learn what events other community members would be interested in. Ms. Chantal has gathered some ideas such as events for Veteran's Day, Teacher's Day, and Elementary and High School graduation celebrations.

Kristine Rivera, representing Excellence Community Schools

Ms. Rivera announced that Bronx Excellence 5 will open in District 9 during fall 2019. She informed the community about the school, stating that it will be a Kindergarten through 1st Grade school and will grow into a "pave the way" school. The school will be on Bathgate Avenue, and further details about location will be revealed following the close of the school year.

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 informed us that Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. along with other elected officials are rallying together against the Mayor's plan to close Rikers Island and build a new jail in Mott Haven. They are instead advocating for criminal justice reform to be done correctly. Mr. Sanchez encouraged residents to stay engaged as there are events and action items in the works.
- Mr. Sanchez reported that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced nearly \$100 million for the transformation of Roberto Clemente State Park and Waterfront.
- Mr. Sanchez stated that the Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. will be providing regular updates on the Diego Beekman Houses Resident's Lawsuit pertaining to the ULURP and how its implementation treats boroughs unequally.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. hosted his annual Ramadan Iftar celebration, and will be hosting his first annual Yemeni-American Parade.
- Mr. Sanchez reported that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. is calling for the "fair fares" transit discount program to include Access-A-Ride users in the City's Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

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- **Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. will be hosting his annual Caribbean Heritage Celebration event on June 20, 2019 at the Veterans' Memorial Hall of the Bronx County Building.**

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez informed the community that East 187th Street and Prospect Avenue will be renamed "Private First Class Emmanuel Mensah Way" in honor of Mr. Emmanuel Mensah. Mr. Mensah was saved a family of six, including four young children, before firefighters arrived to the fire at 2363 Prospect Avenue. The renaming ceremony will take place on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Sanchez also informed us that Council Member Torres will be hosting a Stop the Violence event on June 22, 2019 at 12:00 PM. Interested participants should contact their district office at (718) 842-8100 for location details. He also informed us that their offices offers free services for residents relating to housing issues, immigration law, and family law.

Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Melendez announced that Councilmember Salamanca Jr.'s office is working to improve mail service after numerous complaints about the United States Postal Service in the Bronx area. To address this issue, their office is working with the Postmaster and Congressman Serrano to improve mail service. Mr. Melendez also announced that their office is hosting a basketball tournament for youth aged 11 to 14, or grades 5 through 9 on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the Police Athletic League South Bronx Center. To register in advance, interested participants are encouraged to call their district office at (718) 402-6130. Mr. Melendez also reminded the community that their office offers housing assistance and immigrant services.

Lillian Barreto, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Barreto informed the community that Senator Rivera will host his Sixth Annual Senior Health Fair at Monroe College on Friday, July 26, 2019. She also informed us that Senator Rivera is starting an initiative to deliver over 3,000 free backpacks to local students at the end of this summer before school starts up again. The backpack giveaways will be held on August 1st, 15th and 22nd. You can reach their office at (718) 933-2034 for more details.

Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda

Ms. Bini informed the community that the Senator Sepulveda will be holding a Social Security Workshop on June 25, 2019 at 12:00 PM for individuals to learn about the eligible benefits and how to navigate through the social security system. Ms. Bini also informed us that their office offers legal and constituent services.

Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake

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Ms. Duarte informed the community that their office offers constituent services relating to housing issues assistance by a tenant's specialist from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) every Tuesday.

Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters informed the community that Assembly Member Pichardo assisted in the voting of the "Green Light" bill that allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license. He also informed us that Assembly Member Pichardo recently conducted a ride-along on the BX 42/40 bus to identify the issues with delayed services and asked riders on the bus what they want changed and updated. Mr. Peters informed us that Assembly Member Pichardo will be attending upcoming MTA's Fast Forward: Bronx Bus Network Redesign Draft Review workshops this month to review the proposed changes and to obtain input and suggestions from the community.

Glendalys Salgado, representing Assembly Member Karines Reyes

Ms. Salgado informed the community that Assembly Member Reyes obtained grant money for a priority project in the district, giving \$17,500 to the West Farms Branch Library and \$15,000 to Public School 6. She also informed us that Assembly Member Reyes is currently working and advocating towards the package of 9/11 Heroes Bills. Ms. Salgado announced that their office will begin providing housing legal services for constituents on Wednesdays. For more information, call (718) 931-2620.

Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Mr. Ortiz informed the community that Comptroller Stringer conducted an investigation that revealed huge increases in ICE Enforcement in the City of New York. Comptroller Stringer is dedicated to address immigration issues by seeking support from the City and State to aid universal legal representation and to assist detained immigrants afford bond payments.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Terence Li, Executive Director of CitySquash, on the construction of their new facility located at 2415 Hoffman Street.

Mr. Li informed us that CitySquash's mission is to help motivated young people from economically disadvantaged households fulfill their academic, athletic, and personal potential. He shared a story of a young neighborhood resident who discovered squash after M.S. 45 partnered with CitySquash. Mr. Li argued that as a result of her mentorship with CitySquash, she attended Cornell University, was a two-time All-American squash champion, and now works in Silicon Valley, California, with plans to move back to the Bronx and give back to communities here. Mr. Li said that this story is emblematic of a larger pattern that CitySquash creates - 100% of CitySquash students have graduated high school, and 92% go on to college.

CitySquash wants to build this new facility to help enhance their program and give opportunities to more students. The proposed facility is a 28,000 square-foot building with a 400+ person capacity, with 7 squash singles courts, 1 doubles court, and 4 classrooms for mentoring and homework help. Mr. Li said that the CitySquash program is free for all, and it currently serves 115 students from the Bronx. With the addition of this facility, the program would serve over 400 Bronx students. Mr. Li specified that the program is 100%

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privately funded, and receives 80% of funds from individual and family donations, and 10% of funding from corporations/companies. Overall, he argued that CitySquash is changing the face of the sport, which is normally played just in private clubs by the wealthy-- now, the sport is accessible to everyone. Finally, he said that CitySquash is creating leaders in our Bronx community, and said that the program has already hired 4 alumni as staff.

VII. 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's 5K Run for Lupus Awareness was an outstanding event. An estimate total of \$1,800 was raised.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Community Board #6's Seniors Trip to the Bronx Zoo on June 3, 2019 was successful.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that Bronx Community Board #6 is hosting a free CPR Training class for the community provided by NYC Beating Hearts Initiative thanks to Council Member Ritchie Torres.
- Mr. Sanchez introduced Bronx Community Board #6's summer interns.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6's Veterans' Committee will be meeting regarding the Veterans' Day Parade on June 13, 2019.

VIII. PRESENTATION OF BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6'S FIRST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Bronx Community Board #6's First Annual Scholarship Award of \$1,000 was distributed to two nominees. The two nominees were: Makhila Cooke and Zakiya Johnson. Makhila Cooke will be attending the American Ballet Theatre this summer, and Zakiya Johnson will be attending the University of Buffalo for Criminal Justice.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of nineteen (19) 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.

Chairperson Capers announced 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.

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

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- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of May 8, 2019 was made by Mr. Gil Simmons and seconded by Ms. Virginia Bird and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter of support to CitySquash for the construction of their new facility located at 2415 Hoffman Street, Bronx, New York 10458 was made by Mr. Gil Simmons and seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, zero opposed, and three abstentions.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the June 12, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:07 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter and unanimously adopted by acclamation (nineteen 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 JUNE 12, 2019

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2019	LOS CITY SQUASH	ADJOURMENT		
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Clarita Bailon						
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Christopher Collazo						
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Diana Diaz	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes		
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Eduardo Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Maria Garcia						
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Audrey Harden						
Laura James	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes		
Frank Kolovic						
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sara Nunez-Mejia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Floretta A. O'Brien						
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence					
Marilyn Oliver						
Victoria Pamas	Leave of Absence					
Rosa Peraza	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes		
Paul Ramirez						
Hiram Ratliff	Present	Yes	No	Yes		
Wendy Rodriguez						
Angel Rosario						
Lisa Sanchez						
Angel Santana						
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Carrie Taft						
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes		