



**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, March 13, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilo, Christopher Collazo, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Eduardo Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Rosa Peraza, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, Jaquetta Whaley and Michael Yu.

**Members Absent:**

Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, Diana Diaz (Leave of Absence), Maria Garcia, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Marilyn Oliver, Victoria Pamiyas (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario and Angel Santana.

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Famod Konneh, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres  
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.  
Lillian Barreto, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Cecilia Hernandez, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda  
Menen Pierre, NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake  
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo  
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman José Rivera  
Glendalys Salgado, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The March 13, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at VIP Community Services, which is located at 764 East 176<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:52 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

*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*

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019**

**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:

**Hakeem Elliott, representing Center for Law and Social Justice**

Mr. Elliott informed the community about the New York City Black Leadership Advisory Coalition for the 2020 Census. The New York City Black Leadership Advisory Coalition for the 2020 Census was convened by the Center for Law and Social Justice to ensure that communities are ready for the Census. He emphasized the importance of participation from individuals because Congressional seats are in danger due to the lack of responses. Because of that the Center for Law and Social Justice is working with organizations to provide 2020 Census Pop-Up locations for individuals who do not have access to the internet or have a language barrier. Mr. Elliot can be reached at (718) 804-8893 or by email at helliot@mec.cuny.edu for further information.

**Monique Ferguson-Riley, representing Freedom Youth LLC**

Ms. Riley informed the community about Freedom Youth LLC. Freedom Youth LLC is an organization that works on preventing and education youth and young adults on human trafficking and prostitution. They provide mentorships, preventive awareness training, and support to those seeking refuge. Freedom Youth LLC is located on 369 East 194<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, New York and can be contacted by telephone at (929) 367-4754.

**Chaplain Tara Brown-Arnell, representing BronxConnect/Release the Grip**

Chaplain Brown-Arnell informed the community about BronxConnect/Release the Grip. BronxConnect established a program called Release the Grip as part of the New York City's Crisis Management System and are currently working with the 48<sup>th</sup> Precinct in the district of Council Member Ritchie Torres. This program provides community therapeutic services, employment readiness and leadership classes to prevent gun violence. Chaplain Brown-Arnell also informed the community that BronxConnect is looking for a temporary space to provide services in the Bronx. Chaplain Brown-Arnell can be reached at (917) 473-7834 ext. 401.

**Shaheed Robinson, representing BronxConnect/Release the Grip**

Mr. Robinson informed the community that he is a violence mediator who provides alternatives to violence for juveniles in the Bronx.

**Cathy Garcia, representing Cardinal McCloskey Community Services**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019**

Ms. Garcia informed the community about Cardinal McCloskey Community Services' Early Childhood Education Program. She also informed the community that a new early childhood education center opened in the Belmont Avenue community. She stated that the program has eight available slots which are free, upon meeting income eligibility requirements. The programs work on developing fine and gross motor skills and interest in reading, arts and science. The organization can be reached at (718)-993-7700 ext. 01.

**Maria Matos, representing United States Census Bureau**

Ms. Matos informed the community that individuals will be able to respond to the 2020 Census by mail, phone or online. This will be the first time that individuals will have the option to respond online. Ms. Matos encouraged the community to respond to the 2020 Census in order to determine their congressional representation as well as federal funding for states and communities towards hospitals, fire departments, school, health care and more.

**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 announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. launched Camp Junior in partnership with The Fresh Air Fund, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Camp Junior named in memory of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz who was a victim of gang violence. Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. is encouraging families with children, ages 9 to 13, who live in the Bronx to register for this sleepaway camp for this summer.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. has partnered with the Department of Education to launch the new program, the Extended Use Hardship Program. This program will pay the Department of Education permit fees for community organizations who will like to use any Department of Education facility for community programming until June 30, 2019. The program is based on funding availability.
- Mr. Sanchez informed the community about a food collective, called the Bronx Canasta, who are hosting a competition to create a Bronx-based salad dressing and marinade. The recipe competition opens Friday, March 1, 2019 and will close on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 5:00 PM.
- Mr. Sanchez invited the community, on behalf of Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr., to the Irish Heritage Month celebration on March 14, 2019 at 5:30 PM which will be at Rambling House located on 4292 Katonah Avenue.
- Mr. Sanchez also invited the community on behalf of Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. to the Women's History Month Celebration on March 21, 2019 which will be held at Fordham University, Keating Hall #1, 2691 Southern Boulevard at 5:30 PM.

**V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019**

**Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres**

Ms. Enea gave us an update on Council Member Torres' legislative priorities. Council Member Torres proposed legislation to form partnerships with small businesses that would provide youth with employment year round. Ms. Enea also informed the community that East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street and Bathgate Avenue has been renamed in honor of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz. She also encouraged the residents of Bathgate Avenue to contact their office if they are having issues receiving mail through the United States Postal Service. Ms. Enea invited the community on behalf of Council Member Torres to attend his Women's History Month celebration at the New York Botanical Garden on March 30, 2019.

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

Mr. Melendez reported that Council Member Salamanca Jr. introduced a bill that will require cosmetologists to receive training by the City on how to recognize signs of domestic abuse and violence. Council Member Salamanca Jr. is also working on gaining support for a wastewater treatment bill that would require air quality monitoring around the city's around wastewater plants facilities annually. Mr. Melendez also informed us that their offices are assisting with resolving the issue with the United States Postal Service. He encouraged those individuals who are experiencing issues with mail deliveries to contact their office. As always, the Council Member Salamanca Jr.'s office welcomes those with immigration and housing concerns to contact their office. Their office is located at 1070 Southern Boulevard and can be reached at (718) 402-6130.

**Lillian Barreto, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera**

Ms. Barreto invited the community, on behalf of Senator Rivera, to the Women's History Month celebration event at the Claremont Neighborhood Center on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 11:00 AM. She encouraged those who are interested in attending to RSVP by contacting their district office. Ms. Barreto also informed the community that their office offers services for in regards to housing issues and family law.

**Cecilia Hernandez, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Ms. Hernandez informed their offices provides services such as housing, employment, immigration, and constituent services. Ms. Hernandez also announced the Annual Spelling Bee for third, fourth and fifth graders within the participating schools. Each awarding child will receive \$1,000 where \$500 will go towards the 529 New York State College Savings Fund and \$500 in cash.

**Menen Pierre, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake**

Ms. Pierre 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.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019**

**Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo**

Mr. Peters invited the community on behalf of Assemblyman Pichardo to a Public Charge Forum at David Community Center on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM. He informed the community that Hunger Free NYC will be tabling and providing information at their district office. He also informed us that free notary services are available at their district office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Mr. Peters also announced that GMHC and the International Rescue Committee will be providing assistance with United States Citizenship application beginning Friday, March 22, 2019. The assistance will be offered from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The services will be available in English, Spanish and Arabic. Individuals who are interested are encouraged to call (718) 933-6909 to make an appointment.

**Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman José Rivera**

Ms. Suarez informed the community about a bill that Assemblyman Rivera cosponsored to amend the education law, in relation to establishing an educational program related to the prevention of sexual harassment in schools. She also announced that their office will be offering a Citizen Preparedness Training course that will educate individuals on the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster. The course will be held on at St. Barnabas Hospital on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Individuals who are interested in taking this course, must register in advance. Ms. Suarez also reminded us about the Tenant Assistance Program that is available at their district office every Friday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and about the free notary services that are offered Monday through Friday. Ms. Suarez encouraged the community to call their district office to make an appointment for this services.

**Glendalys Salgado, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes**

Ms. Salgado informed the community that Assemblywoman Reyes passed her first-time-sponsored bill, an act to amend the definition of a pregnancy-related condition. The bill protects new mothers by allowing them to take the time they need to pump-breast milk in their workplace. Ms. Salgado informed the community that their office is hiring for a part-time scheduler. Individuals who are interested in the position are to contact Ms. Salgado at [salgadog@nycassembly.gov](mailto:salgadog@nycassembly.gov).

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

Mr. Ortiz informed the community that the Comptroller Stringer was the first Comptroller to hire a Chief Diversity Officer in the city of New York. Current Chief Diversity Officer, Wendy Garcia, is responsible for contracting opportunities for Women and Minority-owned Business Enterprises and managing the Comptroller Office's internal supplier diversity initiative. Comptroller Stringer will be demanding for a Chief Diversity Officer to be in City Hall and every City agency through revisions to the City Charter. Mr. Ortiz announced that Comptroller Stringer will be having a rally on March 14, 2019 at 11:30 AM on the steps on City Hall. Mr. Ortiz can be contacted at [aortiz@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:aortiz@comptroller.nyc.gov), (646) 294-3300 or (646) 951-3076.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019**

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation by Mario Figueroa, representing Drew Gardens Community Group**

Mr. Figueroa informed the community about Drew Gardens Community Group. Drew Gardens Community Group is located on East Tremont Avenue and Devoe Avenue in the West Farms community. He invited the community to visit the garden during their visiting hours. He informed the community about the activities that are conducted in the garden such as plantings, building raised beds, painting, and free music. He also informed us that the garden accepts food scraps. Mr. Figueroa invited the community to contact him for volunteering inquiries or membership applications.

**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 the annual It's My Park Day at the Happy Land Monument will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM on East Tremont Avenue and Southern Boulevard.
- Mr. Sanchez also announce that the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial mass in honor of the 87 victims of the Happy Land Social Club fire will be on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6:00PM at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.
- Mr. Sanchez commended Board Member Michael Yu for his service to the Board which included providing aid after the 2363 Prospect Avenue fire and introducing financial literacy workshops for the community.

**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.

Chairperson Evonne Capers also asked Committee Chairs of those committees with an upcoming or event to make an announcement.

**Parks and Recreation Committee: Margarita Espinosa Committee Chair**

Ms. Espinosa also announced that the annual It's My Park Day at the Happy Land Monument will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM on East Tremont Avenue and Southern Boulevard. The Happy Land cleanup is in preparation of the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial mass in honor of the 87 victims of the Happy Land Social Club fire.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019**

**XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of February 13, 2019 was made by Mr. Gil Simmons and seconded by Ms. Virginia Bird and adopted by a vote of twenty-three in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention. (Please note that board members, Ms. Clarita Bailon and Ms. Lanell Gardenhire, left the meeting prior to this motion.)**
- 2. A motion to provide a letter of support to the Drew Gardens Community group in favor to continue operating a community garden at 1059 East Tremont Avenue was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and adopted by a vote of twenty-three in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention. (Please note that board members, Ms. Clarita Bailon and Ms. Lanell Gardenhire, left the meeting prior to this motion.)**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no other business to discuss, the March 13, 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 Mr. Michael Yu and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-three 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 MARCH 13, 2019**

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019	LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DREW GARDENS	ADJOURNMENT			
Stephanie Addo							
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Clarita Bailon	Present						
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
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	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Eduardo Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Maria Garcia							
Lanell Gardenhire	Present						
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	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
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	Leave of Absence						
Rosa Peraza	Present	Abstain	Abstain	Yes			
Paul Ramirez							
Hiram Ratliff							
Wendy Rodriguez							
Angel Rosario							
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Angel Santana							
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Michael Yu	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			