



**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, September 11, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Christopher Collazo, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Lanell Gardenhire, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Maria Latimer, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Jorge Ortiz, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Helga Robles, Wendy Rodriguez, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, Carrie Taft, Noorjahan Wells, and Jacquetta Whaley.

**Members Absent:**

Jannie Armstrong (Medical Leave of Absence), Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Eduardo Garcia, Maria Garcia, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Marilyn Oliver, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Angel Rosario, and Angel Santana.

**Elected Officials Present:**

Assemblyman Victor Pichardo  
Assemblywoman Karines Reyes

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres  
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.  
Rafael Pena, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda  
Chantel Jackson, NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake  
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo  
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman Jose Rivera  
Glendalys Salgado, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes  
Wilfredo Mercado, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark  
Mariel De la Cruz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The September 11, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Tremont Social Garden Adult Day Care Center, which is located at 563 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:40 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

## **II. INVOCATION**

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

## **III. COMMUNITY PERIOD**

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

### **Wilson Francis, representing Tremont Library**

Mr. Francis informed us that Tremont Library's wheelchair lift and elevator are now fixed. He also informed us that Tremont Library is working on providing General Education Development (GED) courses. Tremont Library now has job readiness services available to assist individuals with creating resumes on Mondays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Microsoft Office courses on Tuesdays from 10 AM to 12 PM, and their computer lab will be open to the public on Wednesdays from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

### **Krystee Alvarez, representing SBH Health System**

Ms. Alvarez introduced herself to the community as a Health Educator at St. Barnabas Hospital.

### **Michele Brody and Gail Nathan, representing Bronx River Art Center**

Ms. Nathan announced that the fall fine arts and media classes for kids and adults begin on October 4, 2019. Individuals who are interested can now register online at [bracbx.eventbrite.com](http://bracbx.eventbrite.com) or onsite at the Bronx River Art Center which is located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue. They will also be offering their Teen Project Studio 2.0 for free space to a limited number of participants who apply. Ms. Nathan also announced that *The Syncope* art gallery will be displayed starting on Saturday, September 14, 2019. *The Syncope* will demonstrate artwork that address issues about immigration through the artist's own personal immigration experience or from their families.

### **Carmen Rivera, representing VIP Community Services**

Ms. Rivera announced that their new office facility at 770 East 176<sup>th</sup> Street is almost completed and are expected to move in October. She also announced that VIP Community Services will be holding a candlelight vigil on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM in honor of those in recovery and remembering those who have been lost to addiction. The walk will be at 1870 Crotona Avenue and continue to Crotona Park.

### **Araminta Rivera, representing Mt. Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center**

Ms. Rivera announced that the Mt. Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center will be hosting their annual fall carnival on Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM for seniors over the age of 60 and older. Ms. Rivera also informed us about the services, resources and activities that are available at the Mt. Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center. Individuals who are interested in participating or becoming a member must be a resident of Bronx Community Board #6's district and must be 60 years of age and older.

### **Melissa Sklarz, representing SAGE**

Ms. Sklarz introduced herself to the community at the Senior Government Relations Specialist at SAGE and informed us that SAGE provides services and advocacy for the LGBT elders. Ms. Sklarz also informed us that SAGE's affordable housing development at 771-775 Crotona Park North for LGBT elders will be completed soon. The development will have 83 studio and one-bedroom apartments and a ground-floor SAGE Center for the community, which will provide health and cultural program, meal services, and a computer lab. The official application process has not yet begun, but individuals can find more information by visiting [sageusa.org/nychousing](http://sageusa.org/nychousing).

#### **Fausto Barros**

Mr. Barros is a resident of Bronx Community Board #6's district and he expressed traffic safety concerns on East 178<sup>th</sup> Street and East 179<sup>th</sup> Street. He requested stop signs or speed reducer and additional street lights. Mr. Barros also expressed his concerns about the West Farms Station post office and requested assistance with obtaining a new mailbox at the station. He also mentioned that there are unsanitary sidewalk conditions on Mapes Avenue.

#### **Chantal Chantal, representing River Garden**

Ms. Chantal informed us that she will be making a presentation at the Parks and Recreation Committee within the upcoming in regards to their concerns and anticipated upgrades and renovations plans to the garden. Ms. Chantal also expressed her interest in conducting community visioning session and survey to be to reestablish guidelines, bylaws and community engagement, which will determine the community's interest.

#### **Nancy Stombaugh, Child Development Center of MMCC**

Ms. Stombaugh introduced herself as the Education Director of Child Development Center of MMCC at their new development located at 887 Crotona Park North that is opening in October. She also announced that they will be expanding from 3 sites to 5 sites and they are searching for children of ages 3 to 4 years old to fill the available seats.

#### **Dmitry Miloslavsky, Tremont Social Garden Adult Day Care Center**

Mr. Miloslavky thanked Bronx Community Board #6 for allowing them to host their Community Board meeting. Mr. Miloslavky also informed us about the services and resources they offer at the Tremont Social Garden Adult Day Care such as, meals, transportation, reading materials, relaxation room, Home Health/Personal Care Aid and social Services. They also conduct dance and exercise classes, arts and crafts, group discussions and holiday parties.

#### **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 Borough President Diaz Jr. provided \$7.3 million in capital finding to public schools as part of his Fiscal Year 2020 capital budget.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that Borough President Diaz Jr. gave testimony before the New York City Council in regards to the borough based jail system.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Borough President Diaz Jr. will be hosting an "Opioid Crisis Public Education and Responder Training" event to inform residents on how to save lives affected

by this ongoing crisis. The event will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at the NYC Health + Hospital/Lincoln auditorium.

- Mr. Sanchez also informed us that Borough President Diaz Jr. released a new report outlining a plan to address public school overcrowding and reform the School Construction Authority (SCA).
- Mr. Sanchez also informed us that Borough President Diaz Jr. renewed his call for the New York City Council to pass legislation to create a public gun crime registry.
- Ms. Sanchez reported that Borough President Diaz Jr. will provide Bronx libraries with \$640K, \$600K for regional food hub, and \$6.1 million for renovations at the Orchard Beach Pavilion.

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

### **Assemblyman Victor Pichardo**

Assemblyman Pichardo informed us about the events that he hosted over the summer. He informed us that he partnered with Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence and Friends of Tremont Park to distribute book bags to children in the community. He hosted a Roadmap to Health event where constituents received basic medical examinations and screenings. He also hosted his 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bronx Can Senior Health Fair in partnership with Senator Gustavo Rivera at Monroe College and marched as part of the NYSA Dominican Delegation at La Gran Parada Dominicana. Assemblyman Pichardo invited the community to join him at his upcoming Housing Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at the Saint Simon Stock School, which is located at 2195 Valentine Avenue from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to discuss rent stabilization, rent control, vacancy bonuses and other house guidelines and information. He also invited the community to join him at his March for Peace to celebrate International Peace Day on Friday, September 20, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The march will start in front of 79 West 183<sup>rd</sup> Street and Aqueduct Avenue and will end at Slattery Park. He concluded with informing us about the housing services that are available for constituents in his office on Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. His office will also be providing immigration services to assist individuals with their the citizen application process on Friday, September 27, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Assemblyman Pichardo also encouraged community members to sign-up for electronic newsletter to stay informed about what he is doing through his district.

### **Assemblywoman Karines Reyes**

Assemblywoman Reyes informed the community about the Bronx Bus Network Redesign proposed project and its changes to the Bx. 36, Bx. 40, and Bx. 42 buses in our district. She encouraged community residents to stay informed. Assemblywoman Reyes also informed us about the events she hosted and the concerns she addressed this summer. She informed us that she hosted mobile office hours in the West Farms Library for the constituents in the West Farms area, assisted Drew Gardens, and distributed book bags and giveaways. She also conducted a walk-through of the Honeywell Avenue area in the district after the power outages in the area. Assemblywoman Reyes announced that after the close of legislation session in June she was able to allocate discretionary funds. She was able to allocate \$17,500 to the West Farm Public Library, \$15,000 to Public School 6 and \$20,000 to Bronx River Art Center. Assemblywoman Reyes concluded her report by inviting the community attend her upcoming Housing Resource Fair on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at the Lorraine Hansberry Academy (Public School 214) to receive one-one-one assistance and consultations with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

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

Ms. Enea announced that Council Member Torres allocated \$89,000 in funding for their healthy eating initiative program that allows constituents to utilize \$2 “healthy bucks” to purchase food at green markets. Community residents are encouraged to go to their district office to obtain a maximum of \$6 “healthy

bucks” while supplies last. Ms. Enea informed us about the fire that occurred in June at 725 Garden Street, where 19 year old, Lucas Delviro, died trying to save a 4 year old girl from the fire. Council Member Torres was touched by Mr. Delviro’s bravery and will be renaming the corner of Crotona Avenue and Garden Street in his honor. Ms. Enea reminded the community about the Participatory Budgeting and the ways community residents can get involved to determine funding allocation.

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

Mr. Melendez informed us about the recent Movies under the Stars that were held during the summer throughout the district and announced that *Aladin* will be displayed at Vidalia Park in West Farms. He also informed us that Council Member Salamanca Jr. partnered with Catholic Charities for their annual back to school event to distribute 5,000 backpacks and school supplies to children in the community. Mr. Melendez reported 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Longwood Festival, which featured Jerry Rivera, was very well attended. He also reminded us about the housing assistance, immigration and constituent services that are available at their office Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM by scheduling an appointment.

**Rafael Pena, Senator Gustavo Rivera**

Mr. Pena informed us that Senator Rivera conducted three back to school celebrations and his 6th Annual Senior Health Fair. Senator Rivera also passed a total of thirteen bills, which seven were signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Mr. Pena also informed the community about the new rent laws and welcomed community residents to contact their office to learn more. He also reported that Senator Rivera as the Chair of the Health Committee and Co-Chair of the New York State Joint Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention, hosted his public hearing on August 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Barnabas Hospital to hear from stakeholders on strategies for reducing overdoses, improving individual and community health, and addressing the harmful consequences of drug use. Mr. Pena announced that on Senator Rivera will be featured at the Bronx State Senate Delegation event on September 12, 2019 where members from the community will be able to ask questions to each senate regarding some of the legislation passed this session.

**Fiorella Bini, representing Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Ms. Bini informed us about the housing assistance, immigration services and constituent services that are available at their office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and on Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Ms. Bini announced that there will be a back to school community celebration on Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM and will be held at the St. Helena’s Church, which is located at 1315 Olmstead Avenue, Bronx, New York. Ms. Bini also announced that Senator Sepulveda will be conducting a “Know Your Rights” forum where constituents can learn about ICE protocols, family planning and temporary guardianship in event of deportation, and other immigrants’ rights and policies. The forum will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Hunts Point Library, which is located at 877 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York.

**Chantel Jackson, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake**

Ms. Jackson informed the community about the present legislations such as the “Green Light” bill that allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver’s license and the Jose Peralta Dream Act that helps undocumented students pursue their education. She also informed the community about the significant increase in funding for schools.

**Wilfredo Mercado, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark**

Mr. Mercado announced that their office and the Mayor’s Office will be having their annual Bronx 5K

Run, Walk and Roll to end domestic and gender-based violence on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The event is scheduled to begin at the end of East 161<sup>st</sup> Street between Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue. He also announced that the Bronx District Attorney Clark will be having their annual “Another Chance” event where individuals will be able to participate in the summons and warrant forgiveness program. The event will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Thessalonian Worship Center, which is located at 941 Rev. James Polite Avenue, Bronx, New York. He also informed us that Bronx District Attorney Clark will begin the “Tu Casa” program where students and parents will learn about issues relating to bullying, peer pressure, and substance abuse.

**Mariel De la Cruz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer**

Ms. De la Cruz invited the community to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Comptroller Stringer on Monday, September 16, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art on Storytelling, which is located at 898 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, New York. They will be honoring Congressman Adriano Espaillat, the President and CEO of New York Hispanic Cosmetology and Beauty Chamber of Commerce, Charito Cisneros and the President of Honduras against AIDS and ONECA, Mirtha Colon. She also invited the community to attend their African Immigrant Heritage celebration on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Curtis High School, located at 105 Hamilton Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10301. Ms. De la Cruz informed us that Comptroller Stringer proposed “NYC Under 3” plan to expand affordable child care access to New York City working families. “NYC Under 3” would be the single largest local investment in child care in the United States with sweeping initiatives to improve affordability, accessibility and quality.

**VI. DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT**

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

- Mr. Sanchez welcomed Bronx Community Board #6’s newly appointed board members.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6 co-sponsored several events over the summer like the Second Annual Open Gym Nights programming for the youth.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be having their Second Annual Scholarship Contest to support high school graduates in the community.
- Mr. Sanchez acknowledge and congratulate board member, Nelson Chimilio, for his performance on *Hercules* at the Delacorte Theater.

**VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

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

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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.

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

**Veterans Committee: Ms. Carrie Taft, Committee Co-Chairperson**

Ms. Taft announced that the Veteran's Committee will be collaborating with Gateway Community Development and the New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps on a free Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Training. The training will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church located at 771 Fairmount Place. She also announced that the Bronx Veterans Day Parade will be on Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Crotona Parkway and East 175th Street.

**Maria Latimer**

Ms. Latimer expressed how important it is for the Census Bureau to have a complete and accurate count during Census 2020. She also asked that Bronx Community Board #6 gets involved in ensuring that our community members are educated and informed about Census 2020.

**Rosa Peraza**

Ms. Peraza followed-up on her request about obtaining a copy of the Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget. She also inquired about Bronx Community Board #6's Community Board Meeting minutes of June 12, 2019, which did not reflect her request.

**IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 12, 2019 was made by Mrs. Virginia Bird and seconded by Mr. Frank Franz and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.
2. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's by-laws to create a standing Disciplinary Committee to initiate review of complaints lodged against community board members, members of the public and non-union employees of the community board was made by Mr. Gil Simmons and seconded by Ms. Maria Latimer and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.
3. A motion to hire the Part-Time Community Associate candidate recommended by the District Manager was made by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley and seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to discuss, the September 11, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-six in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon  
Community Associate

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

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2019	COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	P/T COMMUNITY ASSOCIATE	ADJOURNMENT
Jannie Armstrong	<b>Medical Leave of Absence</b>				
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole Carter					
Nelson Chimilio					
Christopher Collazo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Diana Diaz	Present	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eduardo Garcia					
Maria Garcia					
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julisa Hamilton	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laura James					
Frank Kolovic					
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sara Nunez-Mejia					
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rev. Marilyn Oliver					
Jorge Ortiz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Ramirez					
Helga Robles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rev. Hiram Ratliff					
Wendy Rodriguez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Angel Rosario					
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Angel Santana					
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lillie Steed	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noorjahan Wells	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes