



**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, October 9, 2019

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Christopher Collazo, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Lanell Gardenhire, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, Jorge Ortiz, Reggie Powell, Helga Robles, Angel Santana and Noorjahn Wells.

Members Absent:

Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Diana Diaz, Eduardo Garcia, Maria Garcia, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Floretta O'Brien, Marilyn Oliver, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, Carrie Taft and Jacquetta Whaley.

Elected Officials Present:

**NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark**

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

**Thomas Lucania, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Shayra Reyes, representing US Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Yaz Duarte, 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 October 9, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at VIP Community Services, which is located at 764 East 176th Street, 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. Noorjahan Wells.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Carmen Rivera, representing VIP Community Services

Ms. Rivera welcomed us to VIP Community Services and thanked the community board for allowing them to host this month's Board meeting. Ms. Rivera also announced that their offices will be moving to 770 East 176th Street next week.

Rene Peralta, representing Health First

Mr. Peralta informed us about Health First and the importance of health insurance enrollment. Their annual enrollment period will begin on October 15th and end on December 7th. He also informed us of the additional services that Health First offers to their members.

Carmen Rodriguez, representing Neighborhood Association for Intercultural Affairs

Ms. Rodriguez informed us about Neighborhood Association for Intercultural Affairs. The Neighborhood Association for Intercultural Affairs is a non-for-profit agency that provides housing management, legal assistance, and homeless prevention services. For more information, please contact Neighborhood Association for Intercultural Affairs at (718) 538-3344.

Marcia Henne, representing Regional Aid for Interim Needs (R.A.I.N.)

Ms. Henne informed the community about their Alzheimer's Caregiver Link Program. The Alzheimer's Caregiver Link Program provides caregiver wellness sessions that designated and led by trained professionals that focuses on the caregiver. They also provide informational seminars that focuses on Alzheimer's disease. Their offices are located at 3377 White Plains Road, Bronx, New York and they can be reached at (347) 346-9676 Ext. 316.

Bill Colona, representing Fordham University

Mr. Colona announce that Fordham University will be having a College Access Fair for African-American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx students and families. Mr. Colona informed the community that the event will be taking place at Fordham University Campus Rose Hill on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 11:00 AM to 1:45 PM. He also informed us that there will be a \$1,000 dollar scholarships for High School Seniors at the fair.

Lisa Buchanan, representing Trabajamos Community Head Start Inc.

Ms. Buchanan informed the community about Trabajamos Community Head Start's early head start and child care program. The program serves children 6 weeks to 4 years old. Ms. Buchanan informed us that their program goal is to ensure that children are receiving education they deserve and that members of the community are aware of resources available to them. Individuals are encouraged to enroll at one of their three locations at that are located at 940 East 156th Street, 1997 Bathgate Avenue and 2167 University Avenue.

Michael Beltzer, representing Rank the Vote NYC

Mr. Beltzer announced to the community that this November, New Yorkers will be able to decide whether or not to adopt the top five candidate Ranked Choice Voting system for all city offices in primary and special elections to be implemented by 2021. Mr. Beltzer explained to the community that instead of voting for just one candidate, voters can choose to rank their top five candidates in the local primary and special elections. If voters still want to vote for just one candidate, they can. Mr. Beltzer informed to the community the benefits of having Ranked Choice voting and how it can save New York City money by avoiding costly run-offs and help New Yorkers make sense of crowded candidate fields in primary and special elections.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was presented by his Director of Community Boards and Legislative Affairs, Mr. Thomas Lucania. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Mr. Lucania informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. joined the Riders Alliance to speak to commuters on the Bx. 19 bus line about the upcoming MTA's Bronx Bus Network Redesign plan.
- Mr. Lucania also informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. and Westchester County Executive George Latimer hosted the inaugural meeting of the Penn Station Access Bronx and Westchester Community Council at Mercy College in Morris Park - which is the planned site of a future new Metro-North Railroad Station.
- Mr. Lucania announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. attended the ribbon cutting for the renovated St. Mary's Playground West. The renovated playground now includes new play equipment and swings for children; renovated spray showers and pavements with colorful play patterns; sports lighting and restored basketball courts; and new adult fitness equipment.
- Mr. Lucania also informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. honored two Bronx heroes for their efforts to save a five-year-old girl who was tragically dragged in front of the subway by her suicidal father.
- Mr. Lucania also informed us that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. participated in the Annual "Brides March" against domestic violence.
- Mr. Lucania announced the registration for the Tour de Bronx is now open. Tour de Bronx is a registered trademark of The Bronx Tourism Council. The event is produced by the Bronx Tourism Council and the Office of the Bronx Borough President to promote bicycling as an eco-friendly and healthier form of transportation. For additional information, visit www.ilovethebronx.com

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Luis Sepulveda informed us about the housing assistance, immigration services and constituent services that are available at his district office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and on Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Senator Sepulveda announced the upcoming 2019 College Fair that will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM at SUNY Bronx EOC which is located at 1666 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457. He also announced the Hispanic Heritage Festival that will take place on October 11, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Boricua College which is located 890 Washington Avenue, Colloquium Room 405, Bronx, New York 10451. Senator Sepulveda also informed us that he has been working to allocate funding from the capital budget towards the installation of new elevators at train stations. Senator Sepulveda also announced the Annual Spelling Bee in March for

third, fourth and fifth graders within the thirty-two 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. He also informed us that this summer he was able to distribute over a thousand school supplies and book bags through his district. He also conducted the Summer Reading Challenge celebration for children who read at least 15 minutes a day for approximately 40 days during the summer break.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

District Attorney Clark informed us of her previous career experiences, her passion about serving Bronx residents and about the changes she has implemented in her office to better serve the community. District Attorney Clark also informed us that the appointed Assistant District Attorneys will assist with ensuring that the mission of pursuing justice with integrity of her office is fulfilled. She announced that she will be having her 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. District Attorney Clark informed us about the New York Marijuana Decriminalization Bill that was signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo which means that the possession of small amounts of marijuana will no longer appear in someone’s criminal record, and past offenders could have any record of that crime erased.

Wilfredo Mercado, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Mercado announced that District Attorney Clark will be sponsoring informative workshops in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at their satellite office which is located at 4101 White Plains Road, Bronx, New York 10466. He also announced that their office is leading initiatives including free anti-bullying workshops, and Saturday night basketball programming at the Webster PAL located at 2255 Webster Avenue (East 183rd Street) from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez announced that the first round of Participatory Budgeting planning and discussion will take place on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Eagle Academy for Young Men which is located at 4143 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457. Participatory Budgeting is when community members directly decide how to spend at least \$1 Million of the public budget in participating council district. Mr. Sanchez informed us that their office provides immigration services, family law services, and domestic violence services on Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at their district office which is located on 573 East Fordham Road. He also informed us about the triggering of a Cold Blue warning when temperatures reach 32 degrees or lower and requires individuals to take the cold weather tips and shelter access to anyone in need of assistance. He informed us that the reports made to their office for no heat or hot water are under investigation for solution.

Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Melendez announced that this would be his last time representing Council Member Salamanca Jr. in a board meeting. He informed us about the Heat and Hot Water regulations that requires building owners to provide heat and hot water to their tenants. Hot water must be provided 365 days per year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat must be provided between October 1st and May 31st. Heat should be provided between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. It should also be provided during the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM, the inside temperature is required to be at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit. Mr. Melendez encourage individuals to call 311 if they are not receiving the adequate

heat. He also reminded us about the housing assistance, immigration services and constituent services that are available in their office Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Shayra Reyes, representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano

Ms. Reyes informed us about what is presently occurring in Washington DC pertaining to the impeachment inquiry and how Congressman Serrano is in full support. She also informed us about how important it is for the Census Bureau to have a complete and accurate count during Census 2020. She also encourage community members to get involved in ensuring that they are educated and informed about Census 2020. Ms. Reyes reminded us that, although there is a list of requirements when applying for a job, individuals are recommended to ignore the U.S. Citizen eligibility. Because as long as they have the required working documents, they can apply to the jobs. She also informed us that their district office offers constituents services.

Yaz Duarte, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake

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. Ms. Duarte announced that in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month their office will be hosting a festival on Friday, October 11, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Boricua College. She also announced that their office is hosting a free youth soccer clinic for youth between the ages of 8-12 where soccer training will be provided on October 20, 2019 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Claremont Neighborhood Center which is located at 489 East 169th Street, Bronx, New York.

Nicholas Peters, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters informed us that Assembly Member Pichardo held a housing town hall meeting on September 12th where they answered questions from the community regarding the new regulations passed in the Assembly during their last session and about the march for peace Assembly Member Pichardo held to celebrate International Peace Day. Mr. Peters announced that in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Assembly Member will be bringing a mobile mammography unit that will be offering comprehensive breast education and on-site mammography examinations on Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in front of Creston Avenue Baptist Church located at 114 East 188th Street, Bronx, New York. He also announced that Assembly Member Pichardo will be hosting a job fair on Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church located at 2345 University Avenue, Bronx, New York. Individuals are encouraged to dress for success and to provide an updated resume for the opportunity to meet potential employers. Mr. Peters also reminded us about the housing assistance that are offered every Thursday between 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at their district office and about the free immigration services that assist individuals with the citizenship application on Friday, October 25, 2019 between 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

Glendalys Salgado, representing Assemblywoman Karines Reyes

Ms. Salgado announced to the community that on September 11, 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed one of Assembly Member Reyes' bills that she sponsored pertaining to presumptive evidence of disability caused by cancer of firefighters who have been retired for five years or less. Ms. Salgado informed us that Assembly Member Reyes held a Hispanic Heritage Celebration honoring Congressman Jose E. Serrano on Saturday, October 5, 2019. She also announced that she will be having a Housing Resource Fair on October 16, 2019 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the Mechler Hall Senior Center located at 2158 Watson Avenue.

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

Ms. De la Cruz announced that Comptroller Stringer is hosting a Diwali celebration where the he will honor Abha Bhatnagar Roy founding Director at Srijan Dance Center, Simran Jeet Singh the Senior Fellow for the Sikh Coalition and a host of new podcast, ‘Spirited’ and Tamang Samaj America on Monday, October 28, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Agra Palace Restaurant and Party Hall located at 116-33 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, New York.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation presented on the proposed renovation plans of Quarry Ballfields which is located at East 181st Street and Oak Tree Place between Quarry Road and Hughes Avenue. They informed us that the goals of this renovation project is to renovate the football/soccer field with synthetic turf to enhance field usage, to develop a portion of the park for passive recreation to facilitate community gathering and to incorporate new trees that will provide additional shade. They also informed us that the installment of decorative bins, bottle fillers and a football and field equipment storage is part of the site furnishings. The total budget for this project is \$7.3 million as part of Fiscal Year 2019’s Capital Budget.

Presentation by the Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center

The Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center presented on the proposed relocation of their Addicts Benefiting from a Loving Environment (ABLE) House facility at 2061-2065 Crotona Avenue. They informed us that they are relocation because they are unable to expand capacity at their current location from a 20-bed facility to a 30 bed facility to be able to service additional individuals. Also because the majority of their residents and patients at their current location are Bronx residents and twenty of those individuals are from Bronx Community Board #6. They also informed us that their ABLE House provides access to employment, educational, and vocational services; housing assistance; therapeutic and medical support; and independent living skills to their residents.

Presentation by New York City Department of Transportation

The New York City Department of Transportation presented on their proposed school safety improvement project for Public School 159/51 as part of their Safe Routes to Schools Program (SRTS). The priority areas for this project are East 183rd Street and Washington Avenue, East 185th Street between Third Avenue and Bathgate Avenue, and East 187th Street and Third Avenue because of several reported pedestrian injuries that have occurred since 2013. The New York City Department of Transportation is proposing shorter crossing distances, controlled vehicle turning, and improvements of pedestrian visibility and space with the construction of concrete curb extensions in these areas. In addition, they will also be installing a wayfinding sign at the curb extensions at East 187th Street and Washington Avenue. The project is estimated to be completed in the summer of 2021.

Presentation by New York City Department of Transportation

The New York City Department of Transportation presented on the proposed traffic safety improvements of the conversion of East 183rd Street to one-way eastbound between Washington Avenue and Third Avenue as a result of the feasibility study request from the 48th Precinct Highway Safety Officer. They informed us that East 183rd Street is 30 feet wide with parking on both sides making it unpassable at times due to vehicles queuing at traffic signals, leading to blocked crosswalks and traffic congestion. This traffic safety improvement would keep the parking regulations the same, maintain inbound emergency vehicle access to St. Barnabas Hospital, and would possibly require reversing East 184th Street to one way westbound between Bathgate Avenue and Park Avenue to create a one-way pair and improve local traffic circulation.

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of (18) members.

VIII. 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.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of September 11, 2019 was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
2. A motion to grant a letter of support to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation for the proposed renovations of Quarry Ballfields was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
3. A motion to issue a letter of support to the Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center on their proposed relocation of their ABLE House facility at 2061-2065 Crotona Avenue was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
4. A motion to issue a letter of support to the New York City Department of Transportation for their proposed Safe Routes to Schools Public School 159/51 safety improvements project was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
5. A motion to issue a letter of support to the New York City Department of Transportation to convert East 183rd Street to a one-way eastbound direction street between Washington Avenue and Third Avenue was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the October 9, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Associate

*Honorable Ritchie Torres,
City Council Member, 15th Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca Jr.,
City Council Member, 17th Council District*

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

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2019	LOS TO PARKS QUARRY BALLFIELDS	LOS FOR ABLE HOUSE 2061-65 CROTONA AVENUE	LOS TO DOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS	LOS TO DOT ONE WAY CONVERSION OF EAST 183RD STREET	ADJOURMENT
Jannie Armstrong		Medical Leave of Absence					
Clarita Bailon	Present						
Virginia Bird							
Evonne Capers	Present						
Nicole Carter	Present						
Nelson Chimilio	Present						
Christopher Collazo	Present						
Diana Diaz							
Margarita Espinosa	Present						
Frank Franz	Present						
Eduardo Garcia							
Maria Garcia							
Lanell Gardenhire	Present						
Julisa Hamilton	Present						
Audrey Harden	Present						
Laura James	Present						
Frank Kolovic							
Maria Latimer							
Matthew Martinez	Present						
Michael Nelson	Present						
Floretta O'Brien							
Rev. Marilyn Oliver							
Jorge Ortiz	Present						
Rosa Peraza							
Reggie Powell	Present						
Paul Ramirez							
Helga Robles	Present						
Rev. Hiram Ratliff							
Wendy Rodriguez							
Angel Rosario							
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez							
Lisa Sanchez							
Angel Santana	Present						
Gil Simmons							
Lillie Steed							
Carrie Taft							
Noorjahn Wells	Present						
Jacquetta Whaley							