



**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, April 1, 2020

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, Nicole Carter, Evonne Capers, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Julisa Hamilton, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Marilyn Oliver, Jorge Ortiz, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Lillie Steed, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Carrie Taft, Jacquetta Whaley and Noorjahan Wells.

Members Absent:

Virginia Bird, Nelson Chimilio, Christopher Collazo, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Michael Nelson, Paul Ramirez (Leave of Absence), Hiram Ratliff, Helga Robles, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, and Gil Simmons.

Elected Officials Present:

New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake
New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Nicholas Peters, representing New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The April 1, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio Conference meeting ID 618 753 280 and was called to order at approximately 6:38 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Jacquetta Whaley.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Dr. Vanessa Salcedo, representing Union Community Health Center

Dr. Vanessa Salcedo, Director of Wellness and Health Promotion at Union Community Health Center, informed us that there are a total of six Union Community Health Center locations in the Bronx and most of them are in the district of Bronx Community Board #6. She also informed us that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have made numerous changes to their services. They have encouraged their patients to make telephone visits with their medical providers by calling their center at (718) 220-2020 to make an appointment. They are also offering "RAPID Care" for patients with urgent care at their location located on 260 East 188th Street, Bronx, New York 10458. They have also expanded their mental health services and all of their nonessential services are cancelled until further notice. Dr. Salcedo also informed us that their website and social media platforms are being updated regularly to ensure that all of their patients are adequately informed.

Erica Maldonado, representing Legal Hand Tremont

Ms. Maldonado introduced herself as the director of Legal Hand Tremont. She informed us that Legal Hand Tremont is available. Legal Hand Tremont and Legal Hand Highbridge will be providing virtual services until further notice. They can be contacted at (917) 515-3612, (929) 333-5418, or (917) 536-6923 between the hours of Monday through Friday from 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Legal Hand offers free services and assistance for small business, homeowners, immigration, students, and consumers. Legal Hand doesn't provide legal representation, but there is a staff attorney who provides legal advice. For updated information, community members can follow the organization on Instagram at legalhandbx or legalhand_hybridge.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was presented by his Community Board Liaison, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

Ms. Ruiz asked us to check Borough President Diaz Jr.'s website at bronxboropres.nyc.gov for regularly updated information. Individuals can also contact Ms. Ruiz by email by emailing her at aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Assemblyman Michael Blake

Assemblyman Blake informed us that the New York State Assembly is in preparation for the voting of the New York State budget. The New York State Assembly is projecting a \$10 billion decrease in the New York State budget. His office is collaborating with local elected official representatives to launch an immediate relief effort on www.thebronx.org, where residents can find eight different ways elected officials are helping their communities. This collaboration has been providing an estimate of 14,000 meals a day throughout the Bronx with the help of Wells Center Kitchen. Assemblyman Michael Blake also informed the community that there are different sites where residents can receive food and this information can be found at wck.org/news/thebronx. They are also reaching out to

restaurants to become available online, so the restaurants can provide meals as well. He also announced that the Third Avenue Business Improvement District with Michael Brady and Spring Bank have created an effort to start raising a COVID Relief Fund, so that the grants can go to small businesses in the Bronx. He also informed the community that it would take three to four weeks before the checks from the federal bill are dispersed and for small businesses, the checks go to the bank but not all banks are working with that lending institution. If the small businesses are granted a \$10 million loan from the bank and they are able to demonstrate that they are able to maintain the employees on payroll for the next eight weeks, then their loans will be forgiven. Nonprofit organizations are also eligible to apply for the Third Avenue BID grant and the federal loan. He also announced that there will be a ninety day moratorium on eviction. Elected officials are attempting to get grants to help with housing but in the meantime, residents cannot get evicted. He informed the community that if you are an essential worker, then you can take your child to a Regional Enrichment Center from 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM and you can get grab and go lunches from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The elected officials are currently working on repair centers and electronic distribution to aid in distance learning. Dreamyard is a nonprofit organization that is leading this effort. There will be a coalition of technological education entities to provide the connectivity for Bronx residents. He informed the community that an effort was announced on microgrants through Neighborhood Community Trust to support about 1,000 Bronx families, which is coming from the Collective Education Fund and the Humanity Board. He also updated the community that the elected officials are pushing back on the Bail Reform but trials and arraignments are being delayed. The elected officials are working with the Bronx Defenders to provide the necessary information. They are also working with healthcare institutions to get personal protective equipment to the healthcare workers. Assemblyman Michael Blake also commended the Bronx Educational Opportunities Center for sending supplies to Jacobi Hospital. The elected officials are preparing to provide more supplies for healthcare workers, fire fighters, police officers and transit workers within the next 48 hours. He also announced that if anyone wants COVID updates then they should text COVID to 692692. For more information regarding meals, community members can follow Michael Blake on Twitter at MrMikeBlake or follow Wells Center Kitchen at WCKitchen. The office can be reached at (718) 538 - 3829 or send an email to blakem@nyassembly.ny.gov. Board Member, Jorge Ortiz, and expressed concern regarding the budget process. Assemblyman Michael Blake stated that the state elected officials are in Albany and they will begin the process of voting on bills and the budget of \$178 billion. The process is more complicated as all the state elected officials are also practicing social distancing. He also informed the community that the concern of paychecks will be resolved within 24 hours. Board member, Jacquetta Whaley, inquired about the Bronx Regional High School in District 12, where the students haven't received any technology or platform for distance learning. Assemblyman Blake recommended that community members without a platform for distance learning should connect with the district manager for a link, where they would be able to get a device. However, there has been a delay due to the supply and demand and educators contracting the virus. The city is working with FedEx, Microsoft and other organizations to deliver the technology directly to individuals' homes necessary for distance learning. Assemblyman Michael Blake also informed the community that there are food distributors working to deliver food to senior centers. They are also working with two restaurants at 884 Gerard Avenue and 135 Alexander Avenue to provide food. Community members can go to pick up food between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM. The food varies depending on the menu, whether it's cold, reheatable or heated. All of this information will be available on wck.org/news/thebronx.

Assemblyman Victor Pichardo representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Assemblyman Victor Pichardo informed the community that the government is trying to work as best as they can with the resources they have during this difficult time. He announced that Assemblyman Michael Blake helped bring Wells Center Kitchen sites into his district as well. Once the budget is

finalized, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo is willing to do a brief presentation on what will be happening in the district. He also sent a letter last week regarding the Medicaid Redesign Cuts, which would have a significant impact on St. Barnabas Hospital. The senate is working to ensure that everything is running smoothly at St. Barnabas Hospital and the workers continue to receive support services and equipment. Assemblyman Victor Pichardo's office is available remotely and can be reached via telephone at (718) 933-6909 from Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM or via email at petersng@nyassembly.gov. For more updates, you can follow him on social media, Facebook, Instagram and twitter at [vpichardo86](#). Assemblyman Victor Pichardo also informed the community that his office has been monitoring local shelters and he has been working with the Department of Education to provide the necessary technical support for children in shelters in order to participate in distance learning. As they are working through the budgeting process, elected officials are looking for a revenue stream to provide the technology needed. Assemblyman Victor Pichardo also informed the community that the state has been working with the federal government in building makeshift hospitals and increasing the capacity of existing hospitals to deal with patients who are potentially infected with COVID or are infected with COVID. Board member, Lisa Sanchez, asked how someone can get tested without going through the drive through. Assemblyman Victor Pichardo recommended that if you are asymptomatic and have been exposed to the virus, then you should stay home. However, if you are feeling sick and you have a primary care physician, then you should consult with your primary care physician before getting tested. If you don't have a primary care physician, then there is a hotline that you can call to request a test, which is through the New York State Department of Health, (888) 364 - 3065 and for emotional support, you can call (844) 863 - 9314.

Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr. representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr. informed the community that his staff members are working from home. However, the office can still be reached via telephone at (718) 402-6130 or via email at salamanca@council.nyc.gov. He announced that the city will be closing all playgrounds because there have been issues with social distancing. Council Member Rafael Salamanca also informed the community that he has the third largest NYCHA portfolio and he has been meeting with the NYCHA TA presidents to send a letter to the mayor and the chair of NYCHA because the city has been removing tower lights from the developments, which are crucial to the safety in the NYCHA neighborhoods. These tower lights are being removed because the contract has expired, so a letter has been sent to request the return of the tower lights and to extend the contract indefinitely. He also informed the community that NYCHA developments are in need of improvement as elevators stop working. Council Member Salamanca also requested hand sanitizer stations in common areas in the NYCHA buildings. Council Member Salamanca also announced that all land use applications are being postponed. He has been working with the food market, produce market and meat market owners to ensure that the food supply continues by making sure that the workers have the proper protective gears. Board member, Diana Diaz, expressed concern regarding people who are living in shelters. Council Member Rafael Salamanca responded that elected officials have been having trouble with shelters because of the lack of social distancing in the shelters. He also recommended that community members should inform the district manager of shelters that aren't practicing social distancing and the district manager can work with Council Member Rafael Salamanca and the DHS Commissioner, Steve Banks, in handling the situation. Board member, Clarita Bailon, asked what senior citizens or disabled persons can do once they run out of food. Councilman Rafael Salamanca stated that all of the senior centers have been closed but they can come in to grab meals and go. However, they have started to deliver meals directly to senior citizens' homes. Senior centers can provide the information on how seniors can receive meals delivered to their homes. You can also call 311 to be connected to the appropriate number or you can call Councilman Salamanca's office for more information.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- **Mr. Sanchez announced that in memory of Board Member, Mrs. Jannie Armstrong, Bronx Community Board #6 will be partnering with East Bronx Democrats to fundraise funds that will be used to purchase gift cards for groceries. The gift cards will be distributed to families in the Bronx who are in need of food assistance. As of today, \$3,000 has been raised towards this goal.**

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming a quorum with the presence of twenty-one (21) members.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of February 12, 2020 with corrections to the Committee Reports section of the minutes was made by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley, seconded Ms. Noorjahan Wells, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, two opposed, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of March 11, 2020 was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by vote of nineteen in favor, two opposed, and zero abstentions.**
- 3. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding the Board Chairperson's duties regarding personnel salaries was not voted on.**

Article V, Section 6 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would have read as follows:

"...The chairperson is also designated by the Community Board to make personnel decisions regarding Community Board employee salary increases."

- 4. A motion to issue a letter of support to VIP Community Services to continue its housing and health services at Abraham Plaza located at 1870 Crotona Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457 was made by Ms. Floretta O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Jorge Ortiz, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, was not present during this motion.)***
- 5. A motion to issue a letter of support in favor of SBH Health Systems' request for Medicaid cuts not to be enacted by the New York State Legislature was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Ms. Diana Diaz, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, was not present during this motion.)***
- 6. A motion to issue a letter of support to Empire City Casino for a full-scale gaming license was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded Ms. Nicole Carter, and was not adopted by a vote of eight**

in favor, nine opposed, and three abstentions. (Please note that Board Member, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, was not present during this motion.)

- 7. A motion to issue a letter of support of the street co-naming of Bronx Park South and Mohegan Avenue to Pastor Marie C. Norwood was made by Mr. Matthew Martinez, seconded by Mr. Jorge Ortiz, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, two opposed, and one abstention. (Please note that Board Member, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, was not present during this motion.)**
- 8. A motion to issue a letter of support to KIPP: NYC Public Schools for the potential development of a middle school at M.S. 45 located at 2502 Lorillard Place was made by Mr. Matthew Martinez, Ms. Lillie Steed, and adopted by a vote of fifteen in favor, four opposed, and one abstention. (Please note that Board Member, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, was not present during this motion.)**

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the April 1, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:32 PM pursuant to a motion made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, second by Ms. Noorjahan Wells and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-one in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

**Sanzida Talukder
Community Associate**

**Carla Leon
Community Associate**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2020

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020	MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2020	BY-LAWS AMENDMENT	LOS TO VIP COMMUNNITY SERVICES	LOS TO SBH HEALTH SYSTEMS	LOS EMPIRE CASINO	LOS BRONX PARK SOUTH RENAMING	LOS KIPP NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS	ADJOURMEN T
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Virginia Bird										
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nelson Chimilio										
Christopher Collazo										
Diana Diaz	Present	No	No		Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia										
Lanell Gardenhire										
Julisa Hamilton	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audrey Harden										
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Nelson										
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rev. Marilyn Oliver	Present	Yes	Yes							
Jorge Ortiz	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	No	No		Yes	Yes	No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Ramirez	Leave of Absense									
Helga Robles										
Rev. Hiram Ratliff										
Wendy Rodriguez										
Angel Rosario										
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez										
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Gil Simmons										
Lillie Steed	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noorjahn Wells	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes