



**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, January 8, 2020

Members Present:

Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Julisa Hamilton, Laura James, Matthew Martinez, Jorge Ortiz, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Lillie Steed, Carrie Taft, Noorjahan Wells and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Christopher Collazo, Diana Diaz, Audrey Harden, Maria Latimer, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, Helga Robles, Revered Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, and Gil Simmons.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres
Rafael Peña, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Nipa Royees, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Aaliyah Mais, representing New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Charisse Suarez, representing New York State Assemblyman Jose Rivera
Wilfredo Mercado and Joseph Muroff, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Brian Polanco, representing New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The January 8, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Volunteers of America Bronx Early Learning Center located at 1887 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457 and was called to order at approximately by 6:38 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Jannie Armstrong.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Michele Brody, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Brody informed us that the Bronx River Art Center's Winter Fine Arts and Media Classes have begun, however, they are still accepting registration for their weekday classes. She also announced that on Sunday, January 12, 2020 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the Bronx River Art Center will be presenting *Celebrating 25 years of Project 59 1995-2020: A Retrospective of Ukrania-American Artist Irina Danilova*. The show will present installations, performances, video, events, and interventions of this mid-career international, but decidedly American immigrant artist. They are also going to be a performance by Edsel Gomez's Triumvirate on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Claudia Navas, representing Citizens Committee for New York City

Ms. Navas informed us that the Citizens Committee for New York City's Neighborhood Grants program awards grants up to \$3,000 for community and school improvement projects carried out by resident-led groups to address issues they identify as important to them. The application deadline is January 20, 2020.

Shannell Arroyo, representing Union Community Health Center

Ms. Arroyo informed us that the New York State Health Foundation awarded Union Community Health Center a grant to develop a replicable model to improve coordinated care between community health center and the VA. Union Community Health Center will recruit a Veterans' Liaison employee to oversee implementation of new and enhanced processes to improve services. Ms. Arroyo will be sharing the job description with Bronx Community Board #6 once it becomes available.

Kristine Rivera, representing Excellence Community Schools

Ms. Rivera informed us the Excellence Community Schools opened Bronx Excellence 5 located at 1946 Bathgate Avenue in September. She informed us that they are now accepting enrollment applications for kindergarten through second grade students - each year they will be adding a new academic grade until they are serving kindergarten through fifth grade students. She also announced that Excellence Community Schools will be having an open house on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 1:00 PM at the Bronx Excellence 5.

Amjad Mujaahid, representing Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center

Mr. Mujaahid informed us about the calendar of events for the month of January for the Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center. He also shared information about how individuals, who are eligible, can obtain the Fair Fares NYC MetroCard. Mr. Mujaahid also informed us about the

Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center's Veterans Support Service Network. The Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center's Veterans Support Service Network is composed of veterans, community partners and friends and family members of veterans to share resource information and benefits that are available to Veterans. He also informed us that South Bronx Emergency Network will be hosting an emergency preparedness workshop on January 21, 2020 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center.

Araminta Rivera, representing R.A.I.N. Mt. Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center

Ms. Rivera 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. She also informed us that R.A.I.N. is now offering home health care where they provide patients quality services while helping them remain in the comfort of their homes.

Krystallyn Leonard

Ms. Leonard informed the community about Encounter NYC, a young adult organization that encounters Christ through adoration, arts, and fellowship. The group meets every third Friday of each month at 1735 Unionport Road, Bronx, New York. They also have gatherings available for kids and teens every Thursday from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM.

Moses McBrodie, representing Phipps Neighborhoods

Mr. McBrodie informed us about the Phipps Neighborhoods NDA Opportunity Youth: Supported Work Experience Program. The Phipps Neighborhoods NDA Opportunity Youth: Supported Work Experience Program has four components, all of which work together to support the participants in meeting their individual career and education goals. It has a 14-week internship, weekly opportunity youth (OY) group sessions, case management services, and job placement/education enrollment/vocational training enrollment for individuals between the ages of 16 and 24.

William Busk

Mr. Busk raised concerns in regards to the actions that are being taken to address the homelessness in our district during the Code Blue Weather Emergency Alerts. He also requested the projected completion date of the West Farms Park construction and information about the status of the Bronx River Greenway project. Mr. Busk reported that the fence that was installed at 425 Devoe Avenue presents safety concerns because the fence doesn't have the proper covering to prevent erosion or possible hazards at the site.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Parks and Recreation Chairperson, invited Mr. Busk to attend the upcoming Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to further discuss his concerns and requests.

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 announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. will be having his annual celebration of the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the Trinity Baptist Church located at 808 East 224th Street at 10:00 AM.
- Ms. Ruiz also announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. and New York Attorney General Leticia James will be hosting a Nonprofit Organization Tax-Exemption workshop January 24, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Ms. Ruiz also announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. will be hosting a city planning training for Community Board Members on January 27, 2020.
- Ms. Ruiz encouraged members of the community who would like to get involved with the neighborhood to apply for Community Board Membership. The Community Board Membership application is to be submitted by February 7, 2020.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Israel Sanchez, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez informed us about the recent bills that have been introduced by Council Member Torres and other members of the New York City Council. Council Member Torres introduced a bill that would require certain New York City businesses to disclose gratuity policies for delivery workers. Council Member Torres also introduced a bill that disqualifies an individual from holding an elected city office for certain felony convictions. In addition, he also introduced a bill that prohibits food stores and retail establishments from refusing to accept payment in cash. This bill will be voted on later on this month. The City Council introduced a bill that will require developers of large housing projects receiving financial assistance from the City to allocate 15 percent of the units for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and a bill that would require City agencies to offer translation services during public meetings and presentations. He also reminded us that their office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for constituent services, which includes housing services, health, immigration and family law. Their district office can be reached by telephone at (718) 842-8100.

Rafael Peña, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Peña addressed the Community Board Members on their request for further information about the legislations that are being introduced by the New York State Senate and the malicious practices in the Mitchell-Lama Housing apartments as it pertains to the lottery and appointing of apartments. He informed the Community Board Members that the information will be provided at a later time.

Mr. Peña also informed us that Senator Rivera will be having his first New York State Senate Health Committee meeting for this legislative session on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. His primary focus this legislative session will be to improve healthcare, preventive measures for lead poisoning, and measures to combat the opioid crisis. These proceedings can be followed on www.nysenate.gov/senators/gustavo-rivera. He reminded us that their office offers tenant assistance. If additional information is needed and to schedule an appointment, their district office can be contacted at (718) 933-2034.

Nicholas Peters, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters addressed the Community Board Members on their request for further information about the legislations that are being introduced by the New York State Assembly. He informed the Community Board Members that the information will be provided at a later time. In the meantime, he recommends that individuals follow up and watch public hearings on www.nyassembly.gov/leg/.

Mr. Peters also reminded us that their office offers immigration services once a month. The next day that they will be offering immigration services will be on February 28, 2020. They also offer tenant services every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and constituent services every Wednesday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He encouraged members of the community to contact their office at (718) 933-6909 with any questions or concerns and to schedule an appointment.

Charisse Suarez, representing Assemblyman Jose Rivera

Ms. Suarez requested further information from Community Board Members in order to address their request for information and actions that are being taken about the malicious practices in the Mitchell-Lama Housing apartments as it pertains to the lottery and appointing of apartments. Ms. Suarez also informed us about the upcoming New York State Court Officer-Trainee examination filling period. Individuals who are interested in taking this examination can visit <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/careers/COT-2020>. She also encouraged the community to review the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit's Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign and to submit an electronic comment at new.mta.info/bronxbusredesign. Ms. Suarez also reminded us that their office offers constituent services free notary services Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Joseph Muroff, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Muroff informed us that Bronx District Attorney Clark will be conducting a town hall meeting on the new criminal justice reform to inform community residents how she is focusing on public safety while fulfilling the criminal justice reform. The town hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Bronx County Courthouse Rotunda from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Mr. Muroff also addressed questions from Community Board Members pertaining to the new criminal justice reform.

Brian Polanco, representing New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Mr. Polanco informed us that Public Advocate Williams formed a Borough Advocacy Unit within his office, which is tasked with ensuring that the office has an advocacy presence in each of New York City's five boroughs, and the needs of each borough are presented within his office. Mr. Polanco announced that Public Advocate Williams will be having his first-ever *State of the People* address on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the Brooklyn College Ingersoll Hall at 2:00 PM.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- **Mr. Sanchez thanked the Board Members who participated and contributed in the 4th Annual Holiday Party and Toy Giveaway.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6 is sponsoring free fitness classes for adults. The classes will be held on Saturdays from January 18, 2020 to February 22, 2020 at Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM.**
- **Mr. Sanchez also announced that the youth volleyball programming is back in session from Saturday, January 18, 2020 through Saturday, April 4, 2020 at Aquinas High School from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM.**
- **Mr. Sanchez encouraged members of the community who would like to get involved with the neighborhood to apply for Community Board Membership. The Community Board Membership application is to be submitted by February 7, 2020.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that the next sessions of the Bronx Civics and Organizing Workshops will be conducted at the Release the Grip Center on Saturday, February 1, 2020 and Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The discussion topics for these sessions include, learning about what your elected officials do, voting, the census, and organizing.**

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

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

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Jeremiah Cadeño from the Mayor's Office presented on the New York City Census 2020. The New York City Census 2020 is a first-of-its-kind organizing initiative established by Mayor de Blasio to ensure a complete and accurate count of all New York City residents in the 2020 Census. The New York City's self-response rate was less than 62% compared to the national average response rate of 76%. Bronx Community District 6 had a response rate of 61%. He informed us that an undercount put our fair share of more than \$650 billion in federal funds each year and our political representation at stake. Mr. Cadeño also informed us about ways individuals can get involved to be a part of the New York City Census 2020. He also informed us that this is the first year the 2020 Census will have three ways to respond. Individuals can respond online, by phone or by mail starting April 1, 2020.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Capers announced that the committee meetings for the month of December were cancelled. As a result, there were no committee reports.

Chairperson Capers also 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.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of December 11, 2019 was made by Mr. Matthew Martinez, seconded by Ms. Noorjahan Wells and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, one opposition and zero abstention.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the January 8, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:33 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mrs. Virginia Bird, seconded by Ms. Noorjahan Wells and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-one in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Associate**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2020

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2019	ADJOURMENT				
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes				
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes				
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes				
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes				
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes				
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes				
Christopher Collazo							
Diana Diaz							
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes				
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes				
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes				
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes				
Julisa Hamilton	Present	Yes	Yes				
Audrey Harden							
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes				
Maria Latimer							
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Michael Nelson							
Floretta O'Brien							
Rev. Marilyn Oliver							
Jorge Ortiz	Present	Yes	Yes				
Rosa Peraza	Present	No	Yes				
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes				
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes				
Helga Robles							
Rev. Hiram Ratliff							
Wendy Rodriguez							
Angel Rosario							
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez							
Lisa Sanchez							
Angel Santana							
Gil Simmons							
Lillie Steed	Present	Yes	Yes				
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes				
Noorjahn Wells	Present	Yes	Yes				
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes				