



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

VACANT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Marilyn Gurley, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Virginia Bird, Milagros Cancel, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Darwin Collazo, Diana Diaz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Angela Hernandez, Laura James, Asana Lloyd, Maria Latimer, Francene Miller, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Divine Sikanku, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, and Noorjahan Wells.

Elected Officials Present:

Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson
New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Thomas Lucania, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Davon Harris, representing New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Emilia Cabrera, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Justin Westbrook-Lowery, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Charisse Suarez, representing Assemblymember Jose Rivera

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The January 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 956 0428 8080 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j95604288080> and was called to order at approximately 6:35 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:

Katherine Miranda, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Miranda announced that their Among Women: Contemporary Art from Serbia curated by Rachel Klipa will be presented on Friday, January 21, 2022 through Saturday, February 26, 2022. This exhibition is the second in their 2021-22 season of exhibitions at the Bronx River Art Center that serendipitously features mostly women artists and curators, which is an indicator of a new order of gender equality in the arts. There will be a hybrid reception on Friday, January 21st from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Ms. Miranda also informed us that there are still accepting students who are interested in enrolling in their winter art classes.

Carrie Taft, representing Hope And Victory Evolves (H.A.V.E.)

Ms. Taft informed us about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). This program has provided significant economic relief to help low and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance and utility arrears assistance. As of January 11, 2022 at 10:00 PM, new applications are being accepted.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Community Board Liaison, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Ms. Ruiz informed us that the Borough President Gibson's Community Board Report for the month of January will be sent out on January 13, 2022.
- Ms. Ruiz announced Borough President Gibson will be hosting an interfaith service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in partnership with Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM.
- Mr. Tom Lucania informed us that Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation (S.50001/A.40001) extending virtual access to public meetings under New York State's Open Meetings Law, which allows New Yorkers to virtually participate in local government meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Sepulveda shares condolences for victims of the Twin Parks North West Fire. He also informed us that he has been assigned as the Chairman of Committee on Cities 1 and he has been tasked with working diligently to establish pieces of legislation that are relevant to the challenges we currently face as New Yorkers. He also informed us that Governor Kathy Hochul has provided State Senators with a thousand KN95 masks and at-home COVID-19 testing kits to be distributed throughout their Senate districts. Senator Sepulveda also encouraged individuals to apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) to receive funding assistance. He mentioned that whether or not individuals applied for ERAP, their landlord can be prohibited from evicting them because they did not pay their rent. The Tenant Safe Harbor Act prohibits a court from evicting them for not paying their rent during the COVID-19 covered period, which began on March 7, 2020 and continued until January 15, 2022, if they suffered a financial hardship during that same COVID-19 covered period. He also mentioned that his office is operating remotely until further notice. Individuals who are interested in receiving further information and constituent assistance, can contact his office by telephone at (718) 991-3161 or by email at team@senatorsepulveda.com. Senator Sepulveda can also be reached at his mobile at (347) 582-8173.

Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero

Deputy Borough President Peguero informed us that their office has been working diligently to assist the victims of the Twin Parks North West Fire. They immediately established Monroe College as a service center that included multiple city agencies and community based organizations to assess the needs of each household. At this time, many of the families have been relocated to hotels throughout the City and others have been able to return to their apartments. Borough President Gibson has highlighted as a priority that families that do not feel safe in their apartment can stay in the hotels. Deputy Borough President Peguero also informed that individuals the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, in partnership with Mayor Eric Adams and The City of New York, are raising money to support victims. Individuals can donate online at —

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fund/initiatives/bronx-apartment-building-fire.page> The cash donations will enable the distribution of emergency relief supplies and provide support for the victims and their families. Deputy Borough President Peguero also thanked everyone who has been involved in assisting the victims and families of this tragic event.

New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Assemblymember Reyes encouraged individuals to apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) to receive funding assistance. She also informed us that as a result of the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, her office will be distributing COVID-19 rapid testing kits to the West Farms community of our district. Assemblymember Reyes also informed us that Governor Kathy Hochul has signed a package of legislation to address discrimination and racial injustice. She's also the lead sponsor of the New Deal for CUNY where it will provide a five year phase in funds to save CUNY and make CUNY tuition free again. She is also sponsoring a bill that establishes an excluded worker unemployment program and

an excluded worker unemployment fund to provide wage replacement to workers that do not qualify for unemployment insurance or other worker wage assistance programs and who have lost a major source of income due to lost work. Her district office is providing in-person services by appointment only. Individuals can contact her district office by telephone at (718) 931-2620.

Devon Harris, representing New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Harris informed us that their office is providing in-person services by appointment only. Councilmember Salamanca Jr. is distributing at-home COVID-19 rapid testing kits to members of his district from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM for the month of January. Mr. Harris also informed us that the deadline for City Council Discretionary Funding is on February 22, 2022. He also informed us that Councilmember Salamanca Jr. is sponsoring a bill that will assist with sidewalk cafes regulations.

Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Aquino Ramirez informed us that Senator Rivera is working with Borough President Gibson and the local city agencies to provide support to the victims and families of the Twin Parks North West Fire. He also informed us Senator Rivera will continue to be the Chairman of the Committee on Health. He is sponsoring Senate Bill S2122A where it relates to standards and testing of potable water in school buildings. He is also working on a bill that streamline the process to establish and operate birthing centers in the State of New York. Mr. Aquino Ramirez informed us that their office is operating in-person by appointments only. Individuals can contact their district office by telephone at (718) 933-2034.

Charisse Suarez, representing New York State Assemblymember Jose Rivera

Ms. Suarez encouraged individuals to apply for the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF). She also informed us that their office is providing assistance with obtaining free Wi-Fi services. Ms. Suarez also informed us that their office is operating in-person by appointments only. Individuals can contact their district office by telephone at (718) 933-2204.

New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Assemblymember Jackson informed us that her office is providing assistance with the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) applications. She also informed us that she has been assigned to be member of the Housing Committee.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The district manager's report was presented by Ms. Carla Leon. The report included the following information:

- Ms. Leon announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be hosting virtual fitness classes on Saturdays for the month of January beginning Saturday, January 8, 2022. The sessions will start at 10:00 AM and 11:30 Am via Zoom Video Conference. Individuals interested in

participating in the classes are asked to register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org. After registering, individuals will receive a confirmation email containing the Zoom Video Conference information to join the workshops.

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Evonne Capers informed us that District Manager John Sanchez resigned on December 31, 2021. As a result, she has appointed a Search Committee that will be responsible for assisting her in the search process of the candidate for the District Manager position. The members of the Search Committee will be Frank Franz, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, and Gil Simmons. She explained that there was a change in a member of the Search Committee due their availability. She also informed us that Community Coordinator Carla Leon will be the Acting District Manager for the time being. She also requested that we read the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2022 at our leisure for an extensive report.

Board Member Rosa Peraza requested an update on the information that was requested at the Executive Committee meeting regarding the title salaries and merit increases. Chairperson Capers stated that an email with the information provided by Mr. Tom Lucania will be sent out to the board members the following day.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports were sent to the board members by email and are available on Bronx Community Board #6's website. Chairperson Evonne Capers requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty (20) members.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of December 8, 2021 was not voted upon due to an absence of a quorum.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the January 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

Sanzida Talukder
Community Associate

