



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

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

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

VACANT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Members Present:

John Barczak, Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Marilyn Gurley, Julisa Hamilton, Angela Hernandez, Laura James, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Lisa Sanchez, Divine Sikanku, Gil Simmons, and Noorjahan Wells.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Milagros Cancel, Michael Caraballo, Sadija Cekovic, Darwin Collazo, Diana Diaz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Maria Latimer, Asana Lloyd, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lillie Steed, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Elected Officials Present:

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

**Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
John Zaccaro, representing New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Kathleen-May Llamas, representing New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz
Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Emilia Cabrera, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Adrian Cacho, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Justin Westbrook-Lowery, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Greer Mayhew, representing New York City Comptroller Brad Lander**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The March 9, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 924 4913 3581 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j/92449133581> and was called to order at approximately 6:34 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Noorjahan Wells.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Gail Nathan, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathan announced that they have two new exhibitions and the education brochure for the Spring semester is ready. There is a video production exhibition online on their website. It opened this past Monday and will remain open. There is an exhibition opening Saturday from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM and everyone is invited to come in. They are still following COVID protocols, which means that everyone must wear masks and show proof of vaccination. The spring semester will begin April 4, 2022. The Teen Project Studio Plus 2.0, which is a free class, is available for ages 13 years to the age of 26. The early bird special is 10% off of the original price and the price will be offered until March 26, 2022. Hector, the education manager, explains that they have various classes starting from cartooning, graphics and basics to drawing. They also have digital animation class and illustration classes in their computer labs. For the spring, they have submitted a proposal to design picnic benches in the New York Botanical Garden with Teen Project Studio Plus 2.0. In June, they will have an education exhibition showcasing the creations from the spring semester program. The Ceramic program includes wheel throwing and hand building. The wheel throwing class is limited to six people. BRAC is considering opening up on Sundays to the public, but it is usually open for artists. There are programs for all ages.

Donald Ruff, representing The Eagle Academy Foundation

Mr. Ruff informed the community that the Eagle Academy Foundation supports a network of all boys schools in the Bronx. The most recent school was built on 3rd Avenue. Mr. Ruff is requesting support to establish school day parking for the campus. Principal Velasquez informed the community that they have been struggling with recruiting instructors for the students due to commute difficulties. It takes about 30-40 minutes to find parking. They want to have parking allotted for teachers in the building which would make it easier to recruit. Carla has informed the Foundation that this case has been sent to the Department of Transportation and will get a response from them by May 2022.

Marco Shalma, representing Bronx Night Market

Mr. Shalma is extending an invitation to community members to the Bronx Night Market in Fordham Plaza, starting April 30th. It will be held on the last Saturday of every month. There will be a larger stage with five to six performances. There will also be art installations and about 40 to 50 food and beverage vendors. 75% of the vendors are from the Bronx and the rest are from the greater city of

New York. The focus is on celebrating the district and focus on up and coming businesses and Bronx businesses. Mr. Shalma encouraged community members to reach out to him if there are any vendors that want to participate.

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 February is available.
- Ms. Ruiz also informed us that a Bronx mother's child who had passed is having a vigil at Monticello Ave.
- Ms. Ruiz also informed that community board members who have sent in a reappointment application should continue to serve until they receive a letter for their reappointment and those who have not sent in a reappointment application, their terms should be ending on March 31, 2022. They are still conducting interviews and once they get through everything, they will send out letters.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Sepulveda announced that they are in the budget season. He is pushing for money for our schools; funding for economic development; real affordable housing; public protection (making sure that police are funded enough); healthcare (increased salaries for homecare attendants). He is working as the Chair for the city's one, dealing with city issues and legislations. He is working with the mayor's office to expand earned income tax credit, so that moderate to middle income families can gain tax credits. There is also a bill combating gun violence that has come up in committee. Most guns come from Texas or Florida. The bill allows victims of gun violence to sue manufacturers of guns and this bill would also cover guns that are 3D printed. On March 11, 2022, the Garifuna American Heritage Month celebration will begin. The Senate is looking to pass a resolution to honor their legacy in our community. Senator Sepulveda informed the community that his office is open and addressing unemployment issues, healthcare issues, preventing evictions, food insecurity and immigration referrals. 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.

Adrian Cacho, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Mr. Cacho informed the community that the office had a successful Black History Month award show and partnered with Council Althea Stevens. The office will continue to keep people in the loop via newsletter or email. Assemblywomen Jackson also finalized a list of priorities. Constituents may reach out to the office to be added to the email list or newsletter list or to discuss priorities. She is also on the Housing Committee, so it is one of her priorities. The office also sent out a survey to share concerns about the community.

Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Aquino Ramirez informed us that Senator Gustavo Rivera passed 13 bills through the Senate since January. Bill No. 4935 would provide access to lifesaving inhalers to treat severe asthma attacks in schools, camps and public facilities through non patient specific prescriptions. The Senator also visited the William Hudson Senior Center and met with citizens and provided goodie bags that included COVID tests, Personal Protective Equipment and referral information. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program application opened in early January and although there are no funds available in the program, the office still encourages constituents to apply because it provides extended protections. Applicants may reach out to the office if they need assistance with the applications. Mr. Aquino Ramirez explained to the community that they do not need a denial or other determinations from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for the One-Shot Deal. The office is currently assisting with rent freeze, renewals and SCRIE and DRIE applications. Mr. Aquino Ramirez also announced that their office is operating in-person by appointments only. Individuals can contact their district office by telephone at (718) 933-2034.

Karime Vergara, representing Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Karime Vergara informed the community members that Assemblywoman Karines Reyes recently led a fire safety training with the Fire Department of New York via Zoom. Several community members took part in the event. The office put important responses on social media and their YouTube page. She also informed community members that Assemblywoman Reyes is aware of the vacate order served to Drew Gardens by the Department of Transportation. The assemblywoman is currently working with other local elected officials and city-state agencies to allow the community garden to continue to operate and serve as a fixture in the community. Last week, the office opened for walk-ins, but community members are strongly encouraged to call or email prior to coming into the office. The office is located at 1973 Westchester Avenue Bronx, New York 10460. The office can be reached via telephone at (718) 931 - 2620.

John Zaccaro, representing Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. John Zaccaro informed the community that the office is open and encouraged people to call ahead of time to make appointments. Every Thursday from 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM, there is saliva-based COVID testing, nasal-swab COVID testing, PCR and rapid testing. Individuals just need an email address to sign up. If constituents do not have one, then the staff will help with setting one up. Once a month, an immigration attorney comes into the office to provide free consultation and help with immigration applications. This service is available by appointment only. Mr. Zaccaro informed community members that budget season is underway. The deadline for discretionary funding for nonprofit organizations has passed but the capital budget is due on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 5:00 PM. Capital projects are brick and mortar projects, such as smart boards in schools and renovating parks. March 24, 2022 at midnight is the deadline for the community to apply for capital funding. They can apply at council.nyc.gov. Mr. Zaccaro also informed the community that Councilmember Salamanca allocates money to the Wildcat Services, which takes formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals who are looking to find work and provides supplemental cleaning that the Department of Sanitation has not been able to reach. Mr. Zaccaro encouraged constituents to inform the office of locations that need cleaning services, graffiti removal or power washing. Councilmember Salamanca is also hosting

a job fair with Amazon in the office on March 29, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The councilman is also hosting a senior food distribution at the office in collaboration with Urban Health Plan on Thursday, March 24, 2022 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM for seniors who need additional food services. Seniors must sign up prior to the food distribution with Urban Health Plan, so they can accommodate the number of individuals who are coming in for food. This food distribution is strictly for low-income seniors. Individuals can call the office to receive information on how to sign up. The New York Common Pantry will hold another senior food distribution on April 28, 2022 from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Constituents may call the office for more information/

Greer Mayhew, representing New York City Comptroller Brad Lander

Mr. Greer Mayhew informed the community that Comptroller Brad Lander worked with the mayor and released recommendations from the nonprofit task force to help find ways for nonprofits to circumvent the inability to get paid on time and meet their obligations. The recommendations are meant to find solutions to the procurement issues. The recommendations are also available on their website. The office has also released a federal spending tracker, which is also available on the website to track federal funding received to the city.

Kathleen-May Llamas, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Ms. Kathleen-May Llamas informed the community that the office is helping with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program applications and Home Energy Assistance Program applications for utilities. Constituent walk-ins are available 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM from Monday to Thursday and 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Fridays. The office is located at 573 East Fordham Road Bronx, New York 10458 and the entrance is on Hoffman Street.

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 in partnership with Arties for Arties will be conducting art workshops on Saturdays for the month of April. The workshops will be held at Arties for Arties located at 2403 Cambreleng Avenue and will start at 10:00 AM. Individuals interested in participating in the workshops are asked to register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org. After registering, individuals will receive a confirmation email.

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Evonne Capers informed us that the deadline for the District Manager position has ended. A total 23 applications were received. The Search Committee will begin the application review process to schedule interviews.

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-three (23) members.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of February 9, 2022 was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Cornell Brown and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, one opposition and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member, Matthew Martinez, was not present during this motion.)*

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the March 9, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:13 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-three in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

Sanzida Talukder
Community Associate

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2022

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2022	ADJOURNMENT
Clarita Bailon			
John Barczak	Present	Yes	Yes
Virginia Bird			
Michelle Bialeck	Present	Yes	Yes
Cornell Brown	Present	Yes	Yes
Milagros Cancel			
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes
Michael Caraballo			
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes
Sadija Cekovic			
Darwin Collazo			
Diana Diaz			
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia			
Lanell Gardenhire			
Marilyn Gurley	Present	Yes	Yes
Julisa Hamilton	Present	Yes	Yes
Audrey Harden			
Angela Hernandez	Present	Yes	Yes
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer			
Magdamary Marcano	Present	Yes	Yes
Assana Lloyd			
Matthew Martinez	Present		
Francene Miller			
Michael Nelson			
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes
Rev. Marilyn Oliver			
Lamont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	No	Yes
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes
Carmen Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes
Kristine Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez			
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes
Divine Sikanku	Present	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes
Lillie Steed			
Noorjahan Wells	Present	Yes	Yes
Jacquetta Whaley			