



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

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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 Thursday, May 12, 2022**

**Members Present:**

John Barczak, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Kristine Rivera, Lisa Sanchez, Divine Sikanku, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, and Jacquetta Whaley.

**Members Absent:**

Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Michael Caraballo, Darwin Collazo, Diana Diaz, Maria Garcia, Marilyn Gurley, Julisa Hamilton, Angela Hernandez, Maria Latimer, Asana Lloyd, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Carmen Rivera, and Noorjahan Wells.

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
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  
Carlos Torres, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The May 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 917 8983 3539 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j/91789833539> and was called to order at approximately 6:35 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

**II. INVOCATION**

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Mr. Luke Lapean.

**III. COMMUNITY PERIOD**

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

**Ahmad Walker, representing Volunteers of America-Greater New York**

Ahmad Walker is the director of the Lydia Hoffman Family Residence Shelter for families who are homeless and their goal is to provide permanent housing. The community board is instrumental in providing services that their clients utilize. Lydia Hoffman is the site, which is located at 855 East 175th street, across from Crotona Park. The facility has one and two bedroom apartments. They accept one parent and one child all the way up to six family members. The facility serves 35 families at a time. All the families live in the facility. All the services are provided on site, such as case management, housing specialist and client care coordination. Numerous resources are provided through Volunteers of America and the Department of Homeless Services. Case management assesses clients when they come in and they also assess the barriers towards permanent housing. They work out a plan of action to get permanent housing. Client care coordination are licensed social workers who do their own assessments to see if there are any other undiagnosed mental health issues. Both departments gather documents for move out, employment searches, voucher inquiries and securing childcare support. The housing department works with the Department of Homeless Services to locate apartments in and out of the city and utilize the voucher system and other resources to supplement the family's income so they can eventually obtain permanent housing. There are also maintenance and front-desk staff working in the facilities. Volunteers of America provides services such as toy drives, backpack drives with school supplies, winter jacket giveaways.

**Jessie Kravet, representing Mavor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence**

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender Based-Violence conducts research, sets policies, does outreach and runs the family justice centers, which are a one-stop center for victims and survivors of different types of gender-based violence to get free services. Gender-based violence is a general term to describe violence rooted in exploiting unequal power relationships, such as elder abuse, domestic violence, family violence, stalking, sexual violence, intimate partner violence and trafficking. If you are a victim, you can go to any of the family justice centers in the five boroughs, where you can get free legal services, food, help with housing and shelters, mental health counseling and finance classes. The one in the Bronx is near Yankee stadium. The centers are open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Fridays, however survivors and victims can reach out via the 24/7 hotline. Individuals can just walk-in but the centers prefer appointments. It doesn't matter when the abuse happened and the centers serve everyone regardless of age, immigration status, gender or religion.

**April Hurley, representing RICO Food Coop**

Ms. April Hurley announced that on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, RICO Food Coop will host a houseplant swap at Mapes garden, which is across Mapes baseball field. Individuals who want to swap plants can come to trade plants and/or purchase plants as well. They will showcase what a typical bag looks like with the RICO Food Coop.

**Ursula Colon and Desi Adorn, representing Arties For Arties**

Desi informs the community that Arties for Arties is located at 2403 Cambreleng Avenue. This is an art gallery and creative rental space. Anyone who wants to do an event can rent space. On May 21, 2022, there will be a Billionaire Girls Club Mixer. Women who have a business or want to expose their business can come.

**Matthew Martinez, representing the 48th Precinct Community Council**

Dr. Martinez informed the community that the May 2022 48th precinct council meeting will be on May 31, 2022 at 7 pm. He believes it is important to create a partnership between the community and the police. He also informed individuals that they are gearing up for National Night Out.

**IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report will be sent via email.

**V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**Adrian Cacho, representing Assemblymember Chantel Jackson**

Mr. Cacho informed the community that the office sent out a survey pertaining to the NYCHA trust. NYCHA residents should fill out the survey. The office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM by appointments only. He asked individuals to not hesitate to reach out if they have any questions.

**Carlos M. Torres, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's office**

Mr. Carlos M. Torres is the crime prevention coordinator and he wanted to inform the community that they would be receiving flyer about the 5K run/walk/row against gun violence on East 161st Street at the Supreme Court and walking to Mt Eden and back, which will be taking place on June 4, 2022. The purpose of the walk is to denounce gun violence awareness. Once the flyer is approved, Carlos will send it out.

**Emilia Cabrera, New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Ms. Cabrera informed the community that two of Senator Luis Sepulveda's bills passed in the Senate. S2141 amended the mental hygiene law to change the definition of an inmate with a serious mental health illness to a person with a mental health illness. S2818 enacts big five African Trophies Act banning the transportation and possession of certain African species and products. On May 17, 2022, there will be an outreach truck with New York Assistance Group to provide free counsel from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The office also partnered with Air NYC to hold SNAP enrollment day on May 27, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Air NYC helps people apply for SNAP benefits. At home COVID-19 testing kits are ready to be distributed and individuals can get one from his social media or website. The Human Resources Administration is conducting a Cooling Assistance Program, where they are granting up to an \$800 cost of air conditioner and fans. Air conditioners are given on a first come first serve basis. If air conditioners can't be installed, fans will be provided. Individuals can apply from

May 2, 2022 to August 31, 2022. Individuals are eligible for the Con-Edison discount if they have any type of benefits like the SNAP program or SSI or if they receive any government assistance. Drew gardens will be reopened in June again, so it is important to come to Bronx Community Board 6 meetings and speak so they can address issues like this. 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@senatorepulveda.com. The office is open by appointment only.

**Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera**

Mr. Francisco Aquino Ramirez informed the community that Dakota's law was passed by both the Senate and Assembly. This law enhances New York's childhood lead poisoning prevention measures by requiring annual lead exposure screenings for children up to the age of 6. This law was promoted by the senator and Tisha Jones, whose daughter the law was named after. Senator Rivera was part of Bronx Week 2022 after two years of absence. Bronx Week was hosted by the borough president, Vanessa L. Gibson and her office. Senator Rivera also joined the small business celebration in Little Yemen last Friday and got to speak with business owners and constituents about his bill, Right to a Commercial Lease. Mr. Ramirez explained that part of keeping our community strong and thriving is making sure business owners and commercial tenants are safe. The bill will set forth guidelines and requirements for commercial leases. Mandated by tenants and certain guidelines require the lease to be provided within 60 days. Last Friday, Senator Rivera also visited an overdose prevention center, which provides a safe place for consumption and trade of sterile syringes. Centers are crucial in addressing overdose as a public health issue. The office is providing at-home test kits. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program application started seeing some movement with applications. The office can provide assistance to upload ERAP applications. The office also assists with SCRIE, DRIE, senior citizen rent freeze increase exemption and disabilities rent increase exemption applications. The office will help apply for them and determine eligibility. Mr. Ramirez also informed the community that the SNAP on-demand telephone eligibility interview will resume June 1, 2022. Once the SNAP application or recertification is submitted, applicants can call HRA from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM to request for an on-demand telephone interview. The office can be reached via telephone at (718) 933 - 2034 and is open by appointment only.

**VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Evonne Capers informed us that the Search Committee Report has been emailed and that the Search Committee has hired the District Manager candidate, Rafael Moure-Punnett. She also requested that Board Members be in attendance at the next meeting to ensure that the hiring process is completed. Chairperson Capers also informed us that an Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

**VII. DISTRICT MANAGER**

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

- Ms. Leon recognized board members, Diana Diaz, Frank Franz, Margarita Espinosa, for their dedication and contribution to our district. They are the longest-serving board members of our community board.
- Ms. Leon also announced that the series of Community Art Workshops with Arties for Arties have ended.
- Ms. Leon also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be participating in VIP Community Services' Resource Fair on Friday, May 13, 2022 at 11:00 AM at the Admiral Farragut Playground.

## 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 presence of a quorum with the presence of sixteen (23) members.

## IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of March 9, 2022 was made by Mr. Cornell Brown, seconded by Mr. Matthew Martinez and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, one opposition and zero abstentions.
2. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of April 13, 2022 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Matthew Martinez and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, one opposition and zero abstentions.
3. A motion to form a Nominating Committee for the election of Board Officers was made Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Ms. Floretta O'Brien and was not adopted by a vote of seven in favor, thirteen opposed and two abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, John Barczak and Paul Ramirez, were not present during this motion.)*

## X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the May 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:35 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-one in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention). *(Please note that Board Members, John Barczak and Paul Ramirez, were not present during this motion.)*

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon**  
**Community Coordinator**

**Sanzida Talukder**  
**Community Associate**

