



**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, November 10, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Clarita Bailon, John Barzack, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Angela Hernandez, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Francene Miller, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Lisa Sanchez, Divine Sikanku, Lillie Steed and Jacquetta Whaley.

**Members Absent:**

Michelle Bialeck, Virginia Bird, Milagros Cancel, Darwin Collazo, Diana Diaz, Marilyn Gurley, Asana Lloyd, Michael Nelson, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Wendy Rodriguez, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Gil Simmons and Noorjahan Wells.

**Elected Officials Present:**

New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson  
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda  
United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

**Elected Officials Representatives Present:**

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Kathleen-May Llamas and Theona Reets, representing New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz  
Adrian Cacho, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson  
Justin Westbrook-Lowery, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes  
Emilia Cabrera, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda  
Nanette Alvarado, United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The November 10, 2021 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 929 1809 0352 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j/92918090352> and was called to order at approximately 6:31 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:

### Tito Declet

Mr. Declet informed us about the large numbers of vehicles without license plates that are parked in the Washington Avenue between East 180<sup>th</sup> Street and East 178<sup>th</sup> Street area of our district.

## 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 informed us that the Borough President Diaz Jr.'s Community Board Report for the month of November will be available next week.
- Ms. Ruiz also asked the new Board Members to review the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) material and to complete the policy form. The policy form can be returned by fax, email or mail.

## V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

### New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Assemblywoman Jackson announced that there was a New York State Independent Redistricting Commission public hearing held on November 9, 2021. In 2014, New Yorkers voted yes on Proposition 1, a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission responsible for redrawing Congressional and State Legislative districts every ten years, after the Census is completed. The Commission is holding public hearings to solicit input from communities throughout the State, and will then propose a redistricting plan to be adopted by the legislature. Assemblywoman Jackson believes that redistricting her Assembly District would allow her to better assist her constituents.

### New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Sepulveda encouraged communities to work together with the redistricting process. He also announced that his Workforce Diversification Project has successfully enrolled individuals in training programs or in employment. He encouraged individuals to take advantage of this employment

resource by signing up. Senator Sepulveda informed us that children between the ages of five and eleven years of age are now able to get vaccinated. If parents or guardians require assistance with finding a vaccination location, they can contact his office. He informed us about Governor Kathy Hochul's "Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate" vaccine incentive program for 5- To 11-Year-Olds to win a Full SUNY or CUNY Scholarship. Governor Hochul will be announcing 10 Winners per Week for Five Weeks by a random drawing. He also informed us that two of the five ballot proposals regarding proposed changes to the New York State Constitution passed — Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment, and the Jurisdiction of the New York City Civil Court. Individuals who are interested in receiving further information and constituent assistance can contact Senator Sepulveda's office by telephone at (718) 991-3161 or by email at team@senatorsepulveda.com. Senator Sepulveda can also be reached at (347) 582-8173.

### **United States Congressman Ritchie Torres**

Congressman Torres informed us that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill) passed. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill represents the largest investments in public transit, clean energy, clean water and roads and bridges, and Congressman Torres believes that New York is going to benefit enormously because an estimate of \$11 billion will go to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). More funding for the MTA means more funding for subways, buses, rails, and the Metro North, and another \$24 billion is expected to go to Amtrak and the Northeast Corridor to assist in reconstruction with the Hudson River tunnels. He informed us he is working on a bill that includes homecare for seniors who are disabled, expansion in child tax credit and universal 3K. He also informed us that the Billback Better Act will enhance enforcement of the IRS, so it can collect the uncollected taxes from wealthy corporations, like Amazon. There will be a minimum of 15% tax requirement for all corporations that are domestic and global so that they can't ship jobs overseas to evade taxes. This act will provide funding for a program called CureViolence, where former gang members are recruited to serve as violence interrupters. They will reach out to at-risk youth and steer them away from violence. There are also investments in workforce development as we are transitioning to a clean energy economy. Programs and project start dates vary, but the funds will be dispensed over 5 years. Congressman Torres also informed us that he proposed a project to cover the Cross Bronx Expressway with deckbark and cover it with electrostatic filters to prevent air pollution. This would improve public health and reduce asthma rates. There will be a feasibility study first to secure funding for the project. With the act, \$69 billion will go towards public housing to address humanitarian issues.

### **Justin Westbrook-Lowery, representing Assemblymember Karines Reyes**

Mr. Westbrook-Lowery announced that Assemblywoman Reyes participated in a press conference with Congressman Ritchie Torres and Senator Chuck Schumer regarding capping of the Cross Bronx Expressway. The press conference was regarding the feasibility study, so the construction grant process can start and the New York State Department of Transportation and New York City Department of Transportation can get necessary funding. It will also provide recreational areas for children. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill contains \$1 billion for nationwide reconnecting of communities that have been split by highways. Assemblywoman Reyes circulated a petition calling on the federal government to fund the capping of the Cross Bronx Expressway project. She also organized Bronx elected officials to sign on to a letter addressed to the US Secretary of Transportation to encourage him to add more funding to reconnecting communities and capping the Cross Bronx

Expressway. This would also create more job opportunities in the Bronx. There will be updates on legislation that will be signed by Governor Kathy Hochul. There is one bill regarding hate crime data analysis and another bill regarding a NYS Department of Civil Service study of the methodologies that are used in the civil service exam and for state positions and how the methodologies impact people of color when it comes to state positions. The study will shine a light on why we need more diversity and why we need access to our communities for state jobs. If you have community issues, can go to the office located at 1973 Westchester Avenue or contact via phone at (718) 931-2620.

## **VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Sanchez's district manager's report included the following information:

- Mr. Sanchez thanked Fordham University's West Wing ILC for their partnership and for participating in our community board meeting this evening.
- Mr. Sanchez announced the Bronx Night Market's Bronx Harvest Fest that will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM at Fordham Plaza.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that that Bronx Community Board #6 will be having a Thanksgiving Food Distribution event on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Arties for Arties located at 2403 Cambreleng Avenue. They will be distributing non-perishable food items on a first come, first served basis for this Thanksgiving season.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that that Bronx Community Board #6 will be having their 6th Annual Holiday Party and Toy Giveaway on Friday, December 17, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Community Board's District Office located at 1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A. Bronx Community Board #6 is collecting 150 toys for children ages 3-12. He advised individuals who wished to donate to mail their toy donations to the Community Board's District Office.

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Public Hearing #1:** A public hearing on Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

No one requested to testify as a speaker for the public hearing on Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

**Public Hearing #2:** A public hearing on Uniform Land Use Review Procedure application C150355MMX. The application, if approved by all relevant authorities, will eliminate, discontinue and close East 178<sup>th</sup> Street east of Morris Park Avenue, to facilitate the as-of-right development of the 420 Morris Park Avenue LLC's property.

No one requested to testify as a speaker for the public hearing on Uniform Land Use Review Procedure application C150355MMX.

**Public Hearing #3:** A public hearing on Uniform Land Use Review Procedure applications C220091ZSX and N220092ZCX. The applications, if approved by all relevant authorities, will grant a Commission Chair Certification (FRESH food store,) pursuant to ZR 63-30, and a special permit, pursuant to ZR 74-533, waiving required parking for affordable housing. These actions would facilitate development of a mixed use residential/commercial building at 660-668 East Fordham Road.

**Donna Devito**

Ms. Devito urged the Board Members to not support the special permit that would waive the required parking for this project. Ms. Devito informed the Board Members that this area of the district suffers from traffic congestion and lacks parking spaces.

**Mary Ellen**

Ms. Ellen also informed the Board Members that this area of the district suffers from traffic congestion and lacks parking spaces especially with the nearby Department of Motor Vehicles office.

**Maria Gerbasi**

Ms. Gerbasi stated that she has no objections to the development of the proposed housing project. However, she recommends that additional parking be created in the space that is allocated for the proposed FRESH store because this area of the district lacks parking and suffers from traffic congestion. She states that commercial vehicles would make matters worse. Ms. Gerbasi requests that the project developers revise their plans to plans that would benefit the community at large.

**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 thirty (30) members.

**IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS**

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of October 13, 2021 was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Ms. Carmen and adopted by a vote of thirty in favor, zero oppositions and zero abstentions.

2. A motion to adopt Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests as submitted was made by Mr. Paul Ramirez, seconded by Ms. Clarita Bailon, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero oppositions and one abstention.
3. A motion to issue a favorable recommendation to the Department of City Planning for the Lambert Parcel 5 Minor Modification was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley, and adopted by a vote of twenty-eight in favor, zero oppositions and two abstentions.
4. A motion to issue a favorable recommendation to the Department of City Planning for the East 178<sup>th</sup> Street Demapping was made by Ms. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Audrey Harden, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero oppositions, and nine abstentions.
5. A motion to issue a favorable recommendation to the Department of City Planning for the 660-668 East Fordham Road project's Commission Chair Certification (FRESH food store) ULURP Number: N220092ZCX application request was made Mr. Lamont Park, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and did not pass by a vote of one in favor, eighteen oppositions and eleven abstentions.
6. A motion to issue an unfavorable recommendation to the Department of City Planning for the 660-668 East Fordham Road project's Zoning Special Permit ULURP Number: C220091ZSX application request that waives the required parking for affordable housing was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Matthew Martinez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-eight in favor, two oppositions, and zero abstentions.
7. A motion to approve District Manager John Sanchez's 12% salary increase request was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mr. Paul Ramirez, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, six oppositions, and four abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member Lillie Steed was not present during this motion.)*

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to discuss, the November 10, 2021 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:28 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Ms. Sadija Cekovic, and unanimously adopted by acclamation (thirty 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 NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2021	DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS FY 23	FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FOR LAMBERT MINOR MOD	FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FOR EAST 178TH ST DEMAPPING	FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION 660 EAST FORDHAM RD FRESH FOOD STORE	UNFAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION 660 EAST FORDHAM RD PARKING RULES	10% SALARY INCREASE FOR DISTRICT MANAGER	ADJOURNMENT
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
John Barczak	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Bird									
Michelle Bialeck									
Cornell Brown	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Milagros Cancel									
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Caraballo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sadija Cekovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Darwin Collazo									
Diana Diaz									
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marilyn Gurley									
Julisa Hamilton	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Angela Hernandez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes
Magdamary Marciano	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assana Lloyd									
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Francene Miller	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Nelson									
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	No	Yes
Rev. Marilyn Oliver									
Lamont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carmen Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kristine Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wendy Rodriguez									
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez									
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	No	Yes
Divine Sikanku	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Gil Simmons									
Lillie Steed	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes		Yes
Noorjahan Wells									
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes