



**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 11, 2020

Members Present:

Virginia Bird, Cornell Brown, Milagros Cancel, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Asana Lloyd, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Jorge Ortiz, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Krystine Rivera, Helga Robles, Wendy Rodriguez, Lisa Sanchez, Divine Sikanku, Lillie Steed, Noorjahan Wells, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Sadija Cekovic, Diana Diaz, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Francine Miller, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Rosa Peraza, Carmen Rivera, Rev. Hiriam Ratliff, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, and Gil Simmons.

Elected Officials Present:

United States Senator of New York Chuck Shumer
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
New York State Assemblywoman-Elect Chantel Jackson

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Zoe Petrak, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Robert Barnes, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The November 11, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 932 2965 8934 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j/93229658934> and was called to order at approximately by 6:39 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:

Bill Colona, representing Fordham University

Mr. Colona announced that Fordham University will be co-hosting the 13th Annual College Access Fair for African Americans and Latinx students and their families on Saturday, November 21, 2020. This event will be sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Fordham University and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. Although the event will be held virtually, the programs that have been available in the previous years will be available. The event will begin at 11:00 AM with a Q&A on College, careers, and one on one session for young men of color. The college fair will be from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM featuring undergraduate and graduate programs at colleges and universities in New York. Participants will also have the opportunity to sign up for individual meetings with experts on financial aid. There will be a workshop from 1:00 PM-2:00 PM on how to pay for college and from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM there will be breakout sessions for college students to prepare for college success and a separate breakout group for parents preparing for the college process. Individuals can register by visiting cicu.org/caf2020.

Dior St. Hillaire, representing Bronx SWAB

Ms. St. Hillaire expressed Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board's interest in connecting with the Sanitation Committee at Bronx Community Board #6. Bronx SWAB's primary focus of work is related to collection, recycling, waste policy, environmental justice policies and zero waste. Part of their solid waste policy plan is to get one board member from each community board to join Bronx SWAB. They are presently working to make organic collection mandatory throughout the borough and they are working with Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. to ensure that community board participation is included. Their general board meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Individuals can contact Bronx SWAB for more information and to get involved by email at BronxSWAB@gmail.com.

Katherine Miranda, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Miranda announced that Bronx River Art Center's fall exhibition, *JUSTICE*, opened on October 26th and will run through December 12th. There will be an artists and community reception on November 12, 2020 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the center. The admission will be restricted to 25% capacity. Face masks and social distancing will be required for those in attendance. Individuals can also join virtually via Facebook Live. Ms. Miranda also announced that the Bronx River Art Center is offering their single sessions virtual arts classes for the fall. They are offering single sessions participation for Drawing, Art Around the World and the Artist's Garden until December 19, 2020. Individuals can register for their virtual art classes and their exhibitions through eventbrite.

Robert Parmach, representing Fordham University

Dean Parmach acknowledged the students that were present and that are in the West Wing course this semester. They are presently working with Bronx Community Board #6 on the grassroots level. He and Mr. Liam Leahy, student, thanked Bronx Community Board #6 for providing the opportunity to work with them.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report for the Community Boards for the month of November was emailed.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

United States Senator of New York Chuck Schumer

Senator Schumer informed the community that the country is having the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and the worst health crisis since the Spanish flu due to the federal administration that has refused to recognize the crises. Many people have questions regarding whether Trump can stay in office but Senator Schumer explains that it is impossible for him to stay in office because the Supreme Court overturned the election in 2000 and put Bush in office. However, there are six states where Biden won. There are a lot of Republican lawsuits regarding electoral fraud, but even Republican judges didn't side with Trump because there isn't evidence of election fraud. So, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris should be inaugurated into office in January. Senator Schumer worked hard to get \$100 billion for COVID Relief in March. There was small business relief in poorer communities, which included money for nonprofits and churches. These programs expired in the summer. There is another larger bill which keeps the 600 hour unemployment insurance, eviction moratorium, prevents foreclosure on a house because of the mortgage, more money for churches, small businesses, the MTA, state and local governments and enough money for schools to open safely, including for more buses, more teachers, money for hotspots for each student, for restaurants and live venues. The bill is being held up in the Senate and it has already passed through the House. There are two people in an election in Georgia in a runoff. If Democrats win both, then they will win the majority and Senator Schumer will become majority leader and can easily get the Heroes bill passed. If Mitch McConnell stays majority leader, then Senator Schumer can still push to get the bill passed. Senator Schumer wants to restore democracy by undoing the election corruption. He would work to get DC to become a state and create instantaneous voter registration, so that people can show up at the poll and still vote. This would allow 10 million more people to vote. He would work to adjust income inequality by helping poorer people by making the tax system fairer, economic justice act, and investing money for internet accessibility for everyone. He will work on climate justice, so that it is fair for working people and poorer people. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Schumer suggested that Biden forgive \$50k of every students' loans to help them start families and buy houses earlier. Senator Schumer is compiling a list of those college students impacted by regulations passed under the Trump administration and pushing hard to undo them. Senator Schumer also wants dreamers to get their citizenship and to make sure every frontline worker gets an additional \$13/hour and it would be retroactive from May. After becoming majority leader, Senator Schumer will send more money to Puerto Rico to continue rebuilding and for medical care. As mentioned before, Senator Schumer was able to get \$100 billion for hospitals and got \$10 billion to \$12 billion for New York City. If Senator Schumer becomes

majority leader, he will put the HR40 bill on the floor to get it to pass. He also acknowledged how the Delta's helped organize Georgia to get the Democratic majority.

New York State Assemblywoman-Elect Chantel Jackson

Assemblywoman-Elect Jackson informed us that she has been meeting with Assemblyman Michael Blake to ensure an efficient transition. She is presently assembling her team at the moment. She informed us that a representative from her team will be attending future community board meetings in the case where she is unable to attend. Her district office will be located at 780 Concourse Village West, which is the current district office location for Assemblyman Michael Blake. Assemblywoman-Elect Jackson also announced that she will be distributing food and turkeys later in the month. In addition, she is requesting community support and assistance with the collection of toys for a Christmas giveaway for the children in her district. Individuals can contact her by telephone at (516) 595-9675 or by email at schedulingbx79@gmail.com.

Zoe Petrack, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Ms. Petrack informed us that their office is presently providing their majority of constituent services remotely, however, their district office is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. They have been able to work on over 500 cases including cases related to unemployment, housing issues, and SNAP benefits. They are also continuing to provide PPEs and food distributions weekly through their district to assist with the increase in COVID-19 cases. Ms. Petrack also reported that their office was able to secure a large amount of food donations for the NYCHA developments and schools in their district. Currently, their office is working on identifying other parts of the district to ensure constituents are receiving services that are needed. In addition, their office distributed 500 backpacks with supplies to students throughout their district during the months of September and October. They are also going to be donating turkey and food vouchers throughout the district later in the month. Individuals can contact their district office for more information and assistance by telephone at (718) 991-3161 or by email at team@senatorsepulveda.com.

Robert Barnes, representing District Attorney Darcel Clark

Mr. Barnes reported that the Bronx Gun BuyBack event held on October 24, 2020 was a success. They were able to take 136 guns off the street. District Attorney Clark rewarded a total of 75 iPads to the individuals who turned in handguns. Mr. Barnes thanked Bronx Community Board #6 for sharing the event information with the community. He also reported that their office is presently working at 25% capacity due to the pandemic. For more information and assistance, individuals can contact Mr. Barnes by telephone at (718) 838-7461 (929) 361-8240 or by email at barnesro@bronxda.nyc.gov.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6, Fordham University's Office of Career Services and the Manresa Scholars will continue to offer resume and interviewing

workshops on November 16th at 6:00 PM. Individuals can register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org.

- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive on Friday, November 20, 2020. We are currently accepting non-perishable food items to fill baskets to assist families in our district. The donations are going to be accepted until Friday, November 13th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the district office.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Community board #6 will be hosting free financial literacy workshops, *Tools for your Financial Wellness*, with My Money Workshop starting on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing until Saturday, December 12, 2020. Individuals can register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING ON BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 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 2022 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-seven (27) members.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports were sent by email. Chairperson Evonne Capers requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of October 14, 2020 with corrections was made by Mr. Michael Nelson, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero opposition and zero abstaining.
2. A motion to adopt Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2022 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests as submitted was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Jorge Ortiz, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero opposition and zero abstaining.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the November 11, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Michael Nelson, second by Mrs. Virginia Bird, and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-seven in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

**Sanzida Talukder
Community Associate**

**Carla Leon
Community Associate**

*Honorable Ritchie Torres,
City Council Member, 15th Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca Jr.,
City Council Member, 17th Council District*

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF NOVEMBER 11, 2020

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2020	FY 22 BUDGET REQUESTS	ADJOURNMENT									
Clarita Bailon													
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Cornell Brown	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Milagros Cancel	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Nicole Carter	Present												
Sadija Cekovic													
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Diana Diaz													
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Julisa Hamilton													
Audrey Harden													
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Assana Lloyd	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Francine Miller													
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Rev. Marilyn Oliver													
Jorge Ortiz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Rosa Peraza													
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Carmen Rivera													
Kristine Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Rev. Hiram Ratliff													
Helga Robles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes									