



**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

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Members Present:

Evonne Capers, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Angela Hernandez, Maria Latimer, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, and Monique Williams.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Virginia Bird, Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Mamoudou Diallo, Diana Diaz, Marilyn Gurley, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez (Leave of Absence), Francene Miller, Samsondeen Raheem, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, Noorjahan Wells, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alina Dowe, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams
Nicol Aguila, representing New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz
Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Emmanuel Martinez, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Daniel Flores, representing New York State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The September 14, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the SBH Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York, was called to order at approximately 6:48 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by 1st Vice-Chairperson Maria Garcia.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Victor M. Pichardo Jr., representing SBH Health System

Mr. Pichardo welcomed us to SBH Health System's Health and Wellness Center. He also informed us that SBH Health System has several new facilities that the public should utilize for their benefit. They also offer cooking classes and gym memberships that come at a very low cost, and even free for some individuals. These facilities were created for the betterment of the community and he implores individuals to use them.

Marisol Duran

Ms. Duran expressed her concern about the consistently illegally parked vehicles on Bassford Avenue and East 185th Street. She informed us that vehicles are double-parking, being parked on the sidewalks, or parked at the same spot for over seven days by the nearby auto body shops. She stated that these vehicles are often without license plates, damaged, or unregistered. Ms. Duran requested assistance from the Community Board to assist with this issue.

District Manager Moure-Punnett informed Ms. Duran that he is working on addressing this issue throughout the district.

Mykia Sledge, representing KIPP Freedom Middle School

Ms. Sledge is seeking community opportunities for her students at KIPP Freedom Middle School in order for students and families to participate in community engagement.

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

Ms. Taft informed us about the Tenant Protection benefits of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). She also announced that Hope And Victory Evolves (H.A.V.E.) in collaboration with Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs, Inc. (NAICA) will be hosting informational sessions about resources on September 21, 2022 and September 22, 2022. They will be providing information on the resources like Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) program, Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program and more. For assistance and more information on these events, Ms. Taft can be contacted at (917) 226-7960.

Kristalynn Leonard

Ms. Leonard informed us about youth and young adult services and programs that are for betterment.

Kenneth Johnson, representing New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mr. Johnson informed us about the new changes to the vaccinations regarding Polio, COVID-19, and Monkeypox. It is recommended that individuals receive the Polio vaccination to prevent poliomyelitis. He also stated that the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines include a component of the original virus strain to provide broad protection against COVID-19 and a component of the omicron variant to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant. Therefore, individuals are encouraged to receive a booster. It also recommended that individuals receive the Monkeypox vaccination. First-dose and second-dose appointments for the monkeypox vaccinations are now available. Walk-in vaccinations for first and second doses are also available at City-run sites, but they recommend that individuals make an appointment. He also informed us that individuals can get a second dose as long as it has been at least 28 days after their first dose. Mr. Johnson also informed us the New York City Health Department is spraying pesticides on Thursday to get rid of mosquitoes. There are no health concerns, but individuals who are sensitive to pesticides or want to avoid exposure should stay inside during the spraying. The spraying is happening in parts of Manhattan and the Bronx on Thursday, September 15, 2022 from 8:30 PM to 6 AM Friday, September 16, 2022.

Floretta O'Brien, representing Neighborhood Advisory Board — Bronx 06

Ms. O'Brien informed us about the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NBAs). The Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NABs) provide residents of low-income communities with an opportunity to help the Department of Youth and Community Development identify funding priorities. Ms. O'Brien encouraged us to complete the survey to assist their board with identifying the needs of the district.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report for the month of September will be sent via email.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Alina Dowe, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams

Ms. Dowe informed us that Mayor Adams is working towards addressing the community issues that have been brought to his attention. Ms. Dowe also encouraged us to contact NYC 311 to report requests and complaints. If a request or complaint has not been addressed, she asked us to contact her with the service request number so she is able to follow up with the appropriate agency.

Nicol Aguila, representing New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Ms. Aguila announced that there's a back-to-school backpack giveaway on Saturday, September 17, 2022. She also informed us that Councilmember Feliz is working on a legislative package to strengthen fire safety inspired by the tragic Twin Parks fire in the Bronx. He is also working on addressing issues in the district regarding the quality of life.

Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Aquino Ramirez informed us that their office is assisting constituents with Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), Public Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),

or Medicaid applications. Their office also offers housing and legal assistance. Individuals who are interested in these services are encouraged to call their district office at (718) 933-2034 to schedule an appointment. Mr. Aquino Ramirez also informed us that Senator Rivera held numerous back-to-school backpack and supplies giveaways events throughout the summer. He also informed us that Governor Kathy Hochul signed into a lead poisoning prevention legislation.

Emmanuel Martinez, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Mr. Martinez informed us that Assemblymember Jackson is working on the State budget and is encouraging constituents to participate in the process by reaching out to her office with ideas on how the funds should be spent. He also informed us that their office provides housing assistance. Individuals who are interested in these services should contact their district office by telephone at (718) 538-3829. He also informed us that Assemblymember Jackson is organizing events to aid mental health awareness.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara informed us that Assemblymember Reyes has donated school supplies to students through the district for the school year. She is working with her colleagues and ConEdison to protect consumers from unexpectedly high energy bills. Ms. Vergara also gave endowment to Justice for Families, a program dedicated to ending mass incarceration, particularly that of youth and communities of black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Individuals are also encouraged to contact their district office by telephone at (718) 931-9620 to schedule an appointment for constituent services.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Evonne Capers' chairperson' report included the following information:

- Ms. Capers informed us that she has received two requests to amend the by-laws of Bronx Community Board 6. Both amendments will appear on the general board meeting agenda next month for a vote.
- Ms. Capers announced that Board is beginning the process of elections for Board Officers starting with the formation of a Nominating Committee. She has appointed Frank Franz, Lamont Parker, and Maria Latimer to the Nominating Committee. She asked Board Members who are interested in running for an executive role on our board to their name to the Nominating Committee by October 10.
- Ms. Capers also informed us that Dr. Matthew Martinez has taken a leave of absence.
- Ms. Capers also informed us that she in receipt of a complaint regarding a Bronx Community Board #6 Board Member's conduct, which requires the formation of a disciplinary committee. The committee will be chaired by Board Member Lamont Parker.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

Mr. Moure-Punnett's district manager's report included the following information:

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us about the meeting we has had with different community organizations and city agencies that has been helpful in understanding the assets in our community and that will lead to future collaboration with the Board.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed about the New York State Committee on Open Government on the Open Meetings Law.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also thanked the board members who have taken out the time to meet with him to discuss their priorities and goals for the Board.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also updated us on the restructuring of the Montefiore Family Health Center in Fordham Plaza.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that he has volunteered Bronx Community Board #6 to be part of the citywide Participatory Budgeting process, by which community residents will decide how \$5 million dollars in city operating funds are spent.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Evonne Capers informed us that there were no committee reports.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of eighteen (18) members.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 8, 2022 was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter of support to the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo for the development of the Gelada & Ibex Management and Breeding Complex was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the September 14, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

