



**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 Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilio, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Jorge Ortiz, Rosa Peraza, Helga Robles, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed, Noorjahan Wells, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Virginia Bird, Diana Diaz, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Matthew Martinez, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Reggie Powell, Rev. Hiram Ratliff, Paul Ramirez, Wendy Rodriguez, and Maria Ruiz Gutierrez.

Elected Officials Present:

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
New York City Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Surey Miranda, representing New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Nanette Alvarado and Romina Enea, representing New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres
Caitlyn Best, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Hennessy Reyes and Joanna Mendez, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Christian Decker, representing New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Glendalys Salgado, representing New York State Assemblywoman Karines Reyes
Wilfredo Mercado, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Terence Miller, representing the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Victor Martinez, representing New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The September 9, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 936 7837 4576 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j/93678374576> 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 Michael Nelson.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Nancy Stombaugh, representing Nora Feury Child Development Center of MMCC

Ms. Stombaugh announced that the Nora Feury Child Development Center of MMCC is currently open for enrollment. Their center is located at 887 Crotona Park North. There are a total of 15-20 children enrolled and their goal is to enroll 48 students. They serve children in the 10460, 10458, and 10457 zip codes. Their learning program will be conducted remotely for the majority of the school year. Nora Feury Child Development Center of MMCC has taken the necessary measures to comply with the executive orders that are in place by ensuring that class sizes are reduced and proper schedule rotation.

Ronald Bonet, representing Comunilife, Inc.

Mr. Bonet announced that Comunilife, Inc. is currently accepting applications for El Rio II Residence located at 2064 Boston Road. Their studio apartments are at \$909 per month. The income range to qualify is \$36,500 to \$47,760 for a single person household. To request an application, individuals can contact the El Rio II Residence Hotline at (646) 367-6567.

Dianne Hebbert, representing the Bronx River Art Center (BRAC)

Ms. Hebbert announced the registration for the fall classes at the Bronx River Art Center are now open with a reduced price of 20% off. Those individuals who registered before September 19, 2020 will receive an additional 10% off. Individuals can register through Eventbrite. She also announced that the Bronx River Art Center will be hosting a Faculty Art Fundraiser in an attempt to support more affordable fall programming. All of the artwork that is for sale will be under \$300. Lastly, the Bronx River Art Center is currently accepting applications for their Artist Studios Program until September 11, 2020.

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 Borough President Diaz Jr.'s report for the Community Boards for the month of September was emailed. If any individual would like to receive the report, they can email send her an email request at aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

- Ms. Ruiz also informed us that Community Board membership appointments will be occurring next month.
- Ms. Ruiz announced that the Borough President Diaz Jr.'s 2020 Census Battle of the Boroughs Phone Banking will be held on September 10, 2020 at 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM via Zoom.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Luis Sepulveda announced that he is still providing masks and hand sanitizers every day and community members can call the office if they are in need. His office is still working to fight against food insecurities in the community by working with FreshDirect, GrubHub, Baldore and Hunts Point. One development is providing meals every single night for the next eight months and if any other community member is interested in a project like this, then Senator Sepulveda encourages them to call the office. The office is open but constituents must make appointments. Senator Sepulveda also reminded everyone to fill out the 2020 Census and told the community that the immigration status doesn't matter. The community needs money for schools and hospitals. He also told the community that he learned that two teachers in Brooklyn tested positive for COVID. The elected officials are trying to create a safe environment in schools in the district. He also introduced his new Chief of Staff, Juana Mendez, and new Deputy Chief of Staff, Hennessy Reyes. Senator Sepulveda told the community to make sure to vote because it is an important election. Senator Sepulveda informed the community that his office will be touring all the schools in the district and will ensure that the school environments are safe for children and teachers. If anyone is concerned about the safety of a school, then they can contact the office and Senator Sepulveda's office will look into it. The office can be contacted via phone at 718-991-3161 or email team@senatorsepulveda.com.

Glendalys Salgado representing New York State Assemblywoman Karines Reyes

Ms. Glendalys Salgado informed the community that Assemblywoman Karines Reyes had an op ed regarding an emergency moratorium bill for residential and commercial renters to prevent eviction for a year after the state of emergency ends. She also announced that the office was able to do back to school giveaway with the 48th precinct, the Parks and Recreation Department, Councilman Rafael Salamanca and other sponsors. They provided Personal Protective equipment, food pantries, and clothing for children. Ms. Glendalys Salgado also informed the community that this would be her last day covering Bronx Community Board #6 General Board meeting calls because she will be going on maternity leave and she will be sharing details regarding who will be taking over temporarily.

Nick Peters, New York State Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Nick Peters announced that there are a lot of events that are being planned, however the details have not yet been finalized. Mr. Peters reminded community members to make sure to vote and fill out the census. Constituents can reach out to the office if they need help with anything. The office is physically open Monday to Thursday but they aren't accepting any Walk-Ins at the moment. On Fridays, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, the office is open remotely. For more information and weekly updates, individuals can follow Assemblyman Pichardo on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at vpichardo86 or

contact his district office at (718) 933-6909. He also informed the community that newsletters are sent via email. The community can also contact Nick Peters at petersng@nyassembly.gov if they have any questions for the office or need assistance.

Surey Miranda, representing the New York City Mayor de Blasio

Ms. Surey Miranda informed the community that there is going to be a testing site that will be open until September 15, 2020 at Clason Point Library. The site is near West Farms close to the Bronx River Houses. The office will have other testing sites throughout the Bronx. She also announced that the Mayor's office is trying to open a series of grants that are going to open in October to better understand community needs. Board Member Jorge Ortiz expressed concern about the Mayor's Department of Education plans. He is worried that there hasn't been much transparency and reports. He is disappointed with the lack of clarity and how the situation has been handled. Ms. Miranda will report back to the office and provide John with any documents that have been released regarding this matter. Board Member Lisa Diaz showed concern regarding the homeless population. Ms. Miranda informed her that the office is in the process of figuring out how to go about addressing the homelessness issue in a humane manner because they took the responsibility from the New York Police Department. She said that she will come back with a more concrete answer, but she knows that the office has also been working in partnership with the Department of Homeless Services. The Department of Homeless Services also has programs to help prevent homelessness. The office can be contacted at 212-788-1412 or 347-985-5692 or via email at smiranda@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Nanette Alvarado, representing Councilman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Nanette Alvarado announced that Councilman Ritchie Torres' office has been distributing food throughout the community in partnership with DPHN and Migrant Kitchen. The 30th event took place on September 11, 2020. About 75 to 125 people were fed at each event and about 3,500 families in total. The office worked with many of the board members to make this happen. The office also initiated multiple park cleanups including Claremont Consolidated. The next park cleanup will be at Bryant Park on East Fordham and Kingsbridge on September 11, 2020. Joyce Kilmer on 161st Street and Grand Concourse while working with Sped Cap. Ms. Alvarado asked the community to reach out to the office if food distribution or a park cleanup is needed. The office is currently working with Catholic charities and Emblem Health for a back to school event on 186th and St. Ann's Church from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM on September 18, 2020. The office is available from Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The office can be reached via phone or email. A community member was concerned regarding the noise violations. Ms. Alvarado suggested to call 311 with a 311 complaint number and then call the office with 311 number and the office usually reaches out to Neighborhood Coordinating Officers. There will be a food pantry event on September 11, 2020 at 1285 Washington Ave, where they will provide bags, masks and two prepared meals. Councilmember Ritchie Torres' office can be contacted via phone at (718) 842-8100 and via email at rtores@council.nyc.gov.

Councilwoman Vanessa L. Gibson

Councilwoman Vanessa informed community members that she testified at NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board of the Women's Caucus. She announced that there will be numerous events providing

face masks and hand sanitizer. She reminded the community to complete the Census and the deadline is on September 30, 2020. It can also be completed online at www.my2020census.com. The information that is collected for the Census would not be shared to any other government agency. The councilwoman emphasized that we need money and representation for our community. The lack of census response can lead to the loss of up to two representatives in Congress. The election is coming up and the councilwoman urged the community to register to vote or make sure that they are registered. There is absentee voting and early voting to make it easier to vote. Councilwoman Gibson informed the community that she attended the budget hearing and learned that in about a month the deficit increased from \$7 billion to \$9 billion. There is very little revenue and funding from the federal government. The budget is shifted from the police department to summer programs for the youth. There was a \$100 million cut to the Department of Sanitation and an \$ 84 million cut to the Parks and Recreation Department. \$115 million in summer programs was minimized from last year. The city is working to try to save jobs. The Mayor said that there would be about 22,000 layoffs of city workers, which means that layoffs start from the bottom consisting of low paid women of color. Councilwoman Gibson explained that she was working with unions and trying to get money from the federal government. She is requesting community members to provide statements or resolutions to support efforts in asking the federal government for funding. There were a lot of programs that had to be cut and due to lack of staffing, there were more park cleanup projects. The city council also passed a number of bills on police reform. She also announced that there is a lot of work around tracing and testing, school opening and ensuring every school has a school nurse. Her office is also doing restorative justice work with anti-gun violence advocates. There are pockets of violence in many parts of the Bronx and her office is looking into the root causes of why youth have been engaging in violence, which could be due to a myriad of reasons including, not enough employment, summer youth programs being cut, no safe space, and mental health issues. Health disparities is what took many Bronx lives. There were a lot of people who had underlying health conditions. Councilwoman Gibson stressed that we have to work together with other health organizations to fight the health disparities that we are still dealing with. The city is trying to open spaces and work with farmers' markets for healthier foods. She also announced that there will be a Job Fair on Tuesday, September 15th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM hosted by VIP Community Services at 1870 Crotona Avenue on 176th Street, Bronx, NY. For more information, community members can contact Carmen Rivera via phone at 718-466-8037.

Caitlyn Best, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Caitlyn Best announced that she is Senator Gustavo Rivera's Director of Community Affairs. She urged the public to fill out the census. She also encouraged community members to call the office if they need help filling out the office. The office can be reached at (718) 933-2034.

Christian Decker, representing New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake

Mr. Christian Decker informed the community that since March 17, in partnership with World Central Kitchen, the office provided one million meals for people in the Bronx. The food delivery program has been converted to product boxes in the middle of July and has been delivering to different organizations around the Bronx. Mr. Decker also encouraged people to sign on to GetFoodNYC via 311. He also announced that last Wednesday, in partnership with CEC 7, 8, 9, and 12, they held the first series of educational town halls and the goal is to gather concerns about back to school and create an open table to reimagine the education system. The office is still helping people with unemployment,

SNAP benefits and food insecurities. Mr. Decker also informed the community that they have until September 30, 2020 to complete the census, which is important for resource distribution. The census can be submitted by mail or online via my2020census.com or by phone. Mr. Decker encourages community members to call the office if they need help. The office will also be hosting a Know Your Rights training with Urban Justice talking about tenant rights when facing eviction. Mr. Decker will provide the flyer after the details are finalized. In addition, the office will be hosting an affordable housing education workshop with Nos Quedemos about what affordable housing is available, the process to apply and what documentation is needed. Once the details are finalized, Mr. Decker will provide further information. Mr. Christian Decker also informed the community that there are small business resources available like the New York Lawn Fund for those who didn't receive other loans like SBA, PPB or SBA EIDL loans. For more information regarding loan programs for small businesses, community members can call the office at (718) 538 - 3829 or email the office at help79bx@gmail.com. If constituents have housing issues, they can leave voicemails with their contact information and a staff member will call back.

Terence Miller, representing the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Mr. Terence Miller informed the community that the Public Advocate held a press conference on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 with community groups to respond to the incidents of gun violence that occurred over Labor Day weekend and address community- driven efforts to prevent violence. Called for delay in school reopening at the hearing of education city council. Delay until last week of October because of safety standards that haven't been met. Mr. Miller also informed community members that Public Advocate Jumaane Williams called for further delay of in-person school reopening at a hearing for the City Council Committee on Education. His own plan would delay in-person school reopening until at least October, based on the appropriate safety standards and allow for a phased reopening starting with elementary school students and older students may return in 2021. Legislation extending construction site safety training deadlines as a response to COVID-19 allowing more works to get potentially life-saving training initially enacted by Public Advocate Williams with Council Member Carlos Menchaca requiring a minimum number of hours of safety training has been passed extending the deadline to March 1, 2021. Mr. Terence Miller can be contacted via email at tmiller@advocate.nyc.gov.

Victor Martinez, representing New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Victor Martinez announced that Congressman Adriano Espaillat and the Comptroller sent a letter to the former Sanitation Commissioner, Garcia, and the DOHMH commissioner calling on the city to take immediate steps regarding overflowing trash and increase sightings along the commercial corridors. He also informed the community that there are new proposals relating to high school students going back to school. The comptroller is again calling on the city and philanthropic organizations to provide free citybike memberships and provide bikes to low income high school students to be able to go to school. He also announced that the office worked with constituents to return two million dollars from prevailing wages from the office. Victor Martinez, the Bronx Borough Liaison for NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, can be reached via email at vmartin@comptroller.nyc.gov or via phone at (64) 647-7491.

Wilfredo Mercado, representing the Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Wilfredo Mercado informed the community that Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark has been actively attending events addressing gun violence in our borough and she also partnered with multiple elected officials to address the issue. She is currently working on finalizing a resource fair within the confines of 48th precinct and once details are finalized, Mr. Wilfredo Mercado will provide further details. If any nonprofits or other organizations are interested in participating in this resource fair, then they should contact Wilfredo Mercado via email at mercadow@bronxda.nyc.gov or via phone at (929) 288 - 0110.

Reggie Powell, Bronx Community Board #6 Board Member

Mr. Reggie Powell informed the community that there were three senior housing centers, where the senior citizens have never been tested. On Friday, September 11, 2020 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Belmont Boulevard 2 located on Southern Boulevard and 185th Street and at Notre Dame on 183rd Street from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM, there will be testing available. The park between Bronx Park West and 176th Street was cleaned up after the storm with a group of people organized by Bronx Community Board #6. In addition, there was a house abandoned on 183rd Street and Prospect Avenue, where the garbage was piled up, Carla Leon contacted the Department of Sanitation and was able to get it cleaned up. Even before the Parks Department's budget was cut, Bronx Community Board 6 still weren't receiving the same services. Mr. Powell also wanted to add that the Neighborhood Community Officers haven't been responding.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be hosting a Resume and Interview Workshop in collaboration with Fordham University's Office of Career Services and the Manresa Scholars on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM via Zoom Audio and Audio Conferencing. Individuals who are interested in participating can register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org.**
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will continue to conduct their series of Civics and Organizing workshops throughout the fall via Zoom Video Conference and Facebook Live. Individuals who are interested in participating can register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org.**

VII. PRESENTATION

Maia Ceballos, representing SBH Health Systems

Ms. Ceballos informed us about the resources and programming that SBH Health System is offering. She announced that they are running a voter registration campaign to ensure that everyone has registered to vote by October 9, 2020. She also announced that the SBH Health and Wellness Center will be opening next month. They are going to be opening their Healthplex Fitness Center and

conducting cooking classes at their center to promote health and wellness through an eight week program for individuals ages 12 and older. SBH Health Systems also provides assistance with WIC. She also announced that SBH Farm Stand operates on Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at East 182nd Street and Third Avenue. Ms. Ceballos informed us that the next CAHA Meeting will be held on September 23, 2020 at 9:15 AM.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum with the presence of nineteen (19) members.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Evonne Capers announced that due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Bronx Community Board #6 did not hold committee meetings for the month of June. Therefore, there were no committee reports to report.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 10, 2020 was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, one opposed and zero abstaining.
2. A motion to reschedule Bronx Community Board #6's election of officers until in-person gathering is permitted was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, one opposed and one abstaining.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the September 9, 2020 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:08 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, second by Mr. Michael Nelson, and unanimously adopted by acclamation (nineteen 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 SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2020	BOARD OF OFFICERS	ADJOURMENT																
Clarita Bailon																				
Virginia Bird																				
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
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																
Matthew Martinez																				
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes																
Rev. Marilyn Oliver																				
Jorge Ortiz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Rosa Peraza	Present	No	No	Yes																
Reggie Powell																				
Paul Ramirez																				
Helga Robles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Rev. Hiram Ratliff																				
Wendy Rodriguez																				
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez																				
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Lillie Steed	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Noorjahan Wells	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes																