



**The City of New York**  
**Bronx Community Board Three**

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DIAL	Government Services
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Comm. Bd. Info go to: [nyc.gov/bronxcb3](http://nyc.gov/bronxcb3)

**HON. VANESSA GIBSON**  
**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

**GLORIA ALSTON**  
**CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS**

**REV. FREDERICK CRAWFORD**  
**ACTING CHAIR**

**VACANT**  
**DISTRICT MANAGER**

**BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 4/12/2022  
 Place: Remote Teleconference  
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present**

Kolaco Acqui  
 Gloria Alston  
 Joetta Brown  
 Dawn Carter  
 Gilberto Consantintinez  
 Rev. Frederick Crawford  
 Vladimir Cruz  
 Joshua Diaz  
 Wanda Ellis  
 Maurice Gray  
 Marilyn Johnson  
 Kathy Morris  
 Abraham Jones  
 Rita Jones  
 Victor Latimer  
 Una Lawrence  
 Tracie Lucas Lord  
 Gina L. Newton  
 Andy Perdomo  
 Amanda Reed  
 Alexis Salgado  
 Olympia Jay Striplin  
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas  
 Sarah Torres  
 Patrick Willis

**CM Althea Steven's Office**

Jahtah Brown

**Bronx Borough President's Office**

Thierno Bah

**Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter

**Members Excused**

Xiomara Arriola  
 Randy Dillard  
 Linda Kemp  
 Aubrey Mike  
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.  
 Keziah Sullivan

**Members Absent**

Aazam Otero  
 Wilson Ramirez

**SS Luis Sepulveda's Office**

SS Luis Sepulveda  
 Ritchard Ewing

**CM Rafael Salamanca's Office**

Shanna Knotts

**SS Gustavo Rivera's Office**

SS Gustavo Rivera  
 Tiara Davis

**AM Chantel Jackson's Office**

AM Chantel Jackson  
 Adrian Cacho

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Rev. Frederick Crawford 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Joetta Brown 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Keziah Sullivan Secretary	Kathy Johnson-Morris Treasurer	Rita Jones Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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## **Call To Order**

Rev. Frederick Crawford, acting chair of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

## **Invocation**

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

Rev. Frederick Crawford stated per the City Charter requirement Bronx Community Board Three will be hosting its Public Hearing on tonight. At this time Ms. Marilyn Johnson, board member will be keeping track of time.

Bronx Community Board Three has adhered to the requirement to post the "Public Hearing Notice" in a visible location for constituents to view, media outlets, CBO's, community stakeholders, were sent "notices" electronically and "notice" was uploaded on Bronx Community Board Three's Website, per the city charter, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting..

**Rev. Frederick Crawford stated that tonight's Public Hearing is for informational purposes only; allowing the community an opportunity to voice their concerns and questions.**

Ms. Etta Ritter, acting assistant district manager at Bronx Community Board Three, stated that Mr. Michael Sharp, representative from the NYC Department of Finance, was invited to tonight's PUBLIC HEARING to discuss the SCRIE/DRIE Program a rent freeze program. SRIE is for older adults 62 years+ with incomes that do not exceed \$50,000 and DRIE is for individuals who receive disability and are 18 years old or older.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Michael Sharp stated that the NYC Rent Freeze Program, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program, helps tenants who are eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. Under this program, a property tax credit covers the difference between the actual rent amount and what the tenant is responsible for paying at the frozen rent rate. The longer the tenant is in the program, the greater the benefit. If you enter the program today, continue to renew and meet all eligibility requirements, the current amount you pay for rent today could be the same in 20 years.

To qualify applicants have to be at least 62 years old, live in a rent stabilized or rent regulated apartment, their household income cannot exceed \$50,000 and the applicant has to be head of household.

Qualifications for DRIE varies as follows:

Applicant is at least 18 years old  
Applicant receives Disability benefits from the federal government  
Applicant live in Mitchell Lama Housing or in an HPD building

On the nyc.gov/finance website there is an eligibility tool, and it will take you through all of the questions you need to answer.

The Department of Finance recognizes that SCRIE and DRIE recipients may have difficulties renewing their enrollment in the Rent Freeze Program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While SCRIE/DRIE recipients should renew as soon as possible, please note that recipients have an automatic six-month grace period to renew.

Mr. Sharp noted that if applicants are still experiencing problems renewing due to COVID-19-related concerns after the expiration of the grace period, the DOF will consider this as a basis for granting you an additional six months to renew. There will be no disruption to your benefits during this time. However, please understand that renewal will ultimately be required, and that you should securely maintain all necessary documents for eventual submission. Mr. Sharp mentioned that he is also available to assist anyone have trouble renewing.

## **PUBLIC HEARING OPEN**

The floor was open to entertain comments, concerns or questions:

Marilyn Johnson asked a question  
Luis Cisneros asked a question  
Una Lawrence was unable to ask a question

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Rev. Frederick Crawford	Joetta Brown	Keziah Sullivan	Kathy Johnson-Morris	Rita Jones
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Secretary	Treasurer	Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Victor Latimer asked a question

Currently, there were no other comments or questions to entertain.

## PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

### CISCO WebEx Meeting Etiquette

Meeting etiquette as follows:

- Each speaker shall be limited to 2 minutes.
- Each representative from an elected official's office shall be limited to 2 minutes.
- Each elected official shall be limited to 3 minutes.
- Attendees were instructed to email fliers, announcements, or notification of program services to the attention of Etta Ritter at [eritter@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:eritter@cb.nyc.gov).
- Cross talk is not allowed during the meeting.
- The chat box is used for general questions, with respect to the items on the agenda.
- Do not use the chat box to convey your personal opinions.
- Rita Jones, Sgt.-at-arms/Parliamentarian, will intercede in instances where there is a departure from the meeting decorum, and if necessary, a stop clock will be used to manage the flow of the meeting.

### Community Concerns/Exchange of Information/Announcements

Rev. Crawford has suggested that all community concerns and announcements be forwarded to Ms. Etta Ritter at [eritter@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:eritter@cb.nyc.gov), prior to meeting. This will help to ensure a through and timely meeting. Rev. Crawford has also encouraged that all board members join a standing committee.

- Ms. Marjorie Sanchez, principal of PS 61 located at 1550 Crotona Park East, came before the board to request assistance with safety issues that are impacting their elementary school and middle school community as follows:
  - A request for a School Crossing Guard on Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East
  - A request for regular monitoring and policing on Crotona Park East between Charlotte Street and Suburban Place due to vehicle vandalism that are occurring regularly.
  - Requesting a speed reducer on Crotona Park East between Charlotte Street and Claremont Parkway
  - Requesting a speed camera on Crotona Park East between Suburban Place and Charlotte Street
  - Requesting Authorized Teacher Parking on Crotona Park East between Suburban Place and Charlotte Street, fronting the school.

Ms. Ritter stated that she is looking to schedule a meeting with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Community Affairs unit and the NCO's to discuss the school concerns in detail. Ms. Kathy Morris, Community Ambassador for NYPD, requested to be in attendance as well.

- Ms. Marisol Rivera, representative from SOS, stated that they will be launching the opening of the "Community Justice Center". Flyers will be forthcoming.
- Mr. Maurice Gray, board member stated that he was concerned with board members being affiliated with housing and development organizations that are requesting Community Board support for transitional housing. Mr. Gray stated that they should not be voting on said projects. Ms. Ritter informed the community at-large that board members are required to recuse themselves if they have any affiliations with any organization or entity that comes before the General Board requesting approval for a letter of support. Ms. Ritter noted that members are not allowed to partake in the discussion or the decision-making process when they associated with said development. It is also recorded in the minutes that the member has recused himself due to the affiliation. It was also noted that the BP's office will also contact the board to inform the board of a board members affiliation to an organization noted on the board member application when appointed.
- Mr. Paul Narvarro, board member stated that he was in receipt of an email he had requested for 1210 Simpson Street, St. Paul's Deliverance Church, a new construction of a church building and residential above. Mr. Narvarro noted that the email correspondence did not provide information on community residents who had been interviewed for employment purposes at this job site. Ms. Ritter informed the community at-large the developer had requested resumes and referrals to hire within the community and to date no one has provide a resume or interest to work on that job site. Ms. Ritter charged Paul Narvarro and Gilberto Constantinez with organizing a committee to be the "Watch Dog" over construction sites that agree to hire within the community.
- Ms. Jessie Kravet, Citywide Community Coordinator from the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, spoke on the NYC Family Justice Centers that are open and available to anyone who needs to receive free and confidential help for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Ms. Kravet was instructed to forward any flyers or correspondence to [eritter@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:eritter@cb.nyc.gov).

### Elected Officials' Reports

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## **SS Luis Sepulveda's Report – 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District**

State Senator Luis Sepulveda did not provide a written report. The SS mentioned the following updates:

- The State increased ERAP funding
- Buffalo Stadium \$1.2billion allocated
- Home Child Care Services was increased to \$7 billion
- Home Care Attendants will receive an increase in salaries, for all the work they have done before and during the pandemic they have been grossly underpaid for years.

Mr. Ritchard Ewing, Senior Community Liaison, from SS Luis Sepulveda's office provided this information in the chat:

- The Senate secured \$800 million in funds for the ERAP program to aid renters with arrears and extensive tax credits for homeowners.
- Through my Cities One Committee and working with Mayor Adams, the SS was able to increase the NYC Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as well as significant business and property tax credits for the promotion and expansion of child care in the Bronx and other underserved areas of the City.
- The State Senate approved a Gas Tax Holiday which will suspend some of the taxes the State levies on gas from June 1 through Dec. 31.
- The State Senator is proud to announce that two of my bills were included and approved in the budget. One will eliminate the parole supervision fees and the other will eliminate the fee to provide a birth certificate for incarcerated persons upon their release.

Senator Sepulveda's office is open for in-person services by appointment only. The staff is assisting constituents with a variety of issues including applications to the Homeowners Assistance Fund, unemployment benefits, landlord-tenant issues, among other things. Please contact the State Senator's office to request information on initiatives and resources at 718-991-3161 or email his office at [team@senatorsepulveda.com](mailto:team@senatorsepulveda.com). Follow the SS on all social media handles via @NYSenSepulveda to keep up to date with relevant information

## **CM Rafael Salamanca's Report- 17<sup>th</sup> Council District Report**

Ms. Shanna Knotts, deputy chief of staff from CM Rafael Salamanca's office did not provide a written report.

The CM office remains fully operational for all constituent services and anyone who is in need of assistance can reach out to our office between the hours of 9 and 5, Monday through Friday.

Ms. Knotts gave a brief update on the Street Co-naming coordinating package:.

As such the deadline to submit street co-naming requests is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2022. The CM requires the following documents when reviewing street co-naming requests:

- A formal letter acknowledging family and community support requesting the street co-naming
- An official biography
- A photo of the subject
- A support letter from the local community board
- Community Board minutes supporting the official street co-naming vote

Constituents can direct any questions or concerns pertaining to the protocol for street co-naming to Mr. Brian Hetey, legislative director for CM Rafael Salamanca can be reached by email at [BHetey@council.nyc.gov](mailto:BHetey@council.nyc.gov).

The CM's office offers free COVID testing on Thursdays from 8:00am to 7:00pm offering PCR and rapid testing. No. appointments or insurance is required.

### **How to connect with Team Salamanca**

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/CMSalamanca](https://www.facebook.com/CMSalamanca)
- Twitter: @CMSalamancaJr
- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr\_d17

Please contact the Councilmember's office, located at 1070 Southern Boulevard or via email at [Salamanca@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Salamanca@council.nyc.gov) or [Sknotts@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Sknotts@council.nyc.gov), and by phone at (917) 837-6226.

## **SS Gustavo Rivera Report – 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District**

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SS Gustavo Rivera did not provide a written report:

SS Gustavo Rivera's Office is available to assist with any government funded programs as follows:

1. ERAP Applications have reopened
2. HRA for a One-Shot Deal.
3. SCRIE/DRIE Rent Freeze
4. HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)

SS Gustavo Rivera gave a brief update on the budget passed:

Medicaid coverage eligibility was extended to new mothers for a full year

\$1.15 Billion in funding was allocated to safety, net and distress hospitals across the state.

\$208 Mil allocated for Opioid Settlement Fund

5.4 increase for cost of living adjustment for human service workers.

Please contact the State Senator's office to request information on initiatives and resources at 718-933-2034, or send an email to [tdavis@nysenate.gov](mailto:tdavis@nysenate.gov).

The SS closed by stating that "This was a very tough budget year and incredibly challenging budget process, and some of us barely held it together. But somehow, this amazing woman not only held it together but managed to do it with a kid up there and still looking frickin Fabulous."

#### **Assembly Member Chantel Jackson's Report -79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Assembly Member Chantel Jackson did not provide a written report.

\$1 mil was allocated to the Bronx Hip Hop Museum

COVID Testing kits are available at the Assembly Member's office

AM Jackson would like for anyone who has any budget requests, capital project request or legislative requests contact her office.

Assembly member Chantel Jackson's office is located at 780 Concourse Village West Ground FL, Professional Bronx NY 10451. Please contact the Assembly Members office to request information on initiatives and resources via email "constituent matters" at [help79districtbx@gmail.com](mailto:help79districtbx@gmail.com), or for "scheduling requests" email: [schedulingbx79@gmail.com](mailto:schedulingbx79@gmail.com).

#### **CM Althea Stevens Report – 16<sup>th</sup> Council District**

Mr. Jahtah Brown, Communications & Social Media Manager at CM Althea Stevens Office, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Brown stated that the CM's office is now open for physical services. The Advisory Council are as follows:

Seniors

Health & wellness

Multicultural

Housing

Youth Services

The Advisory Councils first meeting with the Youth Advisory Council is on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. If you know of anyone who may be interested in signing up for our advisory councils please follow this link and fill out this information. - <https://forms.gle/wzTWYqKHHdckvEblA>

Please contact the Councilmember's office at 718-588-7500, regarding initiatives and resources provided or send an email to [District16@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16@council.nyc.gov) or email Mr. Brown directly at [jbrown@council.nyc.gov](mailto:jbrown@council.nyc.gov).

#### **Darcel Clake – Office of the Bronx District Attorneys Report**

Mr. Carlos Torres, Crime Prevention Coordinator at the Bronx District Attorney Office, did not provide a written report. Mr. Torres spoke on various time-sensitive events. Mr. Torres can be reached at 929-303-6273 or by email [Torrescar@bronxda.nyc.gov](mailto:Torrescar@bronxda.nyc.gov)

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## **Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson - Bronx Borough President's Report**

Mr. Thierno Bah, representative from the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson office, stated that The Bronx Borough President's Report for the month of April was forwarded to those on Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. Mr. Bah noted that members who have decided to re-apply for reappointment are advised to continue to attend meetings. New applicants will be contacted in May regarding their status.

Please contact Mr. Thierno Bah to request information on the BP's initiatives and events via email at [tbah@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:tbah@bronxbp.nyc.gov).

## **Congressman Ritchie Torres Report – 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Mr. Ronn Jordan, Senior Constituent Services Liaison at Congressman Ritchie Torres Office, emailed the attached written report for the period covering March 9<sup>th</sup> up to and including April 12, 2022.

## **Roll Call**

Ms. Joetta Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll and a quorum was established.

## **Members Requesting to be Excused**

Xiomara Arriola  
Randy Dillard  
Linda Kemp  
Aubrey Mike  
Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.  
Keziah Sullivan

## **Motion**

**It was motioned by Gloria Alston and seconded by Rev. Frederick Crawford to excuse the following member(s):**

Xiomara Arriola  
Randy Dillard  
Linda Kemp  
Aubrey Mike  
Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.  
Keziah Sullivan

**All In Favor**

**Motion Carried**

## **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

It was motioned by Abraham Jones and seconded by Dawn Carter, to approve the March 8, 2022 General Board minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

**All In Favor**

**Motion Carried**

## **Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

## **Chairperson's Report**

## **Acting Assistant District Manager's Report**

Ms. Etta Ritter the acting assistant district manager provided the following report for the period of March 9<sup>th</sup> and including April 12, 2022, as follows:

- Mayor Eric Adams informed all city workers that Juneteenth is a federal holiday and a paid city holiday. All city employees will be provided a paid holiday on Monday, June 20.

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- At May's Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee meeting the committee will entertain a ULURP item for the Morrisania Open Door Project. Designation of a project as an Urban Development Action Area & approval of an Urban Renewal Action Area Project for a proposed co-op building to be located at 1312-1314 Chisholm Street, within Community District Three.
- Bronx Community Board Three has been notified that the Days Inn located at 997 Brook Avenue, has undergone a change of population from families to a 90-Bed Stabilization Beds Program. The service provider will be ACACIA. Bronx Community Board Three has requested that they come before the General Board in June.
- On Wednesday, March 23, 2022, a few members from the board along with myself toured the Safe Haven facility a harm reduction site, located at 1734 Webster Avenue, within Community District Three. Ms. Jolene Johnson, program director gave us a grand tour of the place and we were pleased with the dorm style rooms with 4 to 6 beds with personal lockers and spacious bathrooms with showers and they have a laundry room. They have a cafeteria that has dual purposes as well. At the time, they only had one person logged into the facility; however, that person had gone to the hospital and was not at the facility. We requested that they re-invite us when they have more clients.
- Bronx Community Board Three hosted its first Rat Academy on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, which was successful.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Search Committee**

Ms. Wanda Ellis stated that the Search Committee to hire a District Manager met for the first time on Friday, April 1, 2022, at 6:30pm. The members in attendance reviewed the job description and were assigned various roles. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. A message was received this afternoon that one of the members of the search committee recused themselves.

### **Nominations Committee**

Rev. Frederick Crawford informed the board members that Bronx Community Board Three will be holding its Elections for officers at the June 14<sup>th</sup> General Board meeting. At this time, Rev. Crawford appointed Ms. Wanda Ellis to be the chair of the Nominations Committee. Ms. Wanda Ellis accepted the position. Ms. Ellis will select two board members to work with during the Election process in June.

### **Sickness, Distress & Birthdays**

At this time, everyone born in the month of April was requested to raise their hands and be acknowledged. Everyone in attendance sang "Happy Birthday" to those born in April

### **Benediction**

Ms. Marilyn Johnson led us in prayer.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

If you wish to view the meeting in its entirety go to copy and paste into your browser: <https://youtu.be/vaWjYsxdUnE>

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