



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

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DIAL	Government Services
311	& Information for NYC

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**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**ETTA F. RITTER**  
**DISTRICT MANAGER**

**BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 1/23/2024  
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue  
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present**

Kolaco Acqui  
 Xiomara Arriola  
 Joetta Brown  
 Robert Brown  
 Dawn Carter  
 Vladimir Cruz  
 Joyce Diggs  
 Francis Dsouza  
 Aaron Dumfeh  
 Beverly Emers  
 Michele Gantt  
 Maurice Gray  
 Linda Johnson  
 Kathy Morris  
 Abraham Jones  
 Rita Jones  
 Linda Kemp  
 Victor Latimer  
 Una Lawrence  
 Tracie Lucas Lord  
 Christian Matthew  
 Aubrey Mike  
 Paul Navarro  
 Laredo Regular  
 Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
 Bryan Wigfall

**Mayor Office – CAU**

Leonardo Coello

**Bronx Borough President’s Office**

Kenny Agosto  
 Justin Cortes

**Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter  
 Courtland W. Hankins

**Members Excused**

Gloria Alston  
 Gilberto Constantinez  
 Rev. Frederick Crawford  
 Randy Dillard  
 Wanda Ellis  
 Andy Perdomo  
 Amanda Reed  
 Arona Testamark  
 D’Andra Van Heusen-Thomas  
 Patrick Willis

**Members Absent**

**CM Althea Stevens’ Office**

Chelby Ventura

**CM Rafael Salamanca’s Office**

Shanna Knotts

**CM Oswald Felix’s Office**

Juan Lopez

**SS Luis R. Sepulveda’s Office**

Elizabeth Marte

**Congressman Ritchie Torres’ Office**

Joanna Rivas

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Joetta Brown  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson

Kolaco Acqui  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
 Secretary

Kathy Morris  
 Treasurer

Rita Jones  
 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Joetta Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Rev. Frederick Crawford, chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, could not attend due to illness. Ms. Brown noted that no official business can take place until a quorum has been established.

Ms. Brown stated that this meeting is now open for informational purposes only.

## **INVOCATION**

Ms. Rita Jones led us in prayer.

## **MEETING ETIQUETTE**

Ms. Rita Jones, Sgt. at-Arms/Parliamentarian, reviewed the protocol and procedures for the General Board meeting. Board members are responsible as part of the body to conduct themselves respectfully and courteously.

- No member can speak until recognized by the chairperson.
- Speakers will be limited to 2 minutes.
- Reports from elected officials and agencies will be limited to 3 minutes.
- Public Hearings and presentations will be limited to 15-20 minutes. A stopwatch will be used to manage the flow of the meeting. When a speaker has 1 minute left, a bell will ring.
- Announcement and exchange of information will be entertained in the order it is on the agenda.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT**

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

Elizabeth Marte, Director of Community Affairs, provided a written report which was emailed to Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. The SS Luis Sepulveda's written report is as follows.

Dear Community Members,

Happy New Year! The legislative session has started in Albany. As we commence this legislative session, the district welfare and progress remain our guiding principles. My office is always open to your inquiries, concerns, or suggestions. I'm excited to share the latest updates on our endeavors to improve our district:

Electric Scooter Safety Initiative (Bill S5158): As part of adapting to changing urban transport needs, this bill focuses on enhancing safety and responsibility for electric scooter use in densely populated areas.

Child-Safe Cannabis Packaging Act (Bill S5981): Aiming to safeguard our children, this legislation mandates secure packaging for edible cannabis products to prevent accidental ingestion by minors.

NY Emergency Work Permit for Asylum Seekers Act (Bill S7657): This progressive bill is designed to legally empower asylum seekers with employment opportunities, thereby enriching our workforce and upholding human dignity.

Firearm and Ammunition Safety Tax Act (Bill S7733): In our ongoing effort to ensure community safety, this bill proposes a tax on firearms and ammunition, directing the revenue towards combating gun violence and enhancing school safety.

Familial DNA Search Prohibition Act (Bill S7734): Addressing privacy and civil rights, this legislation confronts the ethical concerns associated with using familial DNA in criminal investigations.

Banking Fairness Act (Bill S7742): This act seeks to reform banking laws, necessitating detailed reporting of overdraft and insufficient funds fees by financial institutions, and establishing new regulations for these fees to ensure transparency and fairness.

Our office continues to partner with NAICA and NYLAG to provide free legal services around eviction prevention, immigration, divorce, and other legal matters. They will start coming to our office again in February and we will keep you posted on the dates. Also, we are moving our district office to 975 Kelly Street in the upcoming months. I hope to have more updates about the specific date in the next meeting but wanted to give you all a heads up.

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### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

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Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
Secretary

Kathy Morris  
Treasurer

Rita Jones  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Thank you for your steadfast trust and support.

Warm regards, Senator Luis Sepúlveda

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

Ms. Shanna Knotts, Director of Constituent Services, , provided a written report which was emailed to Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. The CM Rafael Salamanca's written report is as follows.

#### **Legislation:**

Intro 198, Council Member Salamanca's legislation, requiring the Department of Education to stock opioid antagonists (aka, naloxone/narcan, etc.) in all school buildings with an assigned nurse, was unanimously adopted by the New York City Council. New York City will now be the largest school district in the nation to stock opioid antagonists as a result of this legislation, which was introduced by the Council Member in response to the startling numbers that show school-aged people are now using drugs at higher rates than ever seen in New York City and nationally.

Intro 1131, Council Member Salamanca's legislation that would expand enforcement capabilities to the Department of Sanitation in relation to unlicensed mobile car wash vendors, was unanimously adopted by the full City Council. Despite a licensing process for mobile car wash vendors, only 16 mobile car wash vendors have applied for and received a mobile car wash license to operate in the five boroughs.

Both bills are currently awaiting signature by Mayor Eric Adams.

Heading into the new Legislative Session, Council Member Salamanca will be re-introducing 33 bills from last year's session. Among them include:

Intro 892 -A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to a voluntary community gun buy-back program.

This bill would require the Police Department to establish a monthly gun buy-back program, where individuals may voluntarily and anonymously surrender to the department a working or non-working unloaded gun, or parts, in exchange for a sum of money to be determined by the department upon surrender. Individuals surrendering a gun would not be required to provide identification or any personally identifiable information and would not be subject to criminal or civil penalties for the illegal possession of such gun. The gun buy-back program would take place in a different borough at least once each month, on a rotating basis.

Intro 199 - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring letter grades for food service establishments operated in schools.

This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a letter grading system, similar to the one used for restaurants, for sanitary conditions of school cafeterias and kitchens. The Department of Education (DOE) would be required to post letter grades in a publicly visible location near the front entrances and cafeteria entrances of schools, and to post inspection results and letter grades of school cafeterias and kitchens on its website. DOE would also be required to inform parents and legal guardians of school children that such information is available on the website, and to inform parents and guardians of the school cafeteria's letter grade on no less than an annual basis and promptly inform parents and legal guardians whenever a letter grade of C or below is issued.

Intro 127 - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to posting signs notifying the public of bacteria discovered in water tanks.

This law would require building owners to post signs notifying the public of harmful bacteria discovered in water tanks.

#### **Office Operations**

Our office remains open and in full operation to offer a variety of constituent services. Those looking for assistance can give us a call, submit an email, or visit us in person at the district office.

We also have an immigration attorneys available to provide constituents with free consultation and application assistance. However, this service is offered by-appointment only. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact our office directly.

#### **Upcoming Events**

We are currently in the planning stages of our annual Black History month event for February, which will be held at the Bronx Zoo. Stay tuned for more details!

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Secretary

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Treasurer

Rita Jones  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

## How to connect with Team Salamanca

We strongly encourage interested parties to follow us on one of our social media platforms. This is to help individuals stay informed and up to date about legislation, upcoming events, and other pivotal information.

- Facebook: Facebook.com/CMSalamanca
- X (Twitter): @CMSalamancaJr
- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr\_d17

## CM Oswald Feliz's Report – 15<sup>th</sup> District

Juan Lopez, Community Affairs Liaison at CM Oswald Feliz's office, did not provide a written report. Mr. Lopez invited constituents to utilize the CM's office for issues surrounding housing, education, public benefits, & immigration. The Bronx district office is located at 573 E. Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458. You can contact the office directly at 718.842.8100. (flyer attached).

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

Chelby Ventura, Budget Coordinator at CM Althea Stevens' office, did not provide a written report. Ms. Ventura spoke on the following events and services that the district office is hosting:

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP** – Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:00 pm in partnership with CUNY School of Law. Constituents will learn about housing rights as a NYC resident.

**GET INVOLVED** "District 16 Advisory Boards" – A series of advisory board meetings aimed at addressing vital issues to help shape the future of the district.

**OATH@OFFICE** – On Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 10 am, the Office of Administrative Trails & Hearings will be at the CM's Bronx district office to answer questions about summonses.

**CUNY LAW CONSULTATIONS** – Free legal and confidential consultation services. Appointments are available for the first Tuesday of each month.

\*See attached flyers\*

## CM Pierina Sanchez – 14<sup>th</sup> District

Justin Sanchez, Chief of Staff for CM Pierina Sanchez, introduced himself to those in attendance.

## Mayor Adams' Report

Leonardo Coello, Bronx Borough Director, NYC Office of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, did not provide a written report. Mr. Coello reported on the following restored funding:

- The next class of 600 NYPD officers will be reinstated for training and graduation.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> firefighter will returned to 20 FDNY Engine Companies.
- The NYC Dept. of Youth & Community Development has increased the Summer Youth Employment Program's budget to ensure NYC teens have access to employment.
- Mayor Adams vetoed the **How Many Stops Act** that would require extraneous documentation for every stop, including minor ones considered Level 1 stops. Mayor Adams is asking for the community to support his veto.
- Gov. Hochul has proposed \$2.4 billion to help with the migrant crisis.
- Mayor Adams continues his fight for support from the Federal government to assist with the migrant crisis.

*Questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily.*

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

Mr. Kenneth Agosto, representing the Bronx Borough President's Office, did not provide a written report. Mr. Agosto requested that constituents contact him directly at 347.213.0375, regarding any community concerns.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT GIBSON AND BRONX LGBTQIA+ TASK FORCE TO HOST A GALENTINE'S DAY DANCE OUT BRONX MIXER** on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Suyo Gastro-Fusion, 1401 Plaza Drive, Bronx, NY.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT GIBSON LAUNCHES FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS** - Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson is organizing Fire Safety Workshops with the FDNY's Fire Safety Education Unit presenting to community boards, faith-based organizations, tenant associations, and other community-based organizations. The Bronx Borough President's Office commemorated the deadly 2022 Twin Parks fire with a wreath-laying ceremony at Bronx Borough Hall on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Fire Safety Workshop Program is an initiative to educate Bronx residents on fire safety to prevent future fire tragedies.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT GIBSON HOSTS LIVING WILL, TRUST & POWER OF ATTORNEY INFORMATION SESSION** on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at Bronx Borough Hall. Participants will learn about deeds, trust, wills, power of attorney, health proxies, beneficiaries, pre-end of life training, life insurance, and social security. Community based organizations will provide resources for caregivers as well. (flyer attached).

\*See attached flyers\*

## **Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report**

Joanna Rivas, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres's Office, did not provide a written report. The Bronx District office is located at 540 E. Fordham Rd., in The Bronx. Ms. Rivas can be reached at 718.503.9610. (flyer attached).

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Uniform Land-Use Review Process (U.L.U.R.P.) Applications # C240175 PQX & # C240174 HAX**

Ms. Ritter, District Manager of Community Board Three, stated that the Melrose Concourse project, was entertained at the Housing, Land-Use, & Economic Development Committee in October 2023. The committee members in attendance came to a consensus to recommend approval to the full board for the Melrose Concourse project. The Melrose Concourse project has two Uniform Land Use Review Process (U.L.U.R.P.) applications submitted by the NYC Dept of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) that require the following actions:

### **U.L.U.R.P. Application # C240175 PQX – MELROSE CONCOURSE**

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the acquisition of property located at 1169 Washington Avenue (Block 2389, p/o Lot 47) to facilitate the development of a building containing approximately 34 affordable housing units, Borough of the Bronx, Community District 3.

### **U.L.U.R.P. Application # C240174 HAX – MELROSE CONCOURSE**

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

1. Pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of New York State for:
  - a. The designation of properties located at 404 Claremont Parkway (Block 2896, Lot 96), 1169 Washington Avenue (Block 2389, Lot 47), and 12 Gouverneur Place (Block 2388, Lot 55) as an Urban Development Action Area; and
  - b. An Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and
    1. Pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the disposition of such property to a developer to be selected by HPD;

To facilitate the development of three buildings containing approximately 71 affordable housing units, Borough of the Bronx, Community District 3.

Board members were sent complete packets regarding these U.L.U.R.P. actions.

## **Public Hearing- OPEN**

Ms. Linda Kemp stated that she was unhappy with Wavecrest Management being the management company selected for the three (3) proposed properties. Ms. Kemp would like to know if community boards can play a role in the selection process of management companies overseeing properties within the community district.

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Mr. Francis D'Souza expressed his dislike regarding the building aesthetics.

**Public Hearing - Closed**

**MOTION**

It was motioned and seconded for the acquisition of 1169 Washington Avenue (Block 2389, p/o Lot 47) to facilitate the development of a building containing approximately 34 affordable housing units; the designation of property located at 404 Claremont Parkway (Block 2896, Lot 96), 1169 Washington Avenue (Block 2389, Lot 47), and 12 Gouverneur Place (Block 2388, Lot 55) for the disposition as an Urban Development Action Area; for designation of such property to Settlement Housing Fund.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
14	7	5

**MOTION CARRIED**

**City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment**

Ms. Ritter, informed the community at large that at the November Housing, Land-Use, & Economic Development Committee, the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment was entertained.

Board Members received a packet regarding the NYC DCP's goals for the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment.

**Zoning Text Amendment N240010ZRY and N240011ZRY**

The NYC Department of City Planning proposed citywide Zoning Text Amendment (N240010ZRY and N240011ZRY) for the “**City of Yes for Economic Opportunity.**” This text amendment would facilitate repurposing existing nonresidential space by providing businesses with additional zoning flexibility to locate and expand. The proposed zoning text amendment would apply to all 59 of the city's Community Districts.

**Public Hearing - Open**

Ms. Beverly Emers' expressed the need for healthy food options in Community District Three.

Mr. Francis D'Souza would like to see a “tiered” City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment proposal based on the individual needs of each district, in order to provide equity for districts across the board.

Mr. Paul Navarro stated his concerns about the type of housing being built, specifically pointing out that the district always seems to get low quality housing.

Ms. Linda Kemp stated that new commercial spaces should have businesses other than just “bodegas”.

Mr. Christian Matthew expressed the need for policies to help residents that live within the district to start local business.

The district manager requested that board members email their recommendations regarding City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment to be included in the comment section in the NYC Dept. of City Planning's Land-use portal.

**Public Hearing – Closed**

**MOTION**

It was motioned and seconded to approve the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment (N240010ZRY and N240011ZRY).

Yes	ABSTAIN	NO
19	1	1

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Community Concerns/Exchange of Information/Announcements**

Rev. Abraham Jones announced that the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) application is available and the deadline for submission is Friday, March 1, 2024. Mr. Jones informed the community that a SYEP informational session will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Claremont Center located at 489 E. 169<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10456. This information session is open to youth and young adults ages 14 -24 yrs. Old to answer questions and help participants complete the SYEP applications.

Ms. Marilyn Johnson, of Bronx Holistic Synergi Healing, spoke on the program services offered.(see attached flyer).

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Keziah Sullivan-Norman, secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll, and a quorum was established.

**MEMBERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

Gloria Alston  
Gilberto Constantinez  
Rev. Frederick Crawford  
Randy Dillard  
Wanda Ellis  
Anddy Perdomo  
Amanda Reed  
Arona Testamark  
D'Andre Van Heusen-Thomas

**MOTION**

**It was motioned by Rita Jones and seconded by Linda Kemp to excuse the following member(s):**

Gloria Alston  
Gilberto Constantinez  
Rev. Frederick Crawford  
Randy Dillard  
Wanda Ellis  
Anddy Perdomo  
Amanda Reed  
Arona Testamark  
D'Andre Van Heusen-Thomas

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING**

It was motioned by Rev. Abraham Jones and seconded by Kathy Morris, to approve the December 12, 2023, General Board minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

**AL IN FAVOR**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There was no amendment to the agenda.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no chairperson's report.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

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Ms. Ritter did not provide a written report.

- Ms. Ritter introduced Courtland Hankins as the new community coordinator for Bronx Community Board 3.
- Bronx Community Board 3 selection sheets were distributed to board members in attendance. Board members were instructed to select a committee(s) of their interest, that they would like to participate in. Ms. Ritter stated that board members who do not select a committee, a committee will be selected for them by the chairperson of the board.
- Ms. Ritter informed the community at large that monthly meetings were being held with Wavecrest Mgmt. officials to address residential issues at Boricua Village. Board members were instructed to provide other Wavecrest locations that are experiencing issues such as lack of proper security and safety, insufficient lighting, improper garbage disposal, or any other quality of life concerns.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SICKNESS, DISTRESS, & BIRTHDAYS**

Chairperson Emeritus Gloria Alston & Chairperson Rev. Frederick Crawford are both ill. Please keep them in prayer.

### **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Abraham Jones led us in prayer.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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