



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GLORIA ALSTON
CHAIRWOMAN

JOHN W. DUDLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 5/12/20
 Place: Remote Teleconference
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Jerry Aviles
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Vladimir Cruz
 Nelson Delerme
 Randy Dillard
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Victor Latimer
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Gina L. Newton
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Edna Quinones
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Keziah Sullivan

Bronx Borough President’s Office

Tom Lucania

SS Luis R. Sepulveda’s Office

SS Luis R. Sepulveda
 Krystle Cajas

Councilmember Vanessa Gibson’s Office

CM Vanessa L. Gibson

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Xiomara Arriola
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Wanda Ellis
 Abdul Johnson
 Rita Jones
 Una Lawrence
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 D’Andra Van Heusen
 Patrick Willis

Members Absent

Marilyn Johnson
 Aubrey Mike
 Olympia Jay Striplin

Assemblyman Michael Blake’s Office

Michael Blake

CM Rafael Salamanca’s Office

Shanna Knotts

SS Gustavo Rivera’s Office

SS Gustavo Rivera
 Latanya Christian

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera 1 st Vice-Chairperson	Linda Kemp 2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Joetta Brown Secretary	Kathy Johnson Morris Treasurer	Rita Jones Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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NYC Mayor's Office

Surey Miranda

Public Advocate's Office

Brian Polanco

Guests Names

All Other Guests Names on File

Call To Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 1st vice Chairperson at Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera led us in prayer.

Community Concerns/Exchange of Information

- Ms. Linda Kemp, board member and founder of **Bringing the Peace**, has partnered with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Bronx Community Board Three, in hosting a **COVID-19 Community Chat Let's Talk Real Talk** with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene representatives on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, via zoom. Ms. Kemp requested that community stakeholders join in on the conversation and hear the updates relating to the Coronavirus. There will be a Q & A portion and due to time constraints, unanswered questions can be addressed via email.
- Ms. Keziah Sullivan, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, stated that the South Bronx Emergency Network has been distributing personal protection equipment (PPE) to the community at-large.

Presenter

Maria E. Matos, Partnership Specialist-Bronx Area, NY Regional Census Center, U.S. Census Bureau

Topic: Discuss hosting a virtual teleconference for residents and various service providers throughout Community District Three and in partnership with Community Board Three, in an effort to encourage resident participation in completing the census survey

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 1st vice chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Ms. Maria E. Matos, partnership specialist-Bronx Area, NY Regional Census Center, U.S. Census Bureau, to those in attendance. Ms. Matos came before the community at large to inform them of the partnership between the US Census and Bronx Community Board Three to host a virtual teleconference for residents and community stakeholders to participate and complete the 2020 Census survey. Ms. Matos stated that it is extremely important that every household complete the census questionnaire because billions of dollars are at stake for our communities of color. Ms. Matos noted that anyone who is living in the US on April 1, 2020 is required to take the census questionnaire, regardless of race, immigration status, or gender. The Census statistics determines how much monies will be allocated to each state, county and borough. The 2020 Census can be completed online using the internet/mobile, by phone or by mail.

The 2020 Census has been extended until August 14, 2020, in order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau is seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts.

Ms. Matos and Bronx Community Board Three will be hosting a virtual teleconference meeting date to be determined in late May 2020. (see attached for further info regarding the US Census)

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Elected Officials Report

SS Luis Sepulveda's Report

State Senator Luis Sepulveda stated that testing sites at churches and at community based organizations, are now open for testing. The state senator's staff is available and can be reached at 718- 991-3161, to answer any questions regarding locating testing sites or Department of Labor issues or burial assistance.

- The Senator stated that the state is looking at \$100 billion for rental relief, utility assistance and \$500 million for supportive housing;
- NYPD School Safety Agents have been reassigned to assist with social distancing in parks.

Following is an update for the period covering April 15th through May 12, 2020:

- "The Office of Senator Sepúlveda has been working closely with food pantries, senior centers, NYCHA Tenant Associations, and other community organizations to reach families most in need across our district. We have been able to secure food and supply donations, PPE to frontline workers and vulnerable people in the community. We are also working with numerous community leaders to regularly provide fresh meals and food pantry supplies to seniors, shelters, and other families in need across the district.
- We have also been working hard on COVID-19 related legislation to address the hardships many are facing. We are proposing the Dignified Burial Act along with Assembly Member Catalina Cruz to ensure all families will have the financial assistance needed to bury their loved ones, regardless of immigration status.
- We also want to ensure that there is legislation put in place that can help prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases in New York, we are working with Assembly Member Rosenthal to end New York's live animal markets. and create a task force that will examine their safety and effect on public health. These markets are poorly regulated and pose a serious health risk to all New Yorkers as a potential site for a new virus outbreak.
- We have also been strongly advocating for the release of more eligible people from our New York State Correctional facilities. Prisons are a high-risk setting for a virus to spread, and it gravely puts incarcerated people and correctional staff in danger. I have introduced legislation with Assembly Member Weprin to authorize DOCCS to release incarcerated people during a public emergency such as this one.
- While our district remains closed, we continue to take hundreds of constituent cases remotely. If you have lost your job or are having trouble hearing back from the Department of Labor, please do hesitate to reach out to our office at 718-991-3161 or email us at team@sepulveda.com.

State Senator Sepulveda concluded by stating go out only when you absolutely have to.

CM Vanessa Gibson's Report

Council member Vanessa L. Gibson provided updates as follows:

- Team Gibson has been delivering food, face coverings, gloves and any other essentials to her constituents within the 16th District, daily.
- Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ie: cough or fever can make an appointment to get tested by calling Northwell Heath at 833-422-7369 or call 311 and speak with a representative about COVID testing sites and appointments.
- Food pantries are open from 10-6pm, call the CM's office at 718-588-7500
- NYC has a \$6.4B deficit in lost income and sales taxes. A PEG (Program to Eliminate the Gap) has been issued that requires city agencies to cut spending due to COVID-19.
- Major cuts to DYCD and DFTA services will be begin this fiscal year and carry into fiscal year 2021.

CM Gibson noted that the Executive Budget for FY'2021 is addressing the serious revenue shortfalls, prioritizing protecting health, safety, shelter and access to food for all New Yorkers. CM Vanessa Gibson stated this is the time to hold on to your faith because this too shall pass.

Questions were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

Roll Call

Ms. Joetta Brown, secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll and a quorum was established.

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Members Requesting to be Excused

Xiomara Arriola
Rev. Frederick Crawford
Wanda Ellis
Abdul Johnson
Rita Jones
Una Lawrence
Wilbert Tee Lawton
D'Andra Van Heusen
Patrick Willis

Approval of Members Requesting to be Excused

Motion

It was moved by Joetta Brown and seconded by Anddy Perdomo, to excuse the following member(s):

Xiomara Arriola
Rev. Frederick Crawford
Wanda Ellis
Abdul Johnson
Rita Jones
Una Lawrence
Wilbert Tee Lawton
D'Andra Van Heusen
Patrick Willis

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was motioned by Joetta Brown and seconded by Rita Jones, to approve the April 14, 2020 General Board Minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Amendments to the Agenda

Currently, there were no amendments to the agenda.

Assemblymember Michael A. Blake's Report

Assembly member Michael A. Blake stated that "we will get through this". Team Blake's staff is on a rotating schedule and can be reached at 718-538-3829, to address questions and concerns relating to but not limited to food insecurities, COVID-19 testing sites, and 2020 Census.

The **Bronx Community Relief Effort's** aim is to raise \$10m to support effective on the ground operations that are focused on meeting the most essential needs of the Bronx communities during COVID-19. To learn more about the Bronx Community Relief Effort, go to thebronx.org, where you can also give a donation. The donations received will address, food insecurities, small business relief, distribution of microgrants, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), distribution of nonprofit economic relief grants to not for profits, connectivity and technology gaps, equity & justice and housing stability.

World Kitchen has been a great contributor to the residents within Community District Three in providing hot and cold meals to more than 61 sites. The Bronx Draft House and the Bistro are providing meals to community residents as well.

Assemblyman Blake also noted that the June election will allow for everyone to vote in NYC by **absentee ballot**. Assemblyman Blake stated that one should contact his office, at 718-538-3829 if further information is needed, or if you have concerns. Assemblymember Michael Blake thanked everyone for their leadership.

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Attached is a report for the period covering April 15th through May 12, 2020.

Bronx Borough President's Report

Mr. Tom Lucania, representative from the Office of the Bronx Borough President's Office Ruben Diaz, Jr., forwarded the Borough President's Report via email. Ms. Ritter e-blasted the report to those on Bronx Community Board Three's list serve. Mr. Lucania thanked the board members for attending the meeting this evening.

The Borough President has been distributing food and masks to residents of the Bronx. Please check the Bronx Borough President's website for all updates daily.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report

Ms. Shanna Knotts, Deputy Chief of Staff from Council Member Rafael Salamanca's Office, stated that all staff are working remotely. They have been having technical difficulties with the call forwarding, so for inquiries or general information you can reach Ms. Knotts at (917) 837-6226. Team Salamanca is following the standard Mon – Fri schedule, during this pandemic; however, issues of importance after hours or on the weekends can be addressed by Ms. Knotts. Feel free to contact her or the CM via email at sknotts@council.nyc.gov or to salamanca@council.nyc.gov.

Following is an update for the period covering April 15th through May 12, 2020:

- Team Salamanca has been conducting weekly check-ins, follow-ups with local Community Boards, Precinct Councils, and Tenant Association Leaders. This allows us to directly address community concerns and constituent related issues, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- The USPS was recently contacted, with an inquiry relating to the implementation of early business hours for seniors at the branch located on Southern Blvd. These long lines are a huge inconvenience for the elderly, especially those who have severe ailments, and mobility issues. Unfortunately, the USPS cannot accommodate this request at this time, due to COVID-impacted staffing. However, they will explore options, and should they go that route they will let local officials know.
- Food distribution has been done across the district within the past few weeks. We have partnered with various vendors including Fresh Direct and D'Arrigo to provide fresh produce, and non-perishable items. Other elected have joined in the distribution process, as we also handed out facemask along with hand sanitizers. Approximately 3,000 families have been fed during this process, and that is to be continued.
- COVID-19 related updates, and resources are shared via email, and social media. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Ms. Knotts wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

SS Gustavo Rivera's Report

SS Gustavo Rivera stated that was great to see everyone well. The State Senator informed all attendees that his office was open Monday through Friday and if they need assistance to call his office at 718-993-2034.

- The State Senator requested that if anyone knows of a store that is price gouging to contact his office and provide the location of the store in question.
- A moratorium on evictions based on nonpayment of rent for all tenants is in place for 90 days. Tenants who are harassed by their landlord and are threatened to be evicted after COVID-10, are encouraged to contact the State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office, asap.
- The federal government needs to step up...the state needs to go back and tax the millionaires and billionaires for more revenue.
- NY HEALTH ACT – Universal Health Care regardless of your status.
- The NYC DOHMH is currently investigating cases of Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome, or PMIS, a new health condition appearing in children. PMIS is not contagious, however, it is life-threatening.

The State Senator wished everyone health and prayers during this pandemic.

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Questions and concerns were entertained, not limited to the following:

- A request was made for an update on what plans are in place to address the correctional facilities in releasing inmates due to COVID-19. What are our elected officials doing to address this concern on how COVID-19 can spread in this environment?
- What provisions are being made for small and medium size landlords relating to rent assistance? The SS stated that unfortunately small and medium size landlord actions will have to be taken up with the City for assistance.
- Will NYPD enforce sensitivity training in black and brown communities relating to PPE?
- **It was noted that “Social Distancing Order”** will be enforced by School Safety Agents in parks and other public places. Anti-gun violence organizations will also be contacted to assist in enforcing the social distancing order.
- It was suggested that homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage, should contact their mortgage companies and request that their payments be put on the back end of their loans. It was also noted that they should also try to pay the interest
- Board members thanked CM Vanessa Gibson for all her efforts on the ground during this pandemic.
- Concern was raised regarding individuals who require training to deal with people regarding social distancing, due to their job responsibilities. It was suggested to engage other agencies who may be in the position to become more effective to assist with social distancing order.
- Claremont Neighborhood Center, Inc. located at 489 East 169th Street, has been identified to be an early voting site. This center has multiple entrances and exits.

Mayor’s Office

Ms. Surey Miranda, representative from the Mayor’s Office, provides a daily report from Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Office, which is forwarded to those on Bronx Community Board Three’s list serve. Ms. Miranda has been working closing with Bronx Community Board Three, in providing face masks for distribution.

Ms. Surey Miranda noted that all NYPD personnel have been mandated to wear face masks. Through this pandemic, employment opportunities are available. Please check the nyc.gov website for further information. Ms. Surey Miranda can be reached at 347-985-5692.

Bronx Public Advocate

Mr. Brian Polanco representative from the Public Advocates Office, stated that he is the Bronx representative and he can be reached at 212-669-7250 or by email at bpc@advocate.nyc.gov, to address any questions or concerns.

Mr. Polanco noted that the Public Advocate is addressing concerns relating to privacy due to “**tracing concerns**”.

NYC Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Khadim Niang, representative from the Office of NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, provided a report for the period covering April 12th through May 12, 2020 as follows:

Online Resource Guide: COVID-19 Resource Center

The Comptroller’s Office COVID-19 Resource Center, which includes a comprehensive set of resources to support New Yorkers through this public health crisis. The guide provides information for different groups of New Yorkers such as homeowners, freelancers, senior citizens, tenants and small business owners- it will be updated regularly. <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/covid-19-resource-center/english/overview/>

New York City’s Frontline Worker Report

This report, provides a detailed demographic profile of these non-governmental workers—and the public employees who get them to work—so that the City, State, and Feds can better address their needs and citizens can better appreciate the struggles confronted by those who toil every day on the frontlines of this pandemic—who they are, where they live, where they’re from, how they get to work, their childcare and healthcare needs, and their financial stresses. To that end, the following serves as both a profile and a guide.

MWBE Bi-Weekly Webinars

Our office has Biweekly webinar sessions aimed to help small business and minority and women business owners navigate available resources and gain access to opportunities.

Comptroller Stringer Pens Open Letter to Small Businesses Amid COVID-19 Pandemic: What Small Businesses Need Now From Our Government: Recommendations

- Suspend all collections of outstanding small business fines for six months;
- Automatically renew all licenses and permits (liquor licenses, sidewalk café licenses, Health department permits, etc.) without payment of fees, for the next 3 months;
- Suspend payment of the Commercial Rent Tax for 2 months for ground-floor retail businesses with demonstrated business losses;

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- Expand the New York City Department of Small Business Service’s (SBS) no-interest loan program to include any business of up to 100 employees that has experienced a significant quarterly decline in revenue, and increase the maximum loan amount to \$150,000;
- Enact immediate legislation capping delivery platform fees at 10 percent. Deferring fees, as GrubHub and others are doing, is simply not good enough, and is taking advantage of businesses that are already struggling to just survive;
- And in addition, New York State should consider a limited sales taxes holiday for all restaurants, hotels, and street-level retail stores.

Chairperson’s Report

At this time, Chairwoman Gloria Alston requested that a motion be made to approve expenditures in accordance with the FY’2020 NYC Council discretionary funding: Digital Awning, Carpeting, Office Furniture/Equipment, Computer Consultant, etc. with a value which may exceed \$10,000.

Motion

It was motioned by Linda Kemp and seconded by Anddy Perdomo to approve expenditures in accordance with the FY’2020 NYC Council discretionary funding: Digital Awning, Carpeting, Office Furniture/Equipment, Computer Consultant, etc. with a value which may exceed \$10,000.

YES	NO
21	0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Chairwoman Gloria Alston requested that a motion be made to postpone the June 2020 Election of Executive Officers to September 2020, due to COVID-19.

Motion

It was motioned by Rev. Idus Nunn and seconded by Min. Abraham Jones, to postpone the June 2020 Election of Executive Officers to September 2020, due to COVID-19

YES	NO
20	1

Motion Carried

District Manager’s Report

District Manager John W. Dudley provided the following points of information:

- Bronx Care is on lock down and that 12 to 15% of the 23,000 Bronx cases impact zip 10456, 10459 and 10460.
- Thanked all the elected officials for their commitment to provide PPE to the residents of Community District Three and a “special kudos” to Suresh Miranda for the protected masks.

The district manager requested that all the Elected Officials send their written report to eritter@cb.nyc.gov to be included in Bronx Community Board Three’s minutes for May 2020.

Benediction

Rev. Idus A. Nunn led us in prayer led us in prayer.

Adjournment

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

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