



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

RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

REV. DR. BRUCE RIVERA
CHAIR

JOHN W. DUDLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 10/13/2020
 Place: Remote Teleconference
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Joyce Almeida
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Vladimir Cruz
 Randy Dillard
 Wanda Ellis
 Maurice Gray
 Marilyn Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Rita Jones
 Una Lawrence
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Gina L. Newton
 Paul Navarro
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 Keziah Sullivan
 Patrick Willis

Bronx Borough President's Office

Tom Lucania

CM Rafael Salamanca's Office

Rafael Salamanca

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Linda Kemp

Members Absent

Jerry Aviles
 Nelson Delerme
 Abdul Johnson
 Victor Latimer
 Aubrey Mike
 Wilson Ramirez
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas

CM Vanessa Gibson's Office

CM Vanessa L. Gibson
 Michael Ivory

Assemblyman Michael Blake's Office

Matt Makishima

SS Luis R. Sepulveda's Office

SS Luis R. Sepulveda

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Dr. Frederick Crawford 1 st Vice-Chairperson	Joetta Brown 2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Keziah Sullivan Secretary	Kathy Johnson Morris Treasurer	Rita Jones Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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DA Darcel Clark Office

Robert Barnes

Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams Office

Brian Polanco

NYC Commission on Human Rights

Belinda Simmons

Call To Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera , chair of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Invocation

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

Elected Officials' Reports

CM Vanessa Gibson's Report – 16th Council District

CM Vanessa L.Gibson from the 16th Council District, was in attendance. CM Gibson noted that her office is continuing all efforts to provide PPE to the residents of the Bronx, along with regular distribution of her newsletter and time sensitive events that she hosts. CM Gibson did not provide a written report, at this time. Please contact the Councilmember's office to request information on initiatives and resources she is hosting at 718-588-7500.

SS Luis Sepulveda's Report – 32nd Senate District

State Senator Luis Sepulveda from the 32nd Senate District, stated these are trying times we are in now. SS Sepulveda stated that he and his staff are still providing PPE to the residents of the 32nd Senate District. SS Sepulveda did not provide a written report, at this time. Please contact the State Senator's office to request information on initiatives and resources at 718-991-3161.

Assemblyman Michael Blake's Report – 79th Assembly District

Mr. Matt Makishima, representative from Assemblyman Michael Blake's office, provided a report for the period covering September 9th through October 13, 2020, as follows:

Food Assistance

1. Since March 17th in partnership with World Central Kitchen, we have provided over 1,000,000 meals to residents in the Bronx. In the middle of July, our food delivery program transitioned to fruit and vegetable boxes, and these are currently being delivered weekly to various organizations and individuals. We encourage individuals who need food assistance, to sign up for GetFoodNYC via the online portal or by calling 311.
2. Our office is helping constituents with food insecurity and benefits issues such as unemployment and SNAP. Please feel free to reach out to us at 718-538-3829, if you have questions or need any assistance in this area.

Education - Back To School

1. All NYC public school students are now in OTDA's P-EBT system. Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits. All Wave 1 and Wave 2 benefits have been distributed to existing EBT (for SNAP and public assistance) and CBIC (for Medicaid) cards. All Wave 3 cards for NYC public school students, have been printed; many have been mailed, and the rest should be sent out in the next upcoming weeks.
2. **If you are having issues with an existing card, or if you do not receive a new card within the next few days, please call the helpline at 1-833-452-0096. If your child does not appear in the P-EBT system when you call the hotline, email info@foodadvocates.org.**
3. P-EBT cards can be used at any store that accepts SNAP/EBT, like a local supermarket, farmers' market or bodega! Just swipe/insert the card at the register, add your PIN and you're good to go. This use of this card does not affect taxes nor does it affect immigration status.
4. Amount per child per amount for these EBT Case. Undocumented parents. Medicaid card does your child have Medicaid card.

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CENSUS

1. We encourage everyone to fill out the Census as soon as possible, within the limitations set by the recent Supreme Court decision around the Census date. Census results are used to allocate billions of dollars in funding for schools, daycare centers, hospitals, senior centers, roads and other vital community programs and services. You can submit your response by mail, online at my2020census.gov or via phone. If you need assistance or have any questions, call 718-538-3829.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PARTNERSHIP

1. We will be hosting a Know Your Rights training session in partnership with the Urban Justice Center, where we are going to be talking about tenants rights in areas regarding eviction, maintenance repairs and succession rights. More details to come and we will make sure to send out the flyer.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

1. Affordable house education series in partnership with Nos Quedamos will be held to discuss affordable housing options, the process to apply for affordable housing, what types of documentation are needed and more. Dates and details are being finalized.
 - a. Tentative:
 - i. 10/22 -- Module 1: Housing Connect 2.0 and the Lottery Process
 - ii. 11/05 -- Module 2: Market-Rate Housing Search and
 - iii. 11/19 -- Module 3: Specialized Housing - Senior and Supportive Housing / Tier II Housing

SMALL BUSINESS

1. Small business resources are available including the NY Loan fund, for people who didn't get **SBA PPP loans or SBA EIDL loans**. You can pre apply at www.nyloanfund.com **Micro Loan Program**, to help NYC businesses with post COVID-19 reopening needs. These loans are eligible for the CARES Act payment forgiveness plan:
 - Loan amounts up to \$50,000.
 - A low 3% interest rate.
 - Repayment terms up to 3 years.
 - All fees waived.
 - Loan repayment forgiveness for 6 months as per the CARES Act payment forgiveness plan

For questions on eligibility and requirements, please contact Tshering Gurung at tgurung@nybcna.org or 347-730-6468.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

1. **The extension has been increased to 26 weeks.**
2. If you are in need of assistance with your unemployment insurance claim. Please email your inquiry to cabrerak@nyassembly.gov and include your full name, SSN, address, phone number, and description of the issue. Or call at 718-538-3829. An elected officials inquiry will be submitted to the department of labor.

How and Where to Register to Vote

- You can register in person at your county board of elections or at any New York State Agency-Based voter registration center.
- You may also submit your voter registration form at the Department of Motor Vehicles, either in person or on their web site, if you already have a DMV-issued identification.
- You can request a New York State Voter Registration form by mail by entering your name directly into our mailing list database.
- You can call our 1-800-FOR-VOTE hotline, to request a voter registration.

New York State Voter Registration Form

- You may register to vote using the New York State Voter Registration Form accessible at the links below. You can complete a PDF version of the New York State Voter Registration Form on-line by clicking on the link below, typing the necessary information and selecting the appropriate boxes. Alternatively, you can print the form to complete by hand.

Voter Registration Deadline

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- Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 9, 2020** and received by the board of elections **no later than October 14, 2020** to be eligible to vote in the General Election.
- For more information on the deadlines, you can visit this webpage: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html>

To learn more on voter registration, please visit the Board of Elections webpage at <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html>

HOW TO SECURE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

To learn more about how to apply for an absentee ballot, please visit: <https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov>

For more information on voter registration deadlines, please visit: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html#AbsenteeDeadlines>

For more information on Voting Absentee please visit: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>

You may apply for an absentee ballot in any of the following ways:

- Electronically through our Absentee Ballot Application Portal:
- Electronic Absentee Ballot Application Portal >
- By sending an email request to your local county board of elections
- By telephoning a request to your local county board of elections
- By sending a fax request to your local county board of elections
- By going in-person to your local county board of elections
- By mailing a paper application to your local county board of elections.

Absentee Voting

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Early Voting Period is October 24, 2020 - November 1, 2020

Qualifications to Vote by Absentee Ballot (Deadlines)

- MAIL REGISTRATION (N.Y. Election Law Section 5-210(3))

Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 9, 2020** and received by a board of elections no later than **October 14, 2020** to be eligible to vote in the General Election.

If you have any questions at all regarding the above information, or any other concern, please feel free to contact our office at 718-538-3829, or email us at help79districtbx@gmail.com.

Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams Report

Mr. Brian Polanco, representative from the Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams' office, provided the following written report for the period covering September 9, 2020 through October 13, 2020, as follows:

The Public Advocate for the City of New York is a citywide elected official who serves as a direct link between the electorate and city government, effectively acting as an ombudsman for New Yorkers. The Office of the Public Advocate provides oversight of city agencies, investigating citizens' complaints about city services and makes legislative or policy proposals to address the perceived shortcomings of those services. The Office of the Public Advocate believes that all New Yorkers deserve a government that is equitable, efficient, and accountable.

Feel free to visit our website for more information or to submit inquiries at advocate.nyc.gov.

You may also call our hotline at 212-669-7250 or email gethelp@advocate.nyc.gov for assistance.

To contact Brian Polanco, send an email to bpolanco@advocate.nyc.gov

Legislative updates:

Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams introduced a legislative package aimed at supporting small businesses in New York City struggling amid the COVID-19 pandemic as well as essential workers on the frontlines. The legislation comes as New York City has implemented new restrictions in hotspot areas seeing COVID-19 spikes and the city faces the potential of a second wave of the virus.

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The first bill, [Intro 2125](#), would require the city to create guidelines for a safe reopening of New York City businesses to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while allowing those businesses to operate and recover amid the economic crisis. Those guidelines would be constructed around federal, state, and local laws around reopening, as well as best practices for public health. Council Members Fernando Cabrera, Carlina Rivera, and Costa Constantindes co-sponsor the legislation.

Clear directions are essential as businesses attempt to reopen while preventing further spread or spikes in the number of positive cases which could trigger renewed lockdowns and closure. This need was made even more urgent as hotspots in Brooklyn and Queens led to greater closures of and restrictions on businesses within these areas.

The second [bill](#) would require the Department of Small Business Services to report on the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses. While it is broadly clear that there has been an extraordinarily devastating impact on small businesses in New York City over the last seven months, providing aid in a targeted and effective way requires specific information on the impact of the pandemic. Under this legislation, co-sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Gibson, the Department of Small Business would collect and report data on the amount of revenue lost from the virus, any jobs or positions eliminated, and permanent closures relative to business size, location, and type. Data would be collected via a broad survey effort.

[Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams introduced legislation as part of the Worst Landlord Accountability Act, to combat the practices of some of the worst landlords in New York City and support tenants in need of relief and repairs. Each year, the Public Advocate's office releases the Worst Landlord Watchlist, which spotlights the top 100 most egregiously negligent landlords in New York City as determined by widespread and repeated violations in buildings on the list. These bills, drafted in response to the current Watchlist, are aimed at correcting and preventing disingenuous tactics used by some of those landlords in order to attempt to remove themselves from the list.](#)

"In putting together the Worst Landlord Watchlist, we found far too many instances of landlords failing to live up to their most basic responsibilities of being a steward for the housing of renters who call New York home," said the Public Advocate in introducing the Worst Landlord Accountability Act.

"In case after case, violation after unchecked violation, bad actors demonstrated an inability or an unwillingness to live up to their end of the bargain - and it's past time to put in place meaningful reforms to not just call out these actions, but to put a stop to them. This legislation is about preventing landlords from evading accountability and protecting their tenants from conditions which are physically unsafe or otherwise insecure."

Within the current system, landlords are often able to self-certify their own repairs without city verification. Today the Public Advocate introduced legislation, [Intro 2121](#), which would require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to maintain a certification of correction list and prohibit any listed landlord from certifying correction of violations in multiple dwellings without an inspection. This would prevent landlords already identified as bad actors from falsely claiming repairs have been made.

The bill would also increase penalties for failure to correctly certify. A landlord who fails to file a statement of registration or an amendment of a statement of registration will have to pay a fine of anywhere between \$500 and \$1,000. Anyone willfully making a false certification of correction of a violation will have to pay between \$500 and \$2,500 for each violation falsely certified, as well as to any other penalties required. Additionally, penalties would increase for hazardous violation of housing standards based on severity.

The Public Advocate also introduced legislation which would mandate more urgent action to respond to housing violations deemed immediately hazardous. [Intro 2122](#) would require the city's department of Housing Preservation and Development to communicate with a complainant reporting Class C violations within 12 hours, and perform an inspection, if warranted, within 24 hours. HPD would also have to communicate regarding Class B violations within 24 hours, and perform an inspection within 48 hours. No violation can be closed until it has been certified to be corrected to the satisfaction of HPD.

Events:

10/21/2020

A call for Change: Inspiring the next generation of Voters

A fireside chat with youth leaders to discuss the importance of voting and the impact of civic engagement in creating change for our city, state, and country.

Link to register for that event is here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-call-for-change-inspiring-the-next-generation-of-voters-tickets-125540498009>

Stay safe, stay healthy and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at bpolanco@advocate.nyc.gov.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report- 17th Council District

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca from the 17th Council District, was in attendance. CM Salamanca welcomed the new board members and advised them that their attendance at meetings is important, and that quorums are necessary for the board to conduct official business. He noted that board members who do not adhere to the attendance policy, will not be reappointed.

Feel free to contact CM Rafael Salamanca if you have a concern or issue, at 718-402-6130.

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Roll Call

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

Members Requesting to be Excused

Gloria Alston
Xiomara Arriola
Wilbert Tee Lawton
Linda Kemp

Motion

It was motioned and seconded, to excuse the following member(s):

Gloria Alston
Xiomara Arriola
Wilbert Tee Lawton
Linda Kemp

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was motioned by Keziah Sullivan and seconded by Kathy Johnson Morris, to approve the September 13 , 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.

Bronx Borough President’s Report

Mr. Tom Lucania, representative from the Bronx Borough President’s Office, provided a written newsletter which was emailed to those on Bronx Community Board Three’s list serve. Mr. Lucania stated that new members should be anticipating receiving correspondence from the Bronx Borough President’s Office relating to New Member Introduction/Orientation in early November 2020. This Orientation will be conducted virtually. He also noted that to date, the Supreme Court granted the Trump administration’s request to halt the census count while an appeal plays out in a lower court.

Attorney General Letitia James Report

Ms. Adrienne Felton, representative from Attorney General Letitia James’ office, was in attendance; however, she did not provide a written report. Ms. Felton spoke briefly on the following:

- AG James charged Ms. Leslie Montgomery, owner of Healthy Living Community Center, of stealing more than \$4 million from NY taxpayers. The Healthcare owner was charged with defrauding the New York State Medicaid program by submitting false claims to Medicaid and to MetroPlus, a Medicaid-funded managed care organization (MCO), for customized back braces. Ms. Leslie Montgomery allegedly offered fraudulent affordable housing to scam low-income New Yorkers into revealing their personal identifying information.
- The AG encourages everyone to complete the Census 2020.
- AG James is dedicated to protecting your voting rights. If you have questions, concerns or any issues related to not being able to vote, please call the HOTLINE at 800-771-7755. Early voting begins in New York on October 24, 2020.

Please contact the AG’s office to request information on initiatives and resources at 212-364-6092.

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Chairperson's Report

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera welcomed the new board members, in attendance. Rev. Dr. Rivera stated that due to the COVID impact, the community will begin to experience loss of cuts. Community residents will be encouraged to start a letter writing campaign to elected officials, voicing issues of concern and possibly hosting public rallies regarding cuts that affect our black and brown communities.

Rev. Dr. Rivera noted that Mr. John Dudley, district manager of Bronx Community Board Three, will be retiring soon. Bronx Community Board Three will be without a district manager for several months. Due to this fact, Rev. Dr. Rivera informed the members that he will be selecting a Personnel Committee to discuss the process that will occur to hire a new district manager.

District Manager's Report

Mr. John Dudley stated that he was speechless, as he wasn't prepared for the announcement related to his retirement. Mr. Dudley informed those in attendance that he is anticipating leaving, having worked for the City of New York for over 42 years. Mr. Dudley noted that its time to move on and enjoy life.

At this time, Mr. Dudley thanked CM Vanessa Gibson for participating in a tour of the citibike station installations within Community District Three. The tour was favorable in discussing issues and concerns related to DOT's selection of citibike station locations.

Mr. Dudley also noted that its that time of year again to submit the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital and Expense budget requests. Mr. Dudley noted that the city is facing deficits for FY's 2022 through 2024. An update of the FY'2022 Capital and Expense budget requests will be provided to board members for review, at a later date.

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera noted that Bronx Community Board Three is not limited to being the 1st to do the following:

- Create Sect. 197A plan, per the NYC Charter
- Sponsor housing for grandparents raising grandchildren
- Promote mixed use zoning in manufacturing districts
- Sponsor housing for youth aging out of foster care

Community Concerns/Exchange of Information

Information was exchanged not limited to the following:

- Ms. Beatrice Rodriguez-Falu, representative from Montefiore Hospital, Montefiore Diamond Care Program– Long Term Care Medicaid Program, gave a brief introduction to the program. The Montefiore Diamond Care is a health plan designed to help Medicaid recipients in the Bronx who suffer from a long term illness to live safely and independently in their homes. The plan offers services such as home care, audiology, dental care, vision care, personal assistance, adult day care, home-delivered meals, medical appointment coordination and transportation to medical appointments. For more information constituents can call 646-887-7390 or email Ms. Rodriguez-Falu at berodrig@montefiore.org.
- Ms. Jacqueline Batista, representative from Administration for Children Services, spoke briefly on the Kinship. Kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives or, in some jurisdictions, close family friends. Relatives are the preferred resource for children who must be removed from their birth parents because it maintains the children's connections with their families. Kinship care is often considered a type of family preservation service.
- Mr. Steven William, representative from Accessible Dispatch Program, stated that the program connects the community to wheel chair accessible taxis in all five of the boroughs in New York City. Accessible Dispatch gives individuals with disabilities, the ability to request a wheelchair accessible taxi from anywhere in New York City. Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in all five boroughs. There is never an additional fee for passengers to use this service—passengers pay only the standard metered fare set by the TLC. Mr Williams can be reached at **914-320-3970** and that individuals can visit their website www.accessibledispatch.com for additional information.
- Mr. Paul Navarro, a newly appointed board member, stated that he was saddened to hear that Mr. Dudley is retiring soon.
- Mr. Vladimir Cruz, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, asked if Community Board Three has looked into other avenues to disseminate third party information. Rev. Dr. Rivera response was to create an adhoc committee develop a social media presence via Community Board Three and third party information.
- Rev. Dr. Rivera is requesting volunteers to assist in distributing non perishable food every Friday from 9am to 11am, on East 163rd Street and Melrose Avenue.
- Christ Church located at 860 Forest Avenue, distributes food to NYCHA residents on Sundays from 10am-3pm. It was noted that the food is normally distributed by 12 noon.

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- The late Terrence Podolsky, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, succumbed to COVID-19 early in the pandemic. At this time, Rev. Dr. Rivera requested a moment of silence that God will provide comfort to his family. The late Glenda Campbell, former board member was also mentioned and a request was made to keep the Campbell family in prayer.
- **Update** - Ms. Winifred Bama, former board member, has been moved to the Daughters of Jacob, nursing home located at 1160 Teller Avenue.

Benediction

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

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