



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

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

**RUBEN DIAZ, JR.**  
**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

**REV. DR. BRUCE C. RIVERA**  
**CHAIR**

**VACANT**  
**DISTRICT MANAGER**

**BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 12/14/2021  
 Place: Remote Teleconference  
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present**

Kolaco Acqui  
 Gloria Alston  
 Dawn Carter  
 Gilberto Constantinez  
 Rev. Frederick Crawford  
 Vladimir Cruz  
 Randy Dillard  
 Maurice Gray  
 Marilyn Johnson  
 Kathy Johnson-Morris  
 Rita Jones  
 Linda Kemp  
 Victor Latimer  
 Una Lawrence  
 Tracie Lucas Lord  
 Gina L. Newton  
 Paul Navarro  
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.  
 Aazam Otero  
 Anddy Perdomo  
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera  
 Wilson Ramirez  
 Amanda Reed  
 Alexis Salgado  
 Olympia Jay Striplin  
 Keziah Sullivan  
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas  
 Sarah Torres  
 Patrick Willis

**CM Rafael Salamanca's Office**

Shanna Knotts

**Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter

**Members Excused**

Xiomara Arriola  
 Joetta Brown  
 Aubrey Mike

**Members Absent**

Nelson Delerme  
 Joshua Diaz  
 Wanda Ellis  
 Abraham Jones  
 Pablo Mendoza

**CM Vanessa L. Gibson's Office**

CM Vanessa Gibson  
 Michael Ivory

**SS Luis Sepulveda's Office**

SS Luis Sepulveda  
 Ritchard Ewings

**Bronx Borough President's Office**

Hon. Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
 Alexis Ruiz

**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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## **Bronx District Attorney's Office**

Robert Barnes

### **Call To Order**

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera, chair of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

### **Invocation**

Rev. Idus Nunn, Jr. led us in prayer.

### **CISCO WebEx Meeting Etiquette**

Dr. Rivera requested that the CISCO WebEx meeting etiquette be adhered to 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**

At this time, Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera requested that those who would like to make an announcement, address a concern, or introduce themselves to please put their information in the chat box or raise their hand to be acknowledged as follows:

- Ms. Rita Jones, chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Future Star Production will be hostin a Toy Drive will be held at 1344 Clinton Avenue between East 169<sup>th</sup> & East 170<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-4:00pm.
- Mr. Colbert Nembhard, branch librarian from Morrisania Public Library, located at 610 East 169<sup>th</sup> Street, informed the community at-large that the library has re-opened. The Morrisania Public Library had been closed for 20 months and Mr. Nembhard and his staff are excited to be back.
- Mr. Richard Knowles and Ms. Sharon community residents who both reside at 1003-05 Longfellow Avenue, an HDFC have requested assistance from Bronx Community Board Three regarding issues of concern they would like to discuss. Ms. Etta Ritter, acting assistant district manager, advised them to contact her via telephone at 718-378-8054 ext. 141 or via email at [eritter@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:eritter@cb.nyc.gov) to further discuss their issues of concern.
- Mr. Maurice Gray, board member requested assistance with cars speeding along Simpson Street from East 167<sup>th</sup> Street to Freeman Street.
- Mr. Gilberto Constantinez, board member, wanted to know what actions can be taken to address unlicensed operators on electric scooters, motorcycles and mopeds who do not obey traffic laws by running red lights, not stopping at STOP signs and driving up on sidewalks, which creates an unsafe road environment for licensed drivers on the road and pedestrians who are walking on the sidewalk.

### **Bronx Borough President's Report**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., stopped by to say thank you to the community at-large and community board members for supporting him throughout his tenure as the Bronx Borough President.

"To say that I thank you, for when you agree and support me, thank you for when you beat me up and criticize me, thank you for keeping me humble, thank you for being patient. The Borough President concluded by stating that the new leadership that's coming in with the next Borough President Elect, Vanessa Gibson, the best is yet to come. I've been blessed to be and to have the honor of being the president of my home town. It has been the job of a lifetime. It has been a blessing. I am humbled. I really appreciate this opportunity and I just wanted to come by and say, I appreciate you all for what you do and I want to wish you Merry Christmas Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa."

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Treasurer

Rita Jones  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Well, I love you and I'm not going to say goodbye. I'll just say, I'll see you all soon.

Mr. Alex Ruiz representative from the Bronx Borough President's Office, stated that the Bronx Borough President's Newsletter has been forwarded to Bronx Community Board to be e-blasted to those on Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. Mr. Ruiz requested that board members who have not already done so, to return the EEO Form signed and or send a picture. Mr. Ruiz also noted that within the next couple of weeks board members should be in receipt of an email regarding the Sexual Harassment Training, which is being offered as an on-line course certificate. Mr. Ruiz wished everyone in attendance a Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

### **Elected Officials' Reports**

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

Mr. Ritchard Ewings, representative from SS Luis Sepuleveda's office, did not provide a written report for this period. 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)

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

Ms. Tiara Davis, representative from SS Gustavo Rivera's office provided the following written report:

- On Friday, December 17, 2021, cob SS Gustavo Rivera's office will be closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022.
- SS Rivera and his team are actively preparing for the State Legislative Session to begin in January 2022.
- Also, this is the Senator's Legislative Wish list:
  - New York Health Act
  - Overdose Prevention Centers
  - Medical Debt Protections
  - Essential Plan Expansion
  - Right to a Commercial Lease

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). I wish Happy Holidays to you, CB3, and all the community members.

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

Ms. Shanna Knotts, deputy chief of staff from CM Rafael Salamanca's office, did not provide a written report for this period. Please contact the Councilmember's office via email at [Salmanca@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Salmanca@council.nyc.gov) or [Sknotts@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Sknotts@council.nyc.gov), and by phone at (917) 837-6226. Please follow CM Salamanca via social media platforms on **Facebook or Instagram at CMSalamanca or on twitter at Salmancjr80**.

#### **CM Vanessa Gibson's Report – 16<sup>th</sup> Council District**

Mr. Michael Ivory, representative from CM Vanessa L. Gibson's office, that Bronx Borough President Elect Vanessa Gibson thanked everyone for their support during the election process. At this time a written report was not provided. Time sensitive information was exchanged. Please contact the Councilmember's office at 718-588-7500, to request information on Thanksgiving, food giveaways, initiatives and resources provided or send an email to [District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov).

#### **District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report**

Mr. Robert Barnes, representative from DA Darcel Clark, Bronx County District Attorney's Office, did not provide a written report. Please contact the DA's office to request information on initiatives and resources at 646-319-6525.

### **Roll Call**

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

### **Members Requesting to be Excused**

Xiomara Arriola  
Joetta Brown  
Aubrey Mike

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## Motion

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

Xiomara Arriola  
Joetta Brown  
Aubrey Mike

All In Favor

Motion Carried

## Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was motioned by Rita Jones and seconded by Anddy Perdomo, to approve the November 9, 2021 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.

## Dr. Lessie Branch, Community Relations Director, Citizens Committee for New York City

**Topic: Discuss Citizens Committee for New York City (CitizensNYC) funding opportunities for resident led groups and small neighborhood business grants**

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera introduced Dr. Lessie Branch, community relations director at the Citizens Committee for New York City, to those in attendance. Dr. Lessie Branch came before the community at-large to discuss the grants that are available from the Citizens Committee for New York City (CitizensNYC).

Dr. Branch stated that 2022 All in Neighborhood Grant and Business Grant Applications are now open. The Citizens Committee for New York is accepting applications for funding from resident led groups and neighborhood businesses. Citizens Committee for New York offers micro grants to community building projects carried out by resident-led groups to address issues they identify as important to them. CitizensNYC makes direct cash grants for neighborhood-led projects, and neighborhood businesses that improve the quality of life in New York City.

CitizensNYC is offering resident led groups up to \$5,000 for community building projects and small Neighborhood Business grants of up to \$10,000 is being offered to grantees to help maintain their business operations. Interested applicants can attend an information session to understand the process and receive answers to any questions they may have. Each grantee awarded will have access to CitizensNYC vast network of like-minded community leaders to help implement and support their projects. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until summer 2022; early applications should be submitted no later than Sunday, February 20, 2022. Funding is limited.

Questions were entertained and answered satisfactorily. Ms. Ritter forwarded the fliers in Spanish, English and Madarin, to those on Bronx Community Board Three's listserv.

## Chairperson's Report

Rev. Dr. Rivera once again welcomed each and everybody who was present. It's always a pleasure seeing you. I know that this year has been a very difficult year for many of us. I know that COVID has brought on mental health issues for many people and if you need any assistance with rendering support for yourself or to anyone in your family or organizations, you can reach out to Dr. Rivera. Dr. Rivera will get you the necessary information that's needed to help you deal with this issue.

In this present day, A lot of people are experiencing depression, heighten anxiety and our children as a result of having to deal with a pandemic. I also want to encourage those of you who haven't gotten vaccinated to do.

Unfortunately, I know that with this virus, we're going to continue to have problems with it. This type of virus duplicates itself. And while the United States is doing a good thing of getting people vaccinated There are many developing countries that don't have not even 10 of their people vaccinated.

So, what will happen is that those places become reservoir for the virus to multiply and.

If we don't take care of our fellow men around the world, we're going to continue to have this problem here in our country.

Because, as you notice with the new, thank God, is not as deadly as the delta. It continues to multiply.

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And it's sometimes would not be affected by the president vaccine that we have. So, please 1 of the good thing is though, if you're vaccinated, at least.

If you get 1 of the viruses, it would not be deadly.

So, I think, uh, again, I want to wish each and everybody happy and safe.

Holiday season, whichever way that you practice we pray that you do it safely and that you would get an opportunity to hug your family members.

I know that many of us haven't had an opportunity to be with our families, if you do visit relatives, please be safe and wear your mask indoors

There is still a mask mandate to wear your mask indoors.

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

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Parks & Recreation/Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee**

Stanley Cho, Architectural Designer, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Marlisa Wise, Senior Architect, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of The Parks and Recreation/Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee, stated that the committee members in attendance came to a consensus to provide a conditional letter of support for the scope of work planned for the Crotona Park Bathhouse Roof Reconstruction Project. The project scope consists of reconstruction of the main bathhouse roof, the bathhouse lower roof, the service entrance-building roof, the pool-filter house side roof along with repointing and in-kind replacement of architectural stone and brick parapets for the purpose of preventing further damage to the landmarked buildings. A green roof and guardrail are to be installed over the main roof to increase energy efficiency and bring into current code compliance and to be approved by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. (LPC).

This matter for a Letter of Support is now referred for formal approval by the full board. At this time, Ms. Rita Jones requested that a motion be made to approve a formal letter of support for the scope of work proposed for the Crotona Park Bathhouse Roof Reconstruction project to bring into current code compliance to be approved by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC).

#### **Motion**

**It was motioned by Gina Newton and seconded by Olympia Striplin to approve a letter of support for the Crotona Park Bathhouse Roof Reconstruction project to bring into current code compliance to be approved by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC).**

**YES**

**NO**

**22**

**1**

**It was noted that Mr. Vladimir Cruz had to recuse himself from voting due to a conflict of interest.**

#### **Motion Carried**

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

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

#### **Benediction**

Rev. Frederick Crawford 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: <https://youtu.be/UyWnHX2H-2c>

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