



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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Comm. Bd. Info go to: nyc.gov/bronxcb3

RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

REV. DR. BRUCE C. RIVERA
CHAIR

JOHN W. DUDLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 1/12/2021
 Place: Remote Teleconference
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Jerry Aviles
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Vladimir Cruz
 Wanda Ellis
 Maurice Gray
 Marilyn Johnson
 Rita Jones
 Victor Latimer
 Una Lawrence
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Aubrey Mike
 Gina L. Newton
 Paul Navarro
 Aazam Otero
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Wilson Ramirez
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 Keziah Sullivan
 D’Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
 Sarah Torres
 Patrick Willis

Bronx Borough President’s Office

Tom Lucania

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Gilberto Constantinez
 Rev. Frederick Crawford

Members Absent

Joyce Almeida
 Nelson Delerme
 Joshua Diaz
 Randy Dillard
 Abdul Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Pablo Mendoza
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.

CM Vanessa Gibson’s Office

CM Vanessa L. Gibson
 Michael Ivory

CM Rafael Salamanca’s Office

Shanna Knotts

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NYC Comptroller's Office

Khadim Niang

DA Darcel Clark's Office

Robert Barnes

Call To Order

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

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera led us in prayer.

Elected Officials' Reports

CM Fernando Cabrera

CM Fernando Cabrera greeted everyone in attendance. CM Cabrera informed community board members and those in attendance, that Community Boards budgets are facing an overall 19% budget reduction. CM Cabrera stated that in FY'19 and FY'20, he was able to secure \$42,500 through the NY City Council for all 59 Boards which totaled \$5 mil. Community Boards did not receive the \$42,500 due to COVID-19 in FY 2021, and their budgets were reduced this year by \$3,628. Community Boards are facing an impending reduction of \$8,153 in FY'2022. These reductions put a strain on the Community Boards and their limited and least funded budgets. The CM is requesting that Community Boards write their Elected Officials/Administration for a resolution to stop these cuts and to explain how these budget cuts will impact their offices.

Rev. Dr. Rivera encouraged every board member to stand in support of a resolution that Bronx Community Board Three is against any further budget reductions and to restore their budget to its original number. The resolution should be forwarded to our Elected Officials and the city administration.

79th District – AssemblyMember Chantel Jackson

AM Chantel Jackson was sworn in by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie. AM Chantel Jackson is a member of the following committees:

- Education
- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Mental Health
- Cities

AM Jackson is looking forward to the month of February in celebration of Black History Month. The Assemblywoman is looking to host a Valentine's Day event, scheduling a Town Hall meeting and forming an Advisory Board. AM Jackson did not provide a written report; however, you can contact her via email at schedulingbx79@gmail.com, regarding any questions, events and initiatives.

CM Vanessa Gibson's Report – 16th Council District

CM Vanessa L.Gibson from the 16th Councilmatic District, greeted everyone in attendance. CM Gibson stated that we need to begin the new year with optimism to ensure a prosperous year. The CM reflected on year 2020 and how COVID-19 brought on food insecurities, unstable housing and long lines at pantries and food kitchens. CM Gibson thanked everyone for their partnerships.

- CM Gibson noted the mass distribution vaccinations sites opened on Monday, January 11th. The vaccination site that is within Community District Three is located at 4006 3rd Avenue (between E. 173 & E. 174th Streets) and is open 24/7; appointments only. This site is serving first responders, educators, administrators, public safety workers, transit workers, and vulnerable seniors, 65+, (they lowered the age from 75) with underlying health conditions.
- CM Gibson is the new chair of the Oversight and Investigations Committee and Women's Caucus. CM Gibson is a member of the Finance Committee, Land Use, Public Safety, Public Housing, Capital, and Budget Negotiating Team.
- The online application for discretionary funding began on Monday, January 4, 2021 and the submission deadline will be Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Community based organizations seeking discretionary funding can have multiple applications and also request funding from

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multiple elected officials, the Women's Caucus and the Bronx Delegation Committee. A zoom workshop on the discretionary funding application process is anticipated to be scheduled to assist organizations seeking funding.

The CM also noted that two street co-namngs were passed unanimously by the City Council as follows:

- Late great Rev. Wendell T. Foster – Forest Avenue and 161st Street
- Beloved Sis. Joanne Webb-Dixon – Trinity Avenue between E. 163rd & E. 161st Streets
- The Women's Caucus has been focusing on maternal mortality and morbidity, along with gender parity and pay parity issues. Other issues include legislation around accessing healthcare, as well as dulas and maternal health, which are very important in our community.

CM Gibson noted she will be working with local elected officials on a zoom call to discuss Rank Choice Voting. Rank Choice Voting (RCV) is a new option that allows a voter to vote for up to 5 candidates for each office. Every effort will be made to educate the constituents within our communities on rank choice voting and to dispel efforts to disenfranchise voters and voter suppression.

CM Gibson did not provide a written report, at this time. Please contact the Councilmember's office at 718-588-7500, to request information on initiatives and resources provided or send an email to District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report- 17th Council District

Ms. Shanna Knotts, deputy chief of staff from CM Rafael Salamanca's office, wished everyone Happy New Year.

CM Salamanca has partnered with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp. in using their office as a testing site. Ms. Knotts stated that on Thursday, January 17th from 9:30am to 4:30pm, at 1070 Southern Boulevard which is their district office, will be a COVID testing site. The testing process takes approximately 15 minutes by way of a nasal swab that is shipped via FedEx. Participants will receive their results within 48 to 72 hours. Individuals interested in being tested, are required to have an active email address. No health insurance is required. All information was put in the chat.

Please follow CM Salamanca via social media platforms on **Facebook or Instagram at CMSalamanca or on twitter at Salmancajr80**.

Comptroller's Office

Mr. Khadim Niang, representative from the Comptroller's Office, wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Niang stated that the Comptroller is hosting a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:00pm. Mr. Niang will forward the flier to Bronx Community Board Three for distribution to those on its list serve.

Please contact Khadim Niang via email at kniang@comptroller.nyc.gov, for further information relating to initiatives and resources offered.

DA Darcell Clarke's Office

Mr. Robert Barnes, representative from DA Darcell Clarke's office, wished everyone a Happy New Year on behalf of District Attorney Darcell Clarke. Mr. Barnes stated that the DA is anticipating hosting another "**Gun Buy Back**" event this year and once confirmed, information will be forwarded for distribution. The DA's staff is working remotely with 25% in the office.

Please contact Mr. Robert Barnes via email at Barnesro@bronxda.nyc.gov, for further information relating to initiatives and resources the DA's office is offering.

Bronx Borough President's Report

Mr. Tom Lucania, representative from the Bronx Borough President's Office, emailed the latest newsletter and resources from the BP's office. The BP's report will be emailed to those on Bronx Community Board Three's list serve. Mr. Lucania spoke briefly on the following:

- Reappointment Applications have been sent to members whose terms are to expire in 2021. The deadline for submission is Friday, February 5, 2021. Applications for new membership are available on the Bronx Borough President's website at <http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards> and are also due by February 5, 2021. Individuals seeking appointment should note that the last page of the application requests that you get the signature of the chair or district manager after attending a board meeting. Please omit that portion, and write the date you attended the virtual meeting.

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- Board Members should anticipate receiving the annual Sexual Harassment training course link via their personal email address. The Certificate of Completion should be forwarded to Tom Lucania at tlucania@bronxbp.nyc.gov. The Diversity and Inclusion Training course link will be sent out soon.

Jumaane Williams – NYC Public Advocate

Mr. Brian Polanco, representative from the NYC Public Advocates office, wished everyone a Happy New Year. The “Constituent Services Department” is still working remotely however they can be contacted at 212-669-7250 or via email at gethelpatadvocate.nyc.gov.

- The Public Advocate heard a hearing sponsored by the NYC Council on “Racial Impact Study Legislation. The public advocate is co-sponsoring a similar legislation with CM Rafael Salamanca. The bill will require a disparity report for certain land-use applications.
- The public advocate had a Bill enacted that would require the DOE to provide a monthly report on attendance for remote learning, to track student’s attendance during this pandemic.

Community Concerns & Announcements

- Ms. Sharon Pope-Marshall, representing Bike New York, stated that she has created a new program called Street Action Now. Street Action Now enlists stakeholders in reviewing NYC streets and how they can be improved in a collaborative effort. Ms. Pope-Marshall will work alongside DOT and the CB’s Transportation Committees, to facilitate improvements recommended.
- Ms. Keziah Sullivan, secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, wanted to begin a conversation on the well being of incarcerated individuals, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Sullivan posed her question to the elected officials regarding what actions are being taken for people who are incarcerated? CM Gibson noted that there are re-entry programs available to those formally incarcerated. CM Gibson requested that anyone who may need assistance can contact her office relating to legal assistance, housing, family unification and job training.
- Ms. Velvet Sanchez, constituent within Community District Three, requested assistance with her granddaughter transitioning from JHS to HS. Mr. John Dudley, district manager, requested that correspondence be forwarded to him so that he may contact a representative from DOE, Government Affairs Department and request a follow-up.
- Victor Latimer, board member, informed the CB that during the last snow storm, he observed the intersection of East 163rd and 3rd Avenues, along the BX 6, 15 and 21 surface lines, wherein the snow was not plowed properly at the bus stops which would enable passengers ease of access onto buses and egress off. Mr. Dudley stated that he would contact his DSNY Superintendent and request protocols for removal of snow at or around bus stop locations, which would alleviate this issue of concern.

Roll Call

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

Members Requesting to be Excused

Gilberto Constantinez
Rev. Frederick Crawford

Motion

It was motioned by Gloria Alston and seconded by Joetta Brown, to excuse the following member(s):

Gilberto Constantinez
Rev. Frederick Crawford

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was motioned by Joetta Brown and seconded by Dawn Carter, to approve the December 8, 2020 General Board minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Amendments to the Agenda

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At this time, there were no amendments to the agenda.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Chairperson's Report

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera extended condolences on behalf of Bronx Community Board Three to Mr. Wilson Ramirez on the loss of his brother and asked if he would like to take this opportunity to recognize the passing of his brother. Mr. Ramirez stated that his brother lived his whole life in the Bronx and during the last nine years, lived within Community District Three. He leaves to mourn his 9 year old son and was a dedicated family man. He worked for the City of New York and he will surely be missed. The Rev. Dr. thanked Wilson for sharing his strength, hope and love, for his brother.

The Rev. Dr. noted that the community at-large needs to have access to the services that are available within our community. Vaccinations depots have been set up in our community, however, people that live outside of the community are usually the first to benefit due to their technological expertise. District residents are already disenfranchised and are faced with serious health disparities because of the inability to access the care they need. As a result, we have to look out for one another which may mean helping someone navigate the system, so that they can try to get an appointment for the vaccine. Unfortunately, if you look at the nyc.gov/vaccine finder, many of the vaccine appointments are already taken through the end of the month.

District Manager's Report

Mr. Dudley wished everyone who joined the meeting a happy and healthy New Year. Mr. Dudley did not provide a written report, however, he spoke briefly about the following:

- Constituents need to avail themselves of the mobile testing sites as well as other sites that are listed on the NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation website. Constituents can visit nyc.gov/covidtest, and for the vaccinations, can visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder. NYC is currently in phase 1B. Constituents with misgivings about taking the vaccine should speak with their health care provider to become educated in the various vaccines being offered.
- The scheduling of a meeting with the 505 Tenants Association, NYPD and DOT to discuss their parking concerns, is still pending.
- An email regarding relocating Citibank stations was sent out to all Board members and members of the public. The implementation of the Citibike stations and locations is a Mayoral Initiative; not a Community Board Initiative. Community Board members and community stakeholders who would like to see a Citibike station removed to another location, were instructed to identify an alternate location and forward said information via email. This request will help with follow-up and assist the community board in responding reasonably to concerns that have put in writing. A separate virtual meeting will be scheduled with DOT to discuss the alternate locations presented from members of the public. Concern was raised regarding some locations that may not be within Community District Three. At this time, any alternate locations that are put in writing, will be addressed.
- Mr. Dudley informed Ms. Sulay Lora representative from SEBNC, that he is still in the process of communicating with a representative from NYCHA and CM Gibson's office, regarding the \$70,000 capital funding commitment for repairs and building improvements for capital project ID #HAD001. Mr. Michael Ivory, representative from CM Gibson's office, stated that he would contact the DM in this regard off line.
- Committee meetings have resumed and members of the public and board members are encouraged to attend. Board members need to select a committee, for which they would like to become a member.

Committee Reports

Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, chairperson of the Housing, Land-Use and Economic Development Committee, invited the public and board members, to attend this regularly scheduled committee meeting on Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee

Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee, invited the public and board members, to attend the regularly scheduled committee meeting on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00pm, to discuss Playground #9 and its need for capital funding. All are welcome to attend.

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Education Committee

Ms. Joetta Brown, chairperson of the Education Committee, is invited the public and board members, to attend her regularly scheduled committee meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 9:00am, to discuss "remote learning challenges". All are welcome to attend.

Birthday's

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

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera led us in prayer.

Adjournment

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

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