



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

1426 Boston Road, Bronx, NY 10456
 Telephone No.:(718)378-8054 – Fax No.:(718)378-8188
 E-mail Address: brivera@cb.nyc.gov/eritter@cb.nyc.gov

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

HON. VANESSA GIBSON
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

REV. DR. BRUCE C. RIVERA
CHAIR

VACANT
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 2/8/2022
 Place: Remote Teleconference
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola_
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Vladimir Cruz
 Joshua Diaz
 Wanda Ellis
 Maurice Gray
 Marilyn Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Rita Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Aubrey Mike
 Gina L. Newton
 Paul Navarro
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Aazam Otero
 Anddy Perdomo
 Wilson Ramirez
 Amanda Reed
 Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 Keziah Sullivan
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
 Sarah Torres
 Patrick Willis

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter

Members Excused

Randy Dillard
 Victor Latimer
 Una Lawrence

Members Absent

Alexis Salgado

CM Althea Steven's Office

CM Althea Stevens
 Jahtah Brown

CM Rafael Salamanca's Office

Shanna Knotts

SS Gustavo Rivera's Office

Tiara Davis

SS Luis Sepulveda's Office

Ritchard Ewings

Bronx Borough President's Office

_Thierno Bah

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Rev. 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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AM Chantel Jackson's Office

Adrian Cacho

Congressman Ritchie Torres' Office

Ronn Jordan

Call To Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, chair of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera led us in prayer.

PUBLIC HEARING: Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera stated that those who wish to speak must do so by registering for the Public Hearing Open Session in the Chat. The Public Hearing was posted on the board office door, sent to the media and posted on Bronx Community Board Three's Website, per the city charter. Mr. Michael Sharp, representative from the NYC Department of Finance, discussed "**Notice of Property Values and Exemptions**"—Those who wish to speak during the Open Session will be given 2-3 minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN

The Public Hearing was Opened to entertain comments in favor, or against, as follows:

Mr. Abraham Jones spoke in favor of faith-based exemptions
Paul Narvarro spoke in favor of townhome exemptions
Rosalinda Alvira had questions on the coop & condo abatement program

Currently, there were no other comments to entertain.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

CISCO WebEx Meeting Etiquette

Meeting etiquette 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.
- 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

- Ms. Rosalinda Alvira, community resident stated that she is a member of the Crotona Park Dog Run/Park Committee, whose mission is to establish an active committee of dog owners who would like a designated area for their dogs to be allowed to roam and mingle with other dogs in an open space. The establishment of the Crotona Park Dog Park Committee is warranted in order to seek funding to construct a dog park. Currently the Crotona Park Dog Run/Park Committee committee does not have a 501© 3 Tax Exemption Certificate nor a financial fiduciary (sponsorship) to process any monies if they were to apply for a grant. Ms. Alvira noted that she and other representatives from the Crotona Park Dog Run committee testified at SS Gustavo Rivera's hearing regarding the proposed dog park. Ms. Alvira was encouraged to attend the Bronx Delegation Discretionary Funding Training to learn about the requirements and how to apply for discretionary funding. It was noted that the Crotona Park Dog Park Committee would have to partner with an organization that would submit the application on their behalf to be the financial sponsorship, since they do not currently have a 501© 3 Tax Exemption Certificate.

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It was mentioned that most grant funders generally require proof of a 501© 3 Tax Exemption Certificate and prefer to support organizations with a proven track record of fiscal responsibility and programming successes.

- Mr. Aubrey Mike, Board member raised a concern regarding abandoned parked vehicles that have expired registration stickers, no license plates, and covered up VIN# and this vehicles are not being ticketed. Ms. Ritter requested that Mr. Mike call 311 and get a service request number and forward a brief description of the complaint along with the location and 311 SR # to the board office for follow-up.
- Mr. Gilberto Constantinez, board member raised a similar concern regarding cars parking on Simpson Street with paper license tags and covered up VIN numbers. Mr. Constantinez was instructed to call 311 to report the complaint, provide the location and forward the 311 SR# along with a brief description of the complaint and location and forward to the board office for follow-up.

Elected Officials' Reports

CM Althea Stevens – 16th Council District

Councilmember Althea Stevens thanked Rev. Rivera for his introduction and his well wishes. CM Stevens noted that this was her first Bronx Community Board Three meeting in her new capacity as Councilmember of the 16th council district. CM Stevens stated that she is interested in hearing about the communities concerns.

The Councilmember's office staff is working virtually due to current office renovations. CM Althea Stevens and her staff will be working at the same office located at 1377 Jerome Avenue. A "**Grand Opening**" of the CM office is anticipated in the coming weeks and the community will be invited.

CM Althea Stevens is in the process of creating advisory councils. CM Stevens believes in co-governance and making decisions with the community and stakeholders. CM Stevens wants to hear from the community-at large allowing ample opportunity via council meetings for people to have their voices heard and their concerns addressed.

The following Advisory Councils will be formed:

- **Senior Services Council** - This council will assist in developing programming as well as identify funding sources for the senior population.
- **Youth Council** – This council will be led by young people and exclusively for young people. The youth of tomorrow require a space where they can learn how grow into leaders with other like-minded peers in their community.
- **Health and Wellness Council** – This council will focus on #Not62, discuss healthy food options/access along with identifying ways everyone can become more active through virtual and in-person exercise programs.
- **Multicultural Council** – This council will celebrate all cultures and identities to promote unity within the community.
- **Housing Council** – This council will discuss housing strategies, housing organizers/advocates and block associations, etc.

CM Althea Stevens has requested that interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact her office and join one of the councils. CM Stevens introduced Mr. Jahtah Brown, Communications and Social Media Manager at the 16th Council District office. Mr. Brown noted that the CM and her colleagues will be hosting a Bronx Delegation Discretionary Funding Training on Wednesday, February 9th and anyone who is interested in understanding how to apply for discretionary funds is encouraged to attend.

At this time, a written report was not provided. Please contact the Councilmember's office at 718-588-7500, regarding initiatives and resources provided or send an email to District16@council.nyc.gov or email Mr. Brown directly at jbrown@council.nyc.gov.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report- 17th Council District

Ms. Shanna Knotts, deputy chief of staff from CM Rafael Salamanca's office, provided the following written report for the period covering January 12, 2022 and including February 8, 2022, as follows:

Office Opening

- Our office is currently open in a limited capacity. Utilizing our office to host community events, COVID testing and constituent services.
- Those looking for assistance from our office can call us at 718-402-6130 or email our office at Salamanca@council.nyc.gov

COVID Testing

- We are currently hosting FREE COVID testing in our District Office on Thursdays from 9am – 5pm. No appointment or insurance is required.

Budget Season

- As most folks are aware, the budget season is now in full effect. As we look towards the recovery from this pandemic, Council Member Salamanca has been a leading voice during budget hearings to ensure that the South Bronx gets its fair share of funding for programs, services and capital investments.

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Budget details:

- Discretionary and Capital funding applications are now live and available on the council website at: council.nyc.gov
- For Discretionary Funding: The deadline to apply will be on **Tuesday, February 22nd**.
- For Capital Funding: Application deadlines vary depending on the source of the funding a group has requested. **See below Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5:00pm: applies if your project requests any funding from Borough Presidents (including those groups that are also requesting funding from the Council or Department of Cultural Affairs)**

Thursday, March 24, 2022, 5:00pm: applies if your project is only requesting funding from the Council and/or the Department of Cultural Affairs

Community Cleaning

- Council Member Salamanca allocates funding for supplemental cleaning services in the district. If there is a particular corridor in the community that needs to be cleaned, please contact our office for further discussion on the matter.

Policy

We are gearing up for the start of 2022-2023 legislative session.

- During the new term, CM Salamanca will continue to lead the Committee on Land Use, where he will help the new members of the City Council navigate the ULURP system in order to attain pro-community development.
- As one of the most experienced returning members of the Council, Speaker Adrienne Adams has selected CM Salamanca to serve on the Select Senior Leadership Team, a committee that will serve as a sounding board on many of the most pressing Council issues. In addition to being the Chair of the Committee on Land Use once more, CM Salamanca will be on the following committees:
 - Committee on Civil and Human Rights (new committee assignment)
 - Committee on Economic Development (new committee assignment)
 - Committee on Oversight and Investigations
 - Committee on Public Housing
 - Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections (new committee assignment)
 - Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management (new committee assignment)
- On February 8th, the Committee on Land Use, through its Subcommittee on Zoning, and the Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing, will hear testimony from the Department of City Planning and the Department of Transportation on the 'Open Restaurants' zoning text amendment. The joint committees will review the procedures that led to the executive order granting restaurants the ability to operate roadway restaurant space, and next steps in enhancing compliance and enforcement of the program should it be permanently extended.

How to connect with Team Salamanca

- Facebook: Facebook.com/CMSalamanca
- Twitter: @CMSalamancaJr
- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr_d17

Please contact the Councilmember's office, located at 1070 Southern Boulevard or via email at Salamanca@council.nyc.gov or Sknotts@council.nyc.gov, and by phone at (917) 837-6226.

SS Luis Sepulveda's Report – 32nd Senate District

Mr. Ritchard Ewings, representative from SS Luis Sepulveda's office, provided a written report for the period cover January 12th including February 8, 2022 as follows:

Two important pieces of legislation that Senator Sepulveda's sponsor passed were the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime, and Correction. Both bills aim to dignify the lives of incarcerated individuals.

- Bill S2144 relates to the definition of an incarcerated individual with a serious mental illness in the mental hygiene law.
- Bill S2855 facilitates access to birth certificates and social security records of incarcerated individuals upon release.
- SS Sepulveda and his colleagues support Bill S2771 which requires DHS to notify Community Bards before establishing temporary housing or shelters in the community.

Also, the City 1 Committee, which Senator Sepulveda chairs, has begun its work and in the coming weeks, they will be discussing important legislation relevant to the city of New York. It is important that constituents log on to the Senate website and create a profile to follow the legislations of your interest and to receive updates.

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Senator Sepulveda's office is open for in-person services by appointment only. The staff is assisting constituents with a variety of issues including applications to the Homeowners Assistance Fund, unemployment benefits, landlord-tenant issues, among other things. 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. Follow the SS on all social media handles via [@NYSenSepulveda](https://twitter.com/NYSenSepulveda) to keep up to date with relevant information.

Assembly Member Chantel Jackson's Report -79th Assembly District

Mr. Adrian Cacho, constituent liaison from Assembly Member Chantel Jackson's office did not provide a written report. Mr. Cacho did speak briefly on two successful COVID distribution events which was hosting along with other elected officials. If anyone is in need of COVID testing site locations, COVID in-home testing kits and/or ERAP services feel free to reach out to Assembly member Jackson's office at 718-538-3829.

Mr. Cacho instructed stakeholders to join AM's 79th District Advisory Board by visiting the following URL:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScP8vj7JHsyeMTFouq8sZSuwWkMjRoabehXw6yynHt-z8RZA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Visit the AM Website: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Chantel-Jackson>

Assembly member Chantel Jackson's office is located at 780 Concourse Village West Ground FL, Professional Bronx NY 10451. Please contact the Assembly Members office to request information on initiatives and resources via email "constituent matters" at help79districtbx@gmail.com, or for "scheduling requests" email: schedulingbx79@gmail.com.

SS Gustavo Rivera Report – 33rd Senate District

Ms. Tiara Davis, representative from SS Gustavo Rivera's office provided the following written report for the period covering January 12th up to and including February 8, 2022 as follows:

The SS Gustavo Rivera has been working on the following Legislative Bills:

- Signed into law Bill for Lead testing in our school's Drinking water (S2122A)
- Signed into law Health Equity Assessment in our healthcare system
- Signed into law a bill to authorize birthing center to open and operate in NYS

The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund is closing on 02/18.

To apply call 1-844-77-NYHAF (1-844-776-9423)

SS Gustavo Rivera's Office is also helping with the following:

1. ERAP Applications have reopened
2. HRA for a One-Shot Deal.
3. SCRIE/DRIE Rent Freeze
4. HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)

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.

Congressman Ritchie Torres – 15th District

Mr. Ronn Jordan, representative from Congressman Ritchie Torres office, did not provide a written report. Mr. Jordan informed the community at-large of Congressman Ritchie Torres and State Senator Charles Schumer unveiling on the **Federal Fire legislation** which includes addressing sprinklers, self-closing doors, heaters and heat sensors. Congressman Ritchie Torres formed the "**Bronx Fire Task Force**" included is Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia, and City Councilmembers Oswald Feliz and Pierina Sanchez to assist in the new legislation to enforce landlord and building code compliance on the city and state levels. Please contact Congressman Ritchie Torres Office to request information on legislative initiatives and resources by directly reaching out to Mr. Ronn Jordan via email Ronn.Jordan@mail.house.gov or on his work phone at 718-541-1056.

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Bronx Borough President's Report

Mr. Thierno Bah, representative from the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson office, stated that they are still providing assistance to those who were affected by the fire at the Twin Parks apartment complex. It was noted that the 2022 New Board Member Applications are available and the deadline to submit the application is March 4, 2022. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to apply. The Bronx Borough President's Report for the month of February was forwarded to those on Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. Mr. Bah shared time-sensitive information. Please contact Mr. Thierno Bah to request information on the BP's initiatives and events via email at tbah@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

Roll Call

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

Members Requesting to be Excused

Randy Dillard
Victor Latimer
Una Lawrence

Motion

It was motioned by Gloria Alston and seconded by Rev. Frederick Crawford to excuse the following member(s):

Randy Dillard
Victor Latimer
Una Lawrence

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was motioned by Rev. Idus Nunn, Jr. and seconded by Dawn Carter, to approve the January 11, 2022 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.

Chairperson's Report

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, thanked everyone for their prayers during his bout with COVID. Rev. Dr. Rivera stated that although he was vaccinated and had received the booster he was not able to avoid catching COVID. The Rev. revealed that he was part of the vulnerable population by being a senior and having comorbidity issues. The Rev. noted that he had a mild case, however, the first three days were the worst for him due to the virus affect his upper respiratory.

Acting Assistant District Manager's Report

Ms. Etta Ritter the acting assistant district manager provided the following report for the period of January 12th and including February 8, 2022 as follows:

- Bronx Community Board Three hosted a Fire Safety Training for Adults and Children which was successful. The Fire Safety Trainings for Adults and Children will be offered at least twice a year in December and June.
- Bronx Community Board Three will be hosting a Rat Academy Workshop on Thursday, March 31, 2021 from 6pm-7:30pm. Ms. Ritter encouraged the community at-large to call 311 and report sightings of active rat harborage and forward the service request number and location to the board office for follow-up.
- The NYC Department of City Planning has an initiative on "Good Urban Design" and is requesting feedback from stakeholders and community partners on "How would you describe the look and feel of your neighborhood?" Go to goodurbandesign.nyc to participate and let your voice be heard.

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- The NYC Civic Engagement Commission and Public Agenda is hosting an “Introduction to Public Engagement Workshop” for all five boroughs. The workshop will enable Community Board leaders to strengthen their ability to engage with the public in a more inclusive, equitable and innovative manner. All are encouraged to attend.
- The NYC Commission of Human Rights has expanded its Human Rights Law protections to more domestic workers, including home health aides, nannies and babysitters, janitors and cleaners. NYCHRL is requesting to identify pathways to reach domestic workers and their employers before the new law takes effect on March 12, 2022.

New Business

- Ms. Marilyn Johnson, board member and co-chair of the Education Committee, stated that she has a cooking program at East Bronx Academy for the Future for grades 6th through 12th, located at 1716 Southern Boulevard, within Community District Three. Ms. Johnson spoke on the following:
 - A woman is interested in teaching other women how to cook meals in a virtual environment and assist them with starting their own business on-line. Ms. Ritter instructed Ms. Johnson to have her contact the board office to discuss said project and or to be scheduled to come before the Health and Human Services Committee.
 - Ms. Johnson also noted that she is focusing on ‘mental health’ and she is requesting that young adults aged 12 through 18 do a 3 minute video on their experience of COVID and how the pandemic has affected their lives and forward via email to: mjohnson@eastbronxacademy.org.
- Ms. Linda Kemp, board member and TA president at Robert Fulton Terrace, located at 530-540 East 169th Street requested an inspection of the self-closing doors and Emergency Exit doors at said buildings to ensure fire safety compliance. Ms. Ritter instructed Ms. Linda Kemp to contact the board office to discuss this matter further.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports at this time.

Sickness, Distress & Birthdays

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

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 go to copy and paste into your browser: https://youtu.be/IB_J2Krfqho

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