

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

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HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON **BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT** 

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

VACANT DISTRICT MANAGER

# **BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 1/11/2022

Place: Remote Teleconference

Time: 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present** 

Kolaco Acqui

Gloria Alston

Joetta Brown

Dawn Carter

Gilberto Constantinez

Rev. Frederick Crawford

Vladimir Cruz

Joshua Diaz

Randy Dillard

Wanda Ellis

Maurice Gray Rita Jones

Victor Latimer

Una Lawrence

Tracie Lucas Lord

Aubrey Mike

Gina L. Newton

Paul Navarro

Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr. Aazam Otero

Anddy Perdomo

Wilson Ramirez

Keziah Sullivan

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas

Sarah Torres

Patrick Willis

CM Rafael Salamanca's Office

Shanna Knotts

Congressman Ritchie Torres' Office

Ronn Jordan

**Staff Present** 

Etta F. Ritter

**Members Excused** 

Xiomara Arriola

Kathy Johnson-Morris

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera

Alexis Salgado

**Members Absent** 

Nelson Delerme

Marilyn Johnson

Abraham Jones

Linda Kemp

Olympia Jay Striplin

**CM Althea Steven's Office** 

Jahtah Brown

SS Luis Sepulveda's Office

Ritchard Ewings

**Bronx Borough President's Office** 

Alexis Ruiz

**AM Chantel Jackson's Office** 

AM Chantel Jackson

Adrian Cacho

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** 

Joetta Brown

Keziah Sullivan Secretary

Kathy Johnson-Morris Treasurer

Rita Jones Sqt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

#### Call To Order

Rev. Frederick Crawford, 1st Vice Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. Rev. Crawford informed the community at-large that Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera, chair had fallen ill and was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

### Invocation

Gina Newton led us in prayer.

### **CISCO WebEx Meeting Etiquette**

- 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.nvc.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

• Mr. Francis Dsouza, community resident, requested that the Board consider providing the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning a letter of appreciation for the free program services that is offered to the children, young adults, and seniors within Community District Three. Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services and Historical Outreach Committee, noted that the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning has been very supportive in providing free tennis lessons to the children, adults, seniors and providing space for classroom use for schools that they have partnered with.

### **MOTION**

It was motioned by Rita Jones and seconded by Randy Dillard to approve a letter of appreciation denoting the partnerships and program services that the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning is providing to the residents and stakeholders within Community District Three.

YES	NO	ABSTAIN	
22		3	

### **MOTION CARRIED**

# **Bronx Borough President's Report**

Alexis Ruiz, representative from Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson's office, stated the BP was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to the tragic fire that occurred at the Twin Parks apartment complex. Borough President Vanessa Gibson was currently hosting a Prayer Vigil with other elected officials regarding this horrific tragedy. Mr. Ruiz noted that the Bronx Borough President's latest Newsletter would be forwarded to Bronx Community Board Three for distribution to those Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. At this time, time-sensitive information was exchanged. Please contact Alexis Ruiz via email at <a href="mailto:aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov">aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov</a>.

### **Elected Officials' Reports**

# CM Althea Stevens - 16th Council District

Jahtah Brown, representative from CM Althea Stevens office, introduced himself as the Communications and Social Media Manager at the 16<sup>th</sup> Council District office. Currently, a written report was not provided. Please contact the Councilmember's office at 718-588-7500, regarding COVID testing, initiatives and resources provided or send an email to <u>District16@council.nyc.gov</u>. Mr. Brown can be reached 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, did not provide a written report for this period. Ms. Knotts spoke on past and present undertakings related to the 17<sup>th</sup> Council District. Please contact the Councilmember's office, located at 1070 Southern Boulevard or via email at Salmanca@council.nyc.gov or Sknotts@council.nyc.gov, and by phone at (917) 837-6226. Please follow CM Salamanca via social media platforms on **Facebook or Instagram at CMSalmanca or on twitter at Salmancajr80**.

# 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

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

Assembly Member Chantel Jackson relayed her sentiments regarding the heartbreaking fire that took place at the Twin Parks housing complex. A M Jackson informed the community at-large of her new member appointment on the Housing Committee and requested that any concern related to NYCHA, Mitchell Lama and tenant issues be directed to her office for follow-up. The Assembly Members Newsletter would be forwarded to Bronx Community Board Three for distribution. Please contact the Assembly Members office to request information on initiatives and resources at 347-234-5597.

### SS Gustavo Rivera Report – 33rd Senate District

Ms. Tiara Davis, representative from SS Gustavo Rivera's office stated that Twin Parks is within the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District and that they are sending condolences and prayers to those that have been affected and displaced, due to the fire. Ms. Davis exchanged information that the State Senator is involved in. At this time Ms. Davis did not provide written report: 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, noted that he is in attendance on the heels of a tragedy that has occurred in the district. In the aftermath of this, Congressman Torres along with other elected officials will be convening a "Fire Safety Task Force" to examine the policy failures that may have contributed to the Bronx apartment building fire. They will also be making legislative recommendations to improve fire safety and prevent another tragedy. New laws will be implemented at all levels of government to protect lives. Time sensitive information was exchanged at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Ronn Jordan via email Ronn.Jordan@mail.house.gov or on my work phone 718-541-1056.

#### 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 Kathy Johnson-Morris Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera Alexis Salgado

# Motion

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

Xiomara Arriola Kathy Johnson-Morris Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera Alexis Salgado

All In Favor

**Motion Carried** 

# **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

It was motioned by Gloria Alston and seconded by Joetta Brown, to approve the December 14, 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.

### Chairperson's Report

Currently, there was no written Chairperson's Report.

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

Ms. Etta Ritter, acting assistant district manager, spoke briefly on the following for the period of December 14th through and including January 11, 2022 as follows:

- Citizens Committee of New York Grants Identify a neighborhood led project that will improve the quality of life considering the recent fires, COVID-19, and #Not62.
- Fire Safety Training Bronx Community will be offering Fire Safety Training for Adults and Children. It was recommended that Fire Safety literature be posted on social media.
- Initiate the process to speak with our elected officials regarding sponsoring a bill to mandate that all lease holders attend an on-line **Fire Safety Training** each time they renew their lease. What roles can Community Boards take to change the process on how landlords are held accountable? How are our Elected Officials being held accountable on the legislative front initiating landlord compliance?
- Free Site Safety Training is being offered by Lendlease to approximately 15 people who are interested.
- NYC Free Tax Prep

As we are approaching 2022 tax season, families with income of \$72,000 or less and single filers with income of \$50,000 or less in 2021 can use NYC Free Tax Prep to file for free.

### NEW! NYC Dedicated Sick Leave for Child Vaccination

Workers in NYC can get 4 additional hours of sick leave for EACH child; AND each COVID-19 vaccine injection. Dedicated sick leave for child vaccination is IN ADDITION to accrued leave under NYC's Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law. Under NYC's Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law, covered employees have the right to use safe and sick leave for the care and treatment of themselves or a family member and to seek legal and social services assistance or take other safety measures if the employee or a family member may be the victim of any act or threat of domestic violence or unwanted sexual contact, stalking, or human trafficking. Employers CANNOT retaliate against workers for requesting or using safe and sick leave. Click here to learn more.

### New delivery worker protection bills.

NYC recently passed a suite of new legislation regulating the online third-party food delivery service ("delivery apps") industry in NYC and providing legal workplace protections for delivery workers. See a summary of the rights below or <u>download our palm card in English</u>. Note we will have additional translations soon. Do you do restaurant deliveries for an app? You have new rights. Immigration status does not matter. Retaliation is illegal.

- Starting January 24, 2022: (only if you work for apps that take customer orders directly):
  - o Apps must tell you how much the customer tips for each delivery.
  - Apps must tell you your total pay and tips for the previous day.
  - You may have better access to restaurant bathrooms when you pick up orders.

### Starting April 22, 2022:

- You have more control over your deliveries. You can limit how far you will go from restaurants and refuse to use bridges or tunnels
- Apps must tell you route details before you accept a delivery. Must include address for pickup, estimated time and distance for trip, tip if known, pay.
- Apps must pay you at least once a week. Apps cannot charge a fee to process your payment.
- Apps must give you a free insulated food delivery bag after 6 deliveries.
- Starting January 1, 2023:
  - Apps must pay you the new minimum pay rate that the city will set.
- Beginning January 24, 2022, workers can file a complaint about apps that do not provide required disclosures or restaurants that do not provide bathroom access. To file a complaint, email <a href="OLPS@dca.nyc.gov">OLPS@dca.nyc.gov</a>.

• John D Solomon fellowship applications are now available. For those that are interested, the program provides 10 graduate students the opportunity to complete a 9-month paid fellowship in an agency of the New York city government or nonprofit organization.

# **Committee Reports**

# **By-Laws & Membership Committee**

At this time, Ms. Wanda Ellis, chairperson of the By-Laws and Membership Committee, informed the board members that a certified return receipt removal letter was sent to Mr. Nelson Delerme due to three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from meetings for the period of October 2021 to December 2021. This recommendation is in accordance with Bronx Community Board Three's By-Laws, Article III, Sec. 4-4C, which governs the necessary actions in removing appointed members.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Wanda Ellis and seconded by Anddy Perdomo to The By-Laws and Membership Committee recommends the removal of Mr. Nelson Delerme due to three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from meetings for the period of October 2021 to December 2021.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
22	2	

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### Sickness, Distress & Birthdays

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

Brother Mobley 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: <a href="https://youtu.be/7umRNwx2rzY">https://youtu.be/7umRNwx2rzY</a>