



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

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

**GLORIA ALSTON**  
**CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS**

**REV. FREDERICK CRAWFORD**  
**ACTING CHAIR**

**VACANT**  
**DISTRICT MANAGER**

**BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 3/8/2022  
 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  
 Randy Dillard  
 Wanda Ellis  
 Maurice Gray  
 Marilyn Johnson  
 Abraham Jones  
 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  
 Amanda Reed  
 Alexis Salgado  
 Olympia Jay Striplin  
 Keziah Sullivan  
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas  
 Sarah Torres  
 Patrick Willis

**Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter

**Members Excused**

Linda Kemp  
 Kathy Johnson-Morris

**Members Absent**

Wilson Ramirez

**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**

SS Luis Sepulveda  
 Ritchard Ewings

**Bronx Borough President's Office**

Thierno Bah  
 Tom Lucania

**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

**Guests Present**

Erin Drinkwater  
Ravi Rampersaud, Acacia  
Amarilis Solor, Acacia  
James Baggett

**AM Chantel Jackson’s Office**

Adrian Cacho

**NYC Comptroller’s Office**

Greer Mayhew

**Congressman Ritchie Torres’ Office**

Ronn Jordan

**Call To Order**

Rev. Frederick Crawford, acting chair of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**Invocation**

Min. Abraham Jones led us in prayer.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Rev. Frederick Crawford stated that per the City Charter requirement that Community Board’s host monthly Public Hearing to provide community stakeholders an opportunity to express their views or concerns on matters relating to the welfare of the district and its residents. The Public Hearing scheduled for this evening is for informational purposes only.**

Bronx Community Board Three has adhered to the requirement to post the “Public Hearing Notice” in a public location, “notices” to news media outlets, CBO’s, community stakeholders, referencing the time and place was electronically transmitted and the “notice” was uploaded on Bronx Community Board Three’s Website, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Ms. Rita Jones, Sgt-at-Arms/Parliamentarian will be keeping track of time and all pre-registrants will be called first and registrants from the chat will be called next to expedite the process when the Public Hearing is Open.

At this time, Rev. Frederick Crawford, acting chair of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Erin Drinkwater, Deputy Commissioner of Inter-Governmental and Legislative Affairs at the NYC Department of Social Services, to those in attendance. Erin Drinkwater came before the community at-large to discuss the use at 963 Prospect Avenue, a 5-story building between E. 164<sup>th</sup> and E.163<sup>rd</sup> Streets, as a 54-Bed Stabilization Bed Project, within Community District Three. Acacia will be the contracting agent and Mr. Ravi Rampersaud, will be the Director at this site. This site was previously used as a transitional shelter for families.

Erin Drinkwater stated that the NYC Department of Social Services addresses individuals who are experiencing street homelessness. The Stabilization Bed project helps to better serve the needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness on the street. In New York City, everyone has a right to shelter. DSS has more than 600 outreach workers who canvas the city 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. These workers connect individuals who are bedding down on the street to programs and services which requires them to be in a “shelter” to receive services.

DSS and DHS recognize that individuals who are experiencing homelessness, particularly on the street, coming into a congregate shelter system can sometimes be a deterrent; however, over the course of the last 2 years with utilization of what we refer to as “stabilization beds” (SRO units), the agency is making really good progress at bringing people in off the street and transitioning them from the street to a shelter.

The ultimate goal for DSS and DHS is permanent housing for all. DSS has learned in the past 2 years, when the subway system shut down, their providers really responded by changing the approach and conducted more end of line engagements. When homeless individuals were forced out of the subways and the trains were no longer running it provided a unique opportunity for outreach workers to engage with individuals and ultimately connected them to the “stabilization bed” program.. DSS and DHS recognizes that having individuals connected inside with wrap around services and social services, will assist individuals in the transition from temporary shelter to permanent housing, which is the goal.

Erin Drinkwater had in attendance this evening colleagues from Acacia Networks. Ms Amarilis Soler, assistant Vice-President for Acacia Network Housing where she oversees a portion of the shelter portfolio of the Network. Also in attendance, was Mr. James Baggett program coordinator for all families with children, adult family hotels, and he has oversight and is responsible for the new “stabilization bed program” on Prospect Avenue.

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963 Prospect Avenue a Stabilization Beds Program, consisting of 54 beds (SRO units), with 24/7 staff support. Acacia has partnered with La Casa De Salud, Inc. a comprehensive Health Center, located at 966 Prospect Avenue, across the street. The Prospect Stabilization Beds Program will offer the following:

- High quality Temporary Housing
- Robust Social Services
- Excellent Client Services
- Strong Safety Measures
- Partnership with the Community

At this time, a PowerPoint presentation was entertained. See attached.

### **PUBLIC HEARING OPEN**

Rev. Crawford noted that Individuals that registered to speak will be allowed 2-3 minutes as follows:

Ms. Rita Jones, had a question regarding the population  
Paul Narvarro opposed the use  
Maurice Gray opposed the use  
Olympia Striplin made a comment  
Ray Allen opposed the use in writing  
D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas opposed the population and use  
Sulay Lora from SEBNC requested to collaborate with DSS Program Services  
Felipe Garcia asked a question and made a comment  
Marilyn Johnson had a few questions  
Pamela Lindsay opposed the use

There were no other comments to entertain. The Public Hearing was now closed.

### **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](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**

- Ms. Gina Newton had a question for the "Elected Officials" referencing the legislative budget including fair pay for home care workers? At this time, there were no representatives in attendance and Ms, Newton was advised to send an email which will be forwarded to the SS Luis Sepulveda office for follow-up.

### **Elected Officials' Reports**

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

State Senator Luis Sepulveda did not provide a written report. SS Sepulveda stated that we should not be desensitized to individuals who are homeless and are part of the shelter system. We all should be mindful to how we talk about homeless people as if their objects and that they are inherently criminals because of their lack of housing.

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SS Sepulveda stated that they are currently in legislative session up in Albany. The Senator is pushing for 5 Bills as follows:

- More funding for the educational system
- More funding for Economic Development opportunities
- More funding for Affordable Housing
- More funding for Public Safety
- One Bill that the Senator is passing will allow victims of gun violence to bring civil actions against gun manufacturers.

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](mailto:team@senatorsepulveda.com). Follow the SS on all social media handles via @NYSenSepulveda to keep up to date with relevant information.

### **CM Althea Stevens – 16<sup>th</sup> Council District**

Councilmember Althea Stevens noted she too has concerns regarding how the shelters sittings are disbursed, within Community District Three, and that their needs to be a fair share of "transitional" shelters within every Community District. A written report was not provided; however, the CM spoke briefly on the following:

CM Stevens office is still working remotely due to renovations within her office. CM Althea Stevens has requested that interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact her office to join one of the advisory councils. CM Stevens noted that Mr. Jahtah Brown, communications, and social media manager be contacted from her office.

- **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 Stevens noted that she and her colleagues hosted a Black History Event and will be honoring women for Women's History Month. CM Althea Stevens wished all the women a Happy International Women's Day.

Please contact the Councilmember's office at 718-588-7500, regarding initiatives and resources provided or send an email to [District16@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16@council.nyc.gov) or email Mr. Brown directly at [jbrown@council.nyc.gov](mailto:jbrown@council.nyc.gov).

### **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. The CM's office is currently open with limited capacity. They are utilizing their office to host community events, COVID testing and constituent services. Those looking for assistance from the CM's office can call 718-402-6130 or email CM Salamanca at [Salamanca@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Salamanca@council.nyc.gov).

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

Ms. Tiara Davis, representative from SS Gustavo Rivera's office did not provide a written report. SS Gustavo Rivera has passed 13 Bills through the Senate since January 2022.

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).

### **NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's Report**

Mr. Greer Mayhew, Bronx Borough Director from the NYC Comptroller's Office, did not provide a written report. The Comptroller along with the Mayor Eric Adams released recommendations that came from there, nonprofit task force to help find solutions to pay nonprofits quicker. Due to many complaints about the different hindrance's nonprofits have had in the past concerning payment from the city. Secondly, the Comptroller announced the tracker for federal money that was given during COVID can now be accessed on the Comptroller's website. The tracker breaks down where all the dollars have gone and to which agencies received funding.

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Mr. Greer Mayhew can be reached by phone at 221-669-8736 or via email at [gmayhew@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:gmayhew@comptroller.nyc.gov).

### **Congressman Ritchie Torres – 15<sup>th</sup> District**

Mr. Ronn Jordan, representative from Congressman Ritchie Torres office, did not provide a written report. Mr. Jordan informed the community at-large that Congressman Ritchie Torres voted to pass the **Pact Act of 2021**, which will provide 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans with expedited medical care and disability payments. A one-year open enrollment period is available for those veterans who missed their window.

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](mailto:Ronn.Jordan@mail.house.gov) or on his work phone at 718-541-1056.

### **Assembly Member Chantel Jackson's Report -79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Adrian Cacho, representative from Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, did not provide a written report. Mr. Cacho stated that the AM has an active survey where you can share any of your concerns that you may have and what you would like changed. The AM office is continuing to work with constituents and that the office is fully open and functional. Do not hesitate to reach out if you'd like to schedule an appointment. The AM office will continue to keep everyone posted on upcoming events through their newsletter. If you are not already receiving the AM Newsletter contact their office.

Please contact the Assembly Members office to request information on initiatives and resources at 347-234-5597.

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

Mr. Thierno Bah, representative from the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson office, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Bah noted that community board members who have submitted, their re-appointment application should continue to serve until they receive a letter from the BP's office regarding their re-appointment. Board members who have chosen not to reapply their term will end on March 31st. Mr. Bah shared time-sensitive information at this time.

Please contact Mr. Thierno Bah to request information on the BP's initiatives and events via email at [tbah@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto: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**

Kathy Morris  
Linda Kemp

### **Motion**

**It was motioned by Min. Abraham Jones, and seconded by Joetta Brown to excuse the following member(s):**

Kathy Morris  
Linda Kemp

**All In Favor**

**Motion Carried**

### **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

It was motioned by Min, Abraham Jones and seconded by Joetta Brown, to approve the March 8, 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.

### **Committee Reports**

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Ms. Wanda Ellis, chair of the By-Laws and Membership Committee stated that at an Executive Committee meeting held on March 1, 2022, members in attendance came to a consensus to recommend approval of the following actions:

1. Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera submitted his resignation as chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. In accordance with Bronx Community Board Three's By-Laws, Article V, Sec. 3 (Officers), upon the death, resignation or removal of any officer, the vacancy created shall be filled by the board through a Special Election to take place no later than the second meeting following the creation of the vacancy. The Executive Committee came to a consensus to recommend approval to waive the requirement for a Special Election to fill the vacancy of the position of chairperson no later than April 2022, since the process for the General Election of officers commences in April 2022, for the General Election to be held in June 2022.

It was motioned by Gilberto Constantinez and seconded by Dawn Carter to forgo the "Special Election" to fill the vacancy of the position of chairperson, since the process for the General Election of officers commences in April 2022, for the General Election to be held in June 2022.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

2. In accordance with Article VI Sec. 4, the Executive Committee recommends approval of the creation of a SPECIAL AD-HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE for the purpose of hiring a District Manager. Said committee will be charged with the responsibility for developing a search process and timeline for this purpose. This Special Ad-Hoc Search Committee shall consist of a chairperson and other members of the board appointed by the chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three. Upon completion of the search process and hiring of the District Manager, this Special Ad-Hoc Search Committee will be terminated by resolution of the board.

It was motioned by Alexis Salgado and seconded by Gloria Alston for the creation of a SPECIAL AD-HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE for the purpose of hiring a District Manager.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

3. Rev. Frederick Crawford stated that the Executive Committee came to a consensus to recommend approval of Ms. Gloria Alston as Chairperson Emeritus of Bronx Community Board Three. Ms. Alston has served as a member of Bronx Community Board Three for over 30 years and served as the Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three for over 20 years. This honorary title is befitting due to her long-standing service.

It was motioned by Olympia Striplin and seconded by Gina Newton to approve Gloria Alston as "Honorary Chairperson Emeritus" of Bronx Community Board Three

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

#### 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 March.

#### Benediction

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

#### Adjournment

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

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#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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If you wish to view the meeting in its entirety, go to copy and paste into your browser: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb3/meetings/general-board-virtual-meetings.page>

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