



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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DIAL	Government Services
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HON. VANESSA GIBSON
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JOETTA BROWN
CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 12/10/2024
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Atta Acheampong
 Kolaco Acqui
 Ibrahim Ahmed
 Joetta Brown
 Robert Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Edgardo Cedeno
 Joyce Diggs
 Francis D'Souza
 Wanda Ellis
 Beverly Emers
 Michele Gantt
 Maurice Gray
 April Jones
 Victor Latimer
 Aubrey Mike
 Raymond Moya
 Amanda Reed
 Laredo Regular
 Keziah Sullivan-Norman
 Jasmine Uribe
 Beautiful Winston

Congressman Ritchie Torres

Joanna Rivas

Bronx District Attorney's Darcel Clarke

Senovia Simpson

Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Miguel Pena

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Crystal Diaz

Senator Luis Sepulveda

Nicole Liberato

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

Xiomara Arriola
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Randy Dillard
 Margo Grant
 Michelle Holmes
 Linda Johnson
 Abraham Jones
 Diane Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Tracie Lucas-Lord
 Jacquelyn Moore-Hill
 Kathy Morris
 Paul Navarro
 Anddy Perdomo
 Arona Testamark
 D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas

Members Absent

Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Aaron Dumfeh
 Adriano Joseph
 Una Lawrence
 Christian Matthew
 Jeannie Ruiz
 Bryan Wigfall

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Tyreke Israel
 Lisne Bautista

Mayor Adam's Office

Leonardo Coello

Bronx Borough President's Office

Kenny Agosto

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Kolaco Acqui 1 st Vice-Chairperson	Kathy Morris 2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Keziah Sullivan-Norman Secretary	D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas Treasurer	Robert Brown Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm.

INVOCATION

Mr. Edgardo Cedeno led us in prayer.

PRESENTATION

Guillermo Flores, Community Engagement Manager, NYC Smoke-Free (A Program of Public Health Solutions)
Zoe Cruz, Bronx Reality Check Youth Engagement Manager, NYC Smoke-Free (A Program of Public Health Solutions)

Topic: Discuss the great tobacco control work and accomplishments that are taking place in the Bronx

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Mr. Guillermo Flores and Ms. Zoe Cruz to those in attendance.

Mr. Flores, the Community Engagement Manager at NYC Smoke-Free, shared the following information:

NYC Smoke-Free is a program of Public Health Solutions, funded by the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, that works to increase tobacco-free norms throughout New York City so that every resident has the right to breathe clean, smoke-free air where they live, work, and play.

Key Issues:

- Limiting youth exposure and access to tobacco marketing and advertising of flavored tobacco products.
- Increasing the number of apartment buildings, co-ops, and condominiums that are 100% smoke-free.
- Increasing the number of smoke-free outdoor spaces.
- Reducing tobacco imagery in youth rated movies and youth friendly internet sites.
- Engaging youth and community partners to build support for a smoke-free city and end tobacco health disparities.

Key Initiatives:

- Smoke-Free Housing Initiative - expand the availability of smoke-free affordable housing to ensure that no family or child is exposed to harmful secondhand smoke in their homes.
- Tobacco Free Outdoor Policies Initiative - voluntary policies adopted by businesses, community institutions, and faith-based organizations to ban smoking on outdoor property.
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids - educates students to recognize the marketing tools of the tobacco industry in order to eliminate media imagery that attracts youth

The following additional points were shared by the presenters:

- Tobacco use remains the #1 cause of preventable death in the United States, killing over 480,000 annually.
- In New York City, 12,000 residents die from a smoking-related illness every year.
- New York State spends over \$10billion to care for tobacco related illnesses.
- NYC Smoke-Free advocacy efforts serve to foster environments that support the prevention and reduction of tobacco use through the development and reinforcement of tobacco-free norms in communities throughout New York City.
- NYC Smoke-Free employs a two-pronged approach via youth action and community engagement.
- NYC Smoke-Free utilizes a community-based strategy which includes community education, community mobilization, government policy-making education, and advocacy with organizational decision-makers.
- The average age of a new smoker is 13 years old.
- 20,000 NYC students report smoking and using e-cigs.

The presentation was concluded at this time. Questions were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

PUBLIC SESSION

Community Concerns

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Mr. Amjad Mujaahid spoke to the audience about the importance of the community board to create an Emergency Preparedness Committee. Mr. Mujaahid founded the Community Organization Active During Disaster (COADD), during the Covid 19 pandemic. COADD is a collective of community members concerned about ensuring that residents are prepared for potential disasters.

Mr. Mujaahid is also a member of the South Bronx Emergency Network (SBEN). Mr. Mujaahid expressed the need for the community to be prepared given the potential consequences of climate change, which include increasing frequency of dangerous storms and earthquakes. Mr. Mujaahid mentioned that the community must learn from experience to stay prepared, save lives, and be more resilient and stressed that the community should not wait on the government to come save them.

Announcements

- Mr. Daniel Silvera, Community Ambassador, Bridge Builders Community Partnership, shared time sensitive information.
- Mr. Colbert Nembhard, Librarian, Morrisania Public Library, shared time sensitive information.
- Mr. Arturo Martinez, Outreach Coordinator at Phipps Neighborhoods, shared time sensitive information.
- Mr. Dylan Tchedji announced the launching of his production company, Christian First Films, whose mission is to heal the world through storytelling.
- Ms. Queen Eva McFadden thanked Bronx Community Board Three for assisting her in making connections to secure The Cary Leeds Center as the venue to host her upcoming toy drive.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Report

Ms. Crystal Diaz, Director of Constituent Services, shared time sensitive information along with the following information:

LEGISLATION

For the 2024-25 legislative session, the Governor signed four of AM Jackson's bills:

1. **Disabilities Education Bill (A3982)** - Passed on May 23rd and signed on June 28th, this bill extends specific rules that help put the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 into action, ensuring continued support and services for students with disabilities.
2. **NYCHABill (A3866B)** - Passed on May 28th and signed on September 27th, this bill requires entities responsible for providing vital services, including gas, such as NYCHA, to coordinate and work expeditiously to restore service when interrupted.
3. **Urban Development Bill (A10214A)** - Passed on May 28th and signed on June 28th, this bill extends rules related to buildings that are part of urban development projects and have been fixed up using loans from the city.
4. **BedBugBill (A9329)** - Passed on May 29th and signed on November 22nd, this bill requires landlords and lessors to provide a written notice to tenants about bed bug infestation within 72 hours.

During the 2024-25 legislative session budget cycle, Assembly Member Jackson successfully advocated for numerous initiatives, including Clean Water, Mothers and Infants Lasting Change, Tier 6 reforms, Foundation Aid, Citizens Committee for Family Representation, New York Common Pantry, Safe Motherhood, Reparations, Operation SNUG, and Biobus. These items were incorporated into the enacted budget. Assembly Member Jackson carried a total of 63 bills, with 7 focused on public safety, 9 on quality-of-life improvements, and 3 addressing affordable housing. Additionally, she introduced 12 resolutions recognizing important dates for the State of New York. As part of her engagement efforts, Assembly Member Jackson hosted three workshops during Caucus Weekend, covering topics such as the importance of FAFSA, diversifying the business of golf, and a joint City and State Black Agenda workshop. She also organized a bus trip for approximately 20 constituents to Albany for Caucus Weekend, providing lunch for attendees. During Caucus Weekend, Assembly Member Jackson welcomed Shyne to Albany, presenting him with a proclamation honoring his accomplishments. Other events she hosted in Albany included Wellness in the Well, Bring Your Parents to Work Day, and a visit from Earn Your Leisure. She also conducted a virtual grants information workshop to guide constituents through the state grant process. Assembly Member Jackson allocated \$500,000 in program funding to 13 nonprofit organizations and directed \$2,750,000 toward district renovations.

For the 2025-26 legislative session, Assembly Member Jackson plans to continue her advocacy for budget items related to housing, deed theft, health, mental health, Tier 6 reforms, and entrepreneurship. She will reintroduce 59 bills and introduce approximately 17 new bills, prioritizing key

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initiatives such as the Fair Pricing Act, the Broker Fee Bill, the Community Housing Improvement Program Bill, and the Right of Publicity Bill. Her new legislation will also address housing, health, mental health, education, unresolved legal cases, fetal and infant mortality, youthful offender status, ACS reform, marital presumption, prenatal care, and more. Assembly Member Jackson will cosponsor bills that align with her priorities, including those related to health, mental health, women and children, education, entrepreneurship, and Bronx-specific issues. She will also support her colleagues' bills focusing on housing repairs, ACSreform, and education. Additionally, Assembly Member Jackson plans to allocate discretionary and capital funding to programs and services supporting health and wellness, LGBTQ+initiatives, immigration, disabilities, veterans, entrepreneurship, and renovations in parks and schools. She will reintroduce and introduce new resolutions, while continuing to host workshops and events during Caucus Weekend and throughout the legislative session.

Capital Grant Projects Interest Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScc4gH2biSgGQ1mTlly8nBi5wkoL04II_rApKhku4-73zmMtg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Discretionary Funding Interest Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNtzVzJ0CadVJRcYI8Ocd4zbUPoHMD7T2VHoF_m_AbgQmu-0A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Bill Idea Submission Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8r3hProxCmqxWhBd4JaYvH99W3I4BDcfm0hIY_V0Ik6MW5Wg/viewform?usp=sf_link

OFFICE UPDATES

Our district office offers free notary services Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AM WEBSITE

You can find the website by googling Assembly Member Chantel Jackson; the survey is on her main page.

<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Chantel-Jackson>

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Subscribe to our newsletter using the link in AM Jackson's Instagram bio

<https://state.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5491220e529623bf71e8742b3&id=cfa8de078e>

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Assembly Member Chantel Jackson
780 Concourse Village West Ground FL
Professional Bronx NY 10451
718-538-3829

Constituent matters: District79@nyassembly.gov
Scheduling requests: schedulingbx79@gmail.com

AM JACKSON STAFF

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williamsd@nyassembly.gov

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Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

Ms. Senovia Simpson, Community Engagement Coordinator, Bronx DA's Office, provided the following written report:

Office of the District Attorney Office Report:

Upcoming Events:

Re Entry Employment Resource Fair

In January 2025

Details and Flyer to come!

To keep up with our office:

Instagram : [@bronxdaclark](#)

Twitter: [@bronxdaclark](#)

Facebook: [@bronxdaclark](#)

www.bronxda.nycgov

[718-590-2000](tel:718-590-2000)

[198 East 161 East 161 street Bronx, NY 10451](#)

<https://linktr.ee/bronxda>

Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report

Ms. Joanna Rivas, Constituent Services Liaison for Congressman Ritchie Torres, provided the following written report:

- As of 12/6/2024, Congressman Ritchie Torres Introduces the 'Repealing the IMD Exclusion Act' This legislation would amend title XIX(19) of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases, and for other purposes. The full bill text available [here](#).
- As of 12/9/2024, Congressman Ritchie Torres Introduces the Anesthesia for All Act This legislation would prohibit health insurers, including Medicaid managed care organizations and other private health plans, from imposing arbitrary time caps on reimbursement for anesthesia services. The bill would ensure reimbursement is based on medical necessity as determined by the attending anesthesiologist and prohibit insurers from denying payment solely because the duration of care exceeds a pre-set limit. The full bill text available [here](#).
- As of 12/9/2024, Congressman Ritchie Torres to Gov. Hochul: Sign Transparency Legislation Now On Sunday evening, Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) wrote to New York Governor Kathy Hochul regarding the urgent need to pass transparency legislation for state contracts. Rep. Torres wrote to the NY Inspector General and the HHS Inspector General, calling upon them "to investigate alleged attempts by the Hochul Administration to put the \$9 billion CDPAP program in the hands of a single out-of-state vendor with a questionable track record and to do so under false pretenses. The letter sent to the Governor reads as follows (full PDF available [here](#)):

Our office is open for Constituent Services, and we can assist with any federal issues you may have. Amongst them being Social Security, Immigration, Passports, and issues with the IRS. If you have any issues, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact our office at 718-503-9610 to schedule an appointment.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Report

Mr. Kenny Agosto, Community Board Liaison, Bronx Borough President's Office did not provide a written report. However, Mr. Agosto did share time sensitive information.

NYC Mayor 's Community Affairs Unit

Mr. Leonardo Coello, Bronx Borough Director, NYC Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, did not provide a written report. However, Mr. Coello did share time sensitive information.

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report

Mr. Tyreke Israel, Deputy Chief of Staff, Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office, did not provide a written report. However, Mr. Israel did share time sensitive information and the following office details:

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District 16 In-Office Services:

Service Agency	Frequency
CUNY Citizenship Now	Every Monday
NAICA	By referral
Department of Buildings	By referral
Choice (Medicaid assistance)	By referral
CUNY Law	First Tuesday of every month
SNAP	Request referral from our office

For anyone who would like to sign up for Council Member Althea Stevens E-Newsletter - Follow this link : <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/2PxkaUc>

Constituent Service Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays (9am -5pm)	Tuesdays & Thursdays (9am -5pm)	Fridays (9am - 5pm)
No Walk-Ins Appointment Only!	Walk-Ins & Follow Up Appointments	*Fridays are administration days, no walk-ins or appointments will be accepted. *

How to make an appointment:

Email: District16@council.nyc.gov or Call: (718) 588-7500

Make sure to include:

- Full name
- Address
- Contact information
- Description of case

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Report

Ms. Shana Knotts, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Office, shared the following written report:

Legislation:

- On October 23rd, the City Council unanimously adopted Intro 87-2024 sponsored by Council Member Salamanca by a 50-0 vote. In response to the state's 'Raise the Age' mandate, Intro 87 would require the Administration of Children Services to expand their reporting on youth who are in the juvenile detention center, including Horizon Juvenile Center, which is located in District 17. Intro 87 was enacted into law on November 25th, and will now be known as Local Law 112 of 2024.
- On November 13th, Council Member Salamanca introduced legislation that will make Duarte Day, which is January 26th, a New York City street-cleaning holiday. Duarte Day commemorates the birthday of Juan Pablo Duarte, one the Dominican Republic's founding fathers. If approved, Duarte Day would be added to the list of holidays observed in which alternate-side parking is suspended. The bill, now known as Intro 1109, has been referred to the Committee on Transportation where it awaits a hearing.
- On December 5th, the City Council unanimously approved CM Salamanca's bill, Intro 850, 51-0, which would require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to submit periodic reports to the Council regarding city-financed affordable housing projects that are approved as part of the City's ULURP process. The reports would be due every six months and would include, for each project, the project identifier and location, the date the project received ULURP approval, and the date the project is expected to receive financial closing. The background for this bill is that despite the City Council approving much-needed affordable housing projects, it often takes HPD several years to provide funding for groundbreaking, frustrating constituents who are looking forward to the addition of affordable housing units within their community. Intro 850 now goes to the Mayor's office where it awaits Mayor Adams signature for enactment into law.

Office Operations:

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- Our office remains open and in full operation to offer a variety of constituent services. Those looking for assistance can give us a call, submit an email or visit us in person at the district office.
- We also have an immigration attorney available to provide constituents with free consultation and application assistance. However, this service is offered by-appointment only. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact our office directly.
- CM Salamanca has partnered with DSNY for the E-Cycle NYC program. This a free service where you can discard electronics that you no longer need, want or utilize. They can be dropped off to our district office weekly from Wednesday – Friday between the hours of 10am – 3pm. A variety of electronics will be accepted, that don't include household items such as vacuums, microwaves, batteries, light bulbs or ballasts. Please refer to the flier with full details. This opportunity will remain available to community members, and residents for the next few months.

Upcoming Events:

- On Thursday, December 12th from 7pm – 12am, CM Salamanca will host his annual Holiday Party at Maestro's Caterer's 1703 Bronxdale Ave. Bronx, NY 10462. This event is first come, first serve and is open to the public. *Flyer Attached*
- On Saturday, December 14th from 10am – 1pm, CM Salamanca will be hosting his annual Children's Coat distribution at the district office 1070 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10459. This will be a first come, first serve event, and the child MUST be present.

How to connect with Team Salamanca

We strongly encourage interested parties to follow us on one of our social media platforms. This is to help individuals stay informed and updated about legislation, upcoming events, and other pivotal information.

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/CMSalamanca](https://www.facebook.com/CMSalamanca)

- X (Twitter): [@CMSalamancaJr](https://twitter.com/CMSalamancaJr)

- Instagram: [@cmsalamancajr_d17](https://www.instagram.com/cmsalamancajr_d17)

Councilmember Oswald Feliz's Report

Mr. Miguel Pena, Legislative Fellow, Councilmember Oswald Feliz's Office, did not provide a written report. However, Mr. Pena did share time sensitive information.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Keziah Sullivan-Norman, Secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll, and a quorum was not established. No official business was held at this time due to a lack of quorum. Non-binding discussions and information were exchanged.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Joetta Brown thanked each board member for their attendance, participation, and advocacy efforts within the closing year of 2024. Ms. Brown also thanked the representatives of the elected officials within Bronx District Three, as well as the community members within said district, for their involvement and efforts for the district.

Ms. Brown stated the importance of establishing an Emergency Preparedness Committee within Bronx Community Board Three.

Ms. Brown closed her report by mentioning that per the by-laws, each member is required to participate on at least one committee and attend the General Board meetings monthly.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The full District Manager's report was emailed to the Bronx Community Board Three listserv.

Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, spoke on the following issues of importance affecting Bronx Community District Three:

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- Emails will be sent to all board members who have not chosen a committee to participate on, instructing them to choose a committee.
- All committee chairs should take the lead in communicating and engaging their committee members.
- Emphasized the need for more of the community's youth to attend the board's committee meetings.
- The importance of board members attending the General Board meetings to ensure a quorum is consistently met.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Condolences were expressed to board members Linda Johnson and Michelle Holmes on the loss of their dear mother.

BENEDICTION

Mr. Edgardo Cedeno led us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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