



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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DIAL	Government Services
311	& Information for NYC

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

HON. VANESSA GIBSON
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GLORIA ALSTON
CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS

REV. FREDERICK CRAWFORD
CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 5/14/2024
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Robert Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Vladimir Cruz
 Joyce Diggs
 Randy Dillard
 Francis D'Souza
 Wanda Ellis
 Beverly Emers
 Michele Gantt
 Maurice Gray
 Linda Johnson
 Rita Jones
 Victor Latimer
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Christian Matthew
 Aubrey Mike
 Paul Navarro
 Anddy Perdomo
 Laredo Regular
 Keziah Sullivan-Norman
 D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas
 Bryan Wigfall

Mayor's Office (CAU)

Socrates Solano

Bronx Borough President's Office

Kenny Agosto

Congressman Ritchie Torres

Joanna Rivas

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Joetta Brown
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Aaron Dumfeh
 Abraham Jones
 Kathy Morris
 Linda Kemp
 Amanda Reed
 Arona Testamark
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas

Members Absent

No Members Absent

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Office

Crystal Diaz

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Lisne Bautista

Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Juan Lopez

Bronx District Attorney's Office

Senovia Simpson

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joetta Brown
 1st Vice-Chairperson

Kolaco Acqui
 2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman
 Secretary

Kathy Morris
 Treasurer

Rita Jones
 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Kolaco Acqui, 2nd Vice-Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

INVOCATION

Ms. Dawn Carter, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, opened the meeting in prayer.

PUBLIC SESSION

Community Concerns

Residents from 1003-05 East 174th Street HDFC, which is a residential building connected to New Horizons Mall, expressed concern regarding a lot adjacent to the Auto Zone business within the mall. The lot has become a haven for drug use activity and for dumping of trash. There was a fire in the lot in 2023 and the residents are worried about a reoccurrence. Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager Bronx Community Board Three, instructed the residents to call 311 and send the complaint number to Bronx Community Board Three to immediately address the situation.

A resident who resided on Longfellow Avenue between 171st Street and 173rd Street complained about lack of access to Starlight Park. The entrance gates on 172nd and 173rd Streets have been locked by the Parks & Recreation Department. The majority of park activity is located near those locked entrances and the senior residents that frequent the park have to walk a long distance to the available entrance.

The resident of Longfellow Avenue also complained that many houses on her block, including her house, frequently have their driveways blocked by cars. The resident mentioned that they call 311 and more times than not, by the time NYPD shows up, the car blocking the driveway has left. The resident mentioned that her driveway was blocked by one from Friday to Sunday one recent weekend. It was also noted that homeowners could call a private company to tow the car once the NYPD issues a ticket for the blocked driveway violation. Ms. Ritter advised the resident to send correspondence to Bronx Community Board Three for further investigation. Ms. Ritter then suggested that the residents attend the 42nd Precinct Community Council meetings and express their concerns. Ms. Ritter advised that Bronx Community Board Three will email the resident contact information of the 42nd Precinct Neighborhood Community Officers.

The superintendent of Banana Kelly housing complained of excessive noise from loud music playing at all times of the night, causing building residents not to be able to sleep. The music comes from businesses located at 1084-1086 Home Street, off Westchester Avenue. Ms. Ritter asked the superintendent to send correspondence to Bronx Community Three for further investigation.

Board member Victor Latimer expressed his dissatisfaction with Governor Kathy Hochul's comments regarding 'Black kids in the Bronx not knowing what a computer is'.

Exchange of Information

Alexander Reyes of the Oyate Group spoke to the community at large about the services the organization provides. The Oyate Group is a nonprofit organization with the mission to alleviate poverty by creating sustainable and holistic solutions that empower underserved communities all across NYC. The following contact information was shared:

Email: Alexendar@oyategroup.org
Phone: 347.652.7976

Arturo Martinez of Phipps Neighborhood Inc., shared time sensitive information. Mr. Martinez encouraged the community at large to vote in the 'Participatory Budgeting' process and encouraged those interested to visit his office at 1591 Fulton Avenue for further information.

Board member Ms. Beverly Emers shared information on an art show she curated themed "Fathers Fighting for Rights". Ms. Emers is looking to partner with those interested.

Announcements

Board member Ms. Anddy Perdomo thanked District Manager Etta Ritter for the letter of support for a grant she recently applied for. Ms. Perdomo was approved for the grant. The grant is to provide job training readiness and construction apprenticeships for community youth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was motioned by Anddy Perdomo and seconded by Robert Brown to approve the minutes.

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PRESENTATION

Ms. Kolaco Acqui, 2nd Vice-chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Ms. Lorisbel Romero and Mr. Sun Kim to the community at large.

Lorisbel Romero, NYC BEST Small Business Advocate, & Sun Kim, Compliance Advisor, NYC Department of Small Business Services

Topic: Discuss the NYC Business Express Service Team's (BEST) program services.

NYC BEST serves as a single point of contact for education and advocacy. NYC BEST helps business owners, throughout the five boroughs, launch and operate efficiently and in compliance.

The NYC Business Express Service Team (BEST) is an initiative of the NYC Department of Small Business Services that connects business owners to a single point of contact who can help navigate various agencies to open or run their storefront businesses for free.

Through NYC BEST, you will be assigned a single point of contact to help you navigate licenses & permits, understand City rules and requirements and work with City agencies to get licenses and permits. NYC BEST will also help you avoid/reduce fines & violations, prepare for inspections, fix issues before an inspector walks through your door, and understand violations you've received and help address them.

NYC BEST is your one-stop resource to working with City and State regulatory agencies and utilities.

Key industries and storefront business types:

Food & Drinking Establishments

- Restaurants
- Cafes
- Pizzerias
- Ice Cream Shops
- Bars
- Supermarkets
- Bodegas
- Deli, Grocery Stores
- Fish & Meat Markets

Retail & Personal Care

- Apparel
- Home
- Hardware
- Pharmacies
- Flower Shops
- Book Stores
- Day Care
- Laundromats & Dry Cleaners
- Salons & Personal Care
- Shoe Repair
- Small Manufacturers

Sample of services provided:

Licenses + Permits



Navigate the [Department of Buildings permitting process](#)



Navigate the [Food Service Establishment Permit](#)



Provide information and steps needed to apply for the Dining Out NYC program

Compliance Advisors:

- **FREE**, line-of-sight visual assessments of your current or soon-to-open commercial space
- **FREE 1:1** guidance with a customized checklist on how to avoid common business violations
- **Answer questions** about a violation you may have received

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NYC BEST Milestones:

- Served over **5,000** unique businesses since **Sept 7, 2022**
- Helped small businesses save more than **\$36.4M** by avoiding fines and penalties

NYC BEST in your community:

- NYC BEST will visit business communities across the five boroughs in collaboration with community partners and other NYC agencies
- Directly hearing the concerns and challenges and providing education, resources, and solutions



Connect with NYC BEST:

Website: nyc.gov/NYCBEST

Email: NYCBEST@sbs.nyc.gov

SBS Business Hotline:
(888)-SBS-4NYC
(888)-727-4692

Ms. Lorisbel Romero and Mr. Sun Kim concluded their presentation.

Questions we entertained and answered satisfactorily.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

Bronx Borough President - Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson's Report

Mr. Kenny Agosto, representative of the Bronx Borough President's Office, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Agosto stated that community board member interviews were currently taking place and appointments will be announced once the interview process is completed.

Mr. Agosto shared time sensitive information.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report – 17th District

Ms. Shanna Knotts, Director of Constituent Services, provided a written report as follows:

Legislation:

In April of 2024, CM Salamanca re-introduced the following bills as part of the new 2024-2025 Legislative Session:

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Intro 846 - This bill would establish a local monitoring committee for each wastewater treatment plant to review community concerns about the activities at the wastewater treatment plant. Each monitoring committee would be appointed by local representatives, including community boards, and would include employees from the wastewater treatment plant and members of the community.

Intro 847 - This bill would require that the Department of Social Services submit to every council member and community board and post on its website quarterly reports on the number of shelters, supportive housing, including both single-site supportive housing and scattered-site, and cluster sites. The total number of shelters, supportive housing facilities and cluster sites would be disaggregated by council district and community board.

Intro 848 - This bill would require the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to provide a water bottle-filling station in all offices owned or maintained by the City that are occupied by City agencies.

Intro 849 - This bill would require the presence of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at private schools and in police patrol cars. AEDs are already required at public schools.

Intro 850 - This bill would require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to submit quarterly reports to the Council regarding affordable housing development projects that involve any form of city financial assistance. The quarterly reports would include the amount of city financial assistance received by the developer, the date the project received ULURP approval, and the estimated and actual closing dates for any financial assistance provided by the City.

Intro 851 - This bill would require owners of multiple dwellings to annually inspect soil in areas on the premises of a multiple dwelling, partially or wholly covered in soil and accessible to persons other than those employed to maintain such premises. If the lead level of that soil is above the soil lead reference level, the owner must notify the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and cover, replace or remediate that area.

Intro 852 - This bill would require that towing storage yards be open 24 hours.

Intro 853 - This bill would require the New York City Department of Transportation to assign staff to respond to traffic requests in each borough. The number of staff members for each borough would be proportionate to the volume of traffic requests in the borough. The traffic request response staff members would be responsible for responding to traffic requests in their assigned borough within three months of submission of the request, if practicable.

Intro 854 - This bill would require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish a domestic violence shelter exclusively for individuals who identify as men.

Intro 855 - This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide fentanyl test strips and provide training on how to use them at syringe exchange programs, and to provide test strips to attendees of in-person and virtual fentanyl test strip trainings. It would also require DOHMH to provide training to staff at syringe exchange programs on how to use the fentanyl test strips.

Intro 856 - This bill would raise the fines for operating an all-terrain vehicle in the city. The first offense would be punishable by a fine and/or a civil penalty of at least 375 dollars and up to 750 dollars. Any subsequent offense would be punishable by a fine and/or a civil penalty of at least 750 dollars and up to 1500 dollars.

Intro 857 - This bill would require that the Department of Sanitation remove certain vehicles that are an encumbrance on the street within 72 hours after receiving notice of the encumbrance. It would also require that the Police Department direct the towing of vehicles parked on the street that do not have valid license plates, registration stickers or inspection stickers, or that have improperly displayed or obscured license plates, registration stickers, inspection stickers or vehicle identification numbers.

In District Recap

- On May 3rd, P.S. 333 (Longwood Academy) held a ribbon cutting for their newly installed Laundry Room on campus that was as a result of the \$200,000.00 that CM Salamanca allocated.

Office Operations

- 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 immigration attorneys 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 at 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.

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Please refer to the flier with full details. This opportunity will remain available to community members and residents for the next few months.
Flier Attached

Upcoming Events

- On Friday, May 17th, CM Salamanca will host a Family Day in partnership with NYC Parks Department, Community Board 2 & Urban Health Plan at Julio Caraballo Ball Fields, located at 765 Manida Ave. Bronx, NY from 4pm – 7pm, with a movie night to immediate follow with a showing of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Madness. This is a free event open to the public, and doesn't require an RSVP. *Flier Attached*
- On Saturday, May 18th CM Salamanca will host a Park Re-Naming ceremony for the late Al Quinones in partnership with NYC Parks Department & Acacia Network at Playground 52 located at 681 Kelly Street, Bronx, NY at 2:00pm with a Puerto Rican Power Concert to immediately follow at 4:00pm. *Flyer Attached*
- On Friday, May 24th, CM Salamanca will host a Movies under the Stars event at Yolanda Garcia Playground with a showing of Under the Boardwalk at 8pm. Light refreshments will be served. *Flyer Attached*
- On Thursday, May 30th CM Salamanca in partnership with Community Leader Freddy Perez, Jr. will host his annual Noche Boriqueña event at Maestro's Caterers 1703 Bronxdale Ave. Bronx, NY from 7pm – 12am. This is a first come first serve, so no RSVP's are required to attend. *Flyer Attached*
- On Friday, May 31st CM Salamanca will host another Movies under the Stars event at Al Quinoñes Park (Formerly Playground 52) 681 Kelly Street, Bronx, NY at 8pm with a showing of Trolls Band Together. Light refreshments will be served. *Flyer Attached*

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 up to date about legislation, upcoming events, and other pivotal information.

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/CMSalamanca](https://www.facebook.com/CMSalamanca)
- X (Twitter): @CMSalamancaJr
- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr_d17

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report – 16th District

Ms. Lisne Bautista, Scheduler for Councilmember Althea Stevens, provided a written report as follows:

Upcoming Events:

- Food Distributions throughout the district - 6 more happening throughout the next 2 months.
- Africa Day Chambers event - enjoy your performances by and awards to African Nyers in City Hall on 5/30.
- Advisory Board meetings (health & wellness, youth, multicultural, seniors, tenant & block) please attend our meetings to share your concerns in the community. We use these meetings to generate events and legislation based on community member feedback.

Community Updates:

- Food Distribution location requests can be submitted to our office.
- Participatory Budgeting- Winners will be announced soon.
- CM Stevens Statement on Governor's opinion on black children in the Bronx. [Please click here for the link.](#)

District 16 In-Office Services

<u>Service Agency</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Choice of NY	Every other Wednesday
CUNY Citizenship Now	Every Monday
NAICA	By referral
Department of Buildings	Every other Wednesday

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CUNY Law
OATH NYC

First Tuesday of every month
Request referral from our office

Join our District 16 Advisory Councils

	Youth	Tenant Block & Neighborhood	Seniors	Health & Wellness	Multicultural
Date:	May 28th	May 20th	May 30th	TBD	June 6th
Time:	4:30pm	6:00pm	2:00pm	5:30pm	5:30pm

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:

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

*See attached flyers

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

Ms. Senovia Simpson, Community Engagement Coordinator for Bronx DA Darcel Clark, provided a written report as follows:

Office of the District Attorney Office Report:

The Bronx District Attorney's Office is still conducting 'Court Tours'. Court Tours aim to provide students with a basic understanding of the criminal justice system while focusing on the three essential parts of the process as follows:

- Arraignment - Students can understand how the court process works, and how each side (the people and the defendant).
- Detective Squad - Students are given a unique understanding of how Law Enforcement Officers use skills and technology to catch criminals.
- Complaint Room - Students are given a walkthrough of where the Assistant District Attorneys are initially presented with the cases and the victims.

To book a tour and for further details please email CEU@bronxda.nyc.gov

State Senator Luis Sepulveda's Report – 32nd Senate District

Ms. Elizabeth Marte, Community Affairs Director for Senator Luis Sepulveda, provided a written report as follows:

Office Relocation:

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We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new district office at 975 Kelly Street, Suite #203, Bronx, NY 10459, starting Monday, April 29, 2024. This move is part of our dedication to better serve you, ensuring our services are more accessible and convenient. The new office hours are as follows:

- Monday to Thursday: 9 AM - 5 PM (Constituent hours from 10 AM - 3 PM)
- Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM (Closed for in-person service; phone services only)

Appointments are required to ensure that each constituent receives the personalized and efficient service you deserve. Please call us at 718-991-3161 to schedule your visit.

Legislative Updates:

Senator Sepúlveda has been instrumental in crafting and supporting legislation focused on significant community concerns such as safety, housing, and healthcare in the 2024-2025 New York State Budget. Here are some key highlights:

- Community Safety and Housing: We have introduced legislation that strengthens the protection of retail workers and simplifies the removal of squatters, ensuring safe and secure housing.
- Health and Building Safety: The budget includes provisions to eliminate cost-sharing for insulin and mandates studies to improve building safety standards.
- Community Funding: Significant allocations have been directed towards vital community organizations and NYCHA, totaling over \$144 million.

Traffic Light Installation Approved: In response to community needs, our request for a traffic light at the intersection of Tinton Avenue and East 158th Street has been approved by the Department of Transportation. This enhancement will improve traffic flow and increase pedestrian safety in the area.

Office Partnerships/Events: The office is partnered with 3 legal organizations: NYLAG, NAICA, and NMIC who offer immigration and housing services such as eviction, HP actions, and tenant/landlord harassment. Bridgebuilders will be in our office on a bi-weekly basis, the next appointment is May 22nd. Please call our office to schedule an appointment. Our office will be hosting our first Workforce Development Day on May 17th and our Annual Wellness Day May 18th, please add those dates to your calendar. Flyers will be distributed via email and social media. Please call our office to schedule an appointment.

We remain committed to advancing policies and projects that have a real and positive impact on all New Yorkers. Together, we are forging a stronger, safer, and more vibrant community.

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Report – 79th District

Ms. Crystal Diaz, Constituent Services Director for Assemblymember Chantel Jackson, provided a written report as follows:

Events:

- Mother's Day Paint & Sip / Carry Leeds 1720 Crotona Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451 / Thursday, May 9, 2024, | 10am -1:00 pm
- Free CPR Workshop / Andrew Jackson Senior Center / May 16th, 2024 2:00pm-3:00pm
- Estate Planning Trust & Will Webinar / May 23, 2024 5:00pm-6:00pm

Legislation:

May 6th, AM Jackson's Lactation Consultant Services Bill (A3980A) passed in the assembly. This bill requires insurance coverage for lactation consultant services provided by professionally certified counselors, who assess and manage lactation and infant feeding issues and offer preventative clinical consulting to minimize potential problems.

The 2024 Legislative Session calendar is available on AM Jackson's Instagram. You can download the session calendar as a pdf using the link in her Instagram bio. A breakdown of the enacted budget can also be found on the member's Instagram page.

During budget negotiations this year, AM Jackson included the following organizations in her budget letter to the Speaker, which were successfully incorporated into the enacted budget (totaling: 325,750,000): Tier 6, Clean Water, Mothers and Infants Lasting Change (MILC), Citizens Committee, Center for Family Representation, New York Common Pantry, Safe Motherhood, Commission to Study Reparations and Social Justice, and BioBus.

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AM Jackson also remained a staunch advocate of: Affordability, Tenant and Homeowner Protections, Health & Mental Health, Higher Education, Education, Child Care, Supporting New Parents, Environmental Funding, Economic Development, and Entertainment Diversity Job Training Development Account.

AM Jackson has been actively involved in various legislative efforts, including introducing a total of 58 bills, 25 of which are new. These bills relate to housing, food safety, health, mental health, e-bikes/e-scooters, higher education, and fetal infant mortality. AM Jackson cosponsors 23 new bills relating to housing, health, mental health, visitation rights, electronic wills, and traffic cameras.

AM Jackson has introduced 8 resolutions this session: Mourning the death of Luciel Boles-Wilson, Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Nas' "Illmatic" album, proclaiming March 2024 as Social Work Month, March 1, 2024 as Employee Appreciation Day, March 12, 2024 as Working Moms Day, March 22, 2024 as Water Day, April 11-17, 2024 as Black Maternal Health Week, and November 4, 2024 as Bring Your Parents to Work Day in the State of New York. AM Jackson will be introducing 3 resolutions this month: proclaiming May 5-11, 2024 as Drinking Water Week, August 11, 2024 as Hip-Hop Celebration Day, and October 9, 2024 as Sneakers Day in the State of New York.

Office Updates:

Our district office offers free notary services Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

Sign-up Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScX-SJA7K0i1wRGZ681Pw18XKUncr3feJwO-G7eEd6k1o6sdw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Resources/Initiatives:

We are looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers to help our team. If you or anyone you know is interested, please email diazc@nyassembly.gov and district79@nyassembly.gov

We are also offering people a chance to submit opinion pieces, poems, or short stories to be featured in our newsletter.

- Submit your writing as Word doc by emailing johnsons@nyassembly.gov

Our community feedback survey is live!

- On AM Jackson's assembly page, community members can share ways to improve the district.
- You can find the website by Googling Assembly Member Chantel Jackson; <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
Bronx NY 10451

718-538-3829 / 347 234-5597

Constituent matters: help79districtbx@gmail.com

Scheduling requests: schedulingbx79@gmail.com

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson Staff:

Sabriena Campbell-Hunter
Chief of Staff
campbellhunters@nyassembly.gov

Sade Johnson
Scheduler & Communications Director
johnsons@nyassembly.gov

Crystal Diaz
Constituent Services Director
diaz@nyassembly.gov

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Dorcia Williams
Legislative Director
williamsd@nyassembly.gov

Mayor Eric Adams' Report

Socrates Solano, representing Mayor Adams Office, provided a written report as follows:

The New York City Sherriff's Joint Compliance Task Force sealed 75 illegal smoke shops and issued nearly \$6 million in penalties last week. Mayor Adams first focus is to shut down illegal smoke shops that are near schools and churches.

Mayor Adams recently traveled to Rome and met with Italian leaders on ways to solve New York's migrant crisis. The three-day trip, which took place in mid-May, included meetings with Pope Francis and Italian leaders from other religions, as well as Roman city officials.

Questions were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

Councilmember Oswald Feliz's Report

Mr. Juan Lopez, representative for CM Oswald Feliz, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Lopez shared time sensitive information.

Congressmember Ritchie Torres' Report

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

U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres joins Rep. Stevens and González-Colón in Introducing Legislation to Address the Dire Shortage of Affordable Housing Across the U.S.

- On 5/1/2024, the Healthy Affordable Housing Act was introduced to address the dire shortage of safe, affordable housing units for American families. The U.S. is currently in need of 7.3 million additional affordable housing units for families most in need.
- The legislation authorizes \$100 million a year for five years for a grant and loan program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
 - Grants and loans may be used to develop, create, or preserve affordable rental dwelling units in neighborhoods facing a shortage of affordable housing, as determined by HUD. Neighborhoods must contain at least one of the following amenities:
 1. A Federally qualified health center
 2. A health care provider who accepts Medicaid and provides primary care services
 3. A grocery store that accepts SNAP or Nutrition Assistance Program and WIC
 4. A State licensed childcare provider or an eligible childcare provider under the childcare and development block grant act
 5. A pharmacy; OR Public Transportation.
- U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres introduced bill H.R. 1797- Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act to the House
 - As of March 2023, H.R. 1797- Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act was introduced. Currently up for a vote today at the House. We are optimistic that it will pass.
 - The bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a final consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micro-mobility devices, such as electric scooters and bikes, to protect against the risk of fires caused by such batteries.
 - The bill underscores Rep. Torres's unwavering commitment to improving fire safety for New Yorkers and all Americans. He previously introduced the Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act in the wake of the deadly Twin Parks North West fire in 2022, which President

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Biden signed into law, and is currently leading the Safer Heat Act of 2023 to address underlying manufacturing issues and safety concerns with space heaters.

- The office doesn't have any upcoming events to share at this time. However, our constituent services are available Monday-Friday from 10-4pm at our District Office by appointment.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Keziah Sullivan-Norman, Recording Secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll, and a quorum was established.

MEMBERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Gloria Alston
Joetta Brown
Aaron Dumfeh
Beverly Emers
Kathy Morris
Victor Latimer
Christian Matthew
Paul Navarro
Arona Testamark
D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas

MOTION

It was motioned by Ms. Tracie Lucas Lord and seconded by Ms. Linda Johnson to excuse the following member(s):

Gloria Alston
Xiomara Arriola
Joetta Brown
Rev. Frederick Crawford
Aaron Dumfeh
Abraham Jones
Kathy Morris
Linda Kemp
Amanda Reed
Arona Testamark
D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas

ALL IN-FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

It was motioned by Ms. Anddy Perdomo and seconded by Mr. Robert Brown, to approve the April 9, 2024 General Board minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

ALL IN-FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There was no amendment to the agenda.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three reported on the following:

All board members complete their Election of Officers Nominations Form no later than June 11, 2024.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joetta Brown
1st Vice-Chairperson

Kolaco Acqui
2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman
Secretary

Kathy Morris
Treasurer

Rita Jones
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Ms. Wanda Ellis has been appointed the chairperson for the Nomination Committee and Mr. Francis Dsouza and Ms. Dawn Carter have been appointed as co-chairpersons.

A board member must have completed a full term in order to be eligible for election.

All board members should attend the Housing, Land-Use and Economic Development Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2024, as there is a 'Request for Recommendations' regarding the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity.

There is a Rat Academy Training on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:30pm, located at The Gospel Center, 1554 Minford Place, Bronx New York.

The community board's board member term limit policy was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS

SICKNESS, DISTRESS, & BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

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