



# *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](http://nyc.gov/bronxcb3)

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

**GLORIA S. ALSTON**  
**CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS**

**JOETTA BROWN**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**ETTA F. RITTER**  
**DISTRICT MANAGER**

### **BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 05/13/25  
Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue  
Time: 6:00 P.M.

#### **Members Present**

Atta Acheampong  
Kolaco Acqui  
Ibrahim Ahmed  
Xiomara Arriola  
Robert Brown  
Dawn Carter  
Gilberto Constantinez  
Joyce Diggs  
Francis D'Souza  
Wanda Ellis  
Michele Gantt  
Michelle Holmes  
Linda Johnson  
Abraham Jones  
Diane Jones  
Victor Latimer  
Una Lawrence  
Tracie Lucas-Lord  
Jacquelyn Moore-Hill  
Amanda Reed  
Laredo Regular  
Jeannie Ruiz  
Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
Jasmine Uribe  
D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas  
Beautiful Winston

#### **Councilmember Oswald Feliz**

Ali Saab

#### **Congressman Ritchie Torres Office**

Joanna Rivas

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

Greer Mayhew

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

#### **Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter  
Courtland W. Hankins, III

#### **Members Excused**

Joetta Brown  
Edgardo Cedenio  
Randy Dillard  
Maurice Gray  
Beverly Emers  
Aubrey Mike  
Kathy Morris  
Paul Navarro  
Anddy Perdomo

#### **Members Absent**

Margo Grant  
April Jones  
Linda Kemp

#### **Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office**

Brandon Gonzalez

#### **Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Office**

Rafael Salamanca

#### **Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Elizabeth Marte

#### **Bronx DA's Darcel Clarke Office**

Senovia Simpson

#### **Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson's Office**

Jacqueline Calderon

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

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## INVOCATION

Deacon Edgardo Cedeno Min. Abraham Jones led us in prayer.

## PUBLIC HEARING

**Tyler Roosa, Public Warning Program Manager, NYC Emergency Management**

**Topic: Discuss “Notify NYC” – New York City’s official source of free, verified information around emergency alerts and important services**

Ms. Kolaco Acqui, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chairperson, Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Mr. Tyler Roosa to those in attendance.

Mr. Roosa shared the following information regarding **Notify NYC**:

Notify NYC is a customizable subscriber based alert system.

Notify NYC is part of the NYC Office of Emergency Management’s Public Warning Unit, whose job is to inform the public of emergencies.

Notify NYC informs on issues large and small, from hurricanes to traffic congestion, including, but not limited to:

- Weather Alerts
- Train Disruptions
- Traffic Delays
- Special Basement Alerts

Notify NYC is available in 14 languages.

To subscribe to Notify NYC text 692692 from your mobile phone and put in your zip code.

**Get Notified!**

**Notify NYC**

Notify NYC is New York City’s official source for information about emergency alerts and important city services. It is free for all New Yorkers to sign up. How do you sign up?

Scan Here All Options

Do One of the Following:

- Visit our Website to Sign Up: NYC.gov/Notify
- Follow us on X/Twitter or Facebook - @NotifyNYC
- Download the Notify NYC Mobile App

OR

Notify NYC is:

- ✓ Free, easy to use
- ✓ Available in 14 languages
- ✓ Customizable in 16 alert categories

Have Questions? Contact  
NotifyNYC@oem.nyc.gov

**NYCEM**  
New York City Office of Emergency Management

At this time, Mr. Roosa concluded his presentation, fielded questions, and answered them satisfactorily.

## PUBLIC SESSION

### Announcements

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Jr., representing the Bronx Council District 17, made the following announcements:

- Thank You – The councilmember thanked the District Manager and the board members of Bronx Community Board Three for their commitment and work on behalf of Bronx District Three.

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- Digital Inclusion Initiative – The councilmember allocated \$135K to provide all 355 NYPD Explorers, throughout the 5 boroughs, with Dell laptops.
- Public Safety – The councilmember asked for prayers for the family of the 16-year-old girl who recently lost her life due to gun violence within Bronx District Three and expressed the need for the community to do better in keeping the streets safe for our youth.
- The councilmember shared time sensitive information on upcoming events sponsored by his office.

### **Community Concerns:**

Community resident Ms. Cerita Parker thanked District Manager Etta Ritter for her efforts in helping to get the closed entrances at Starlite Park reopened.

~~Community resident~~ District Leader Lanita Jones spoke on the issue of excessive dog waste in the streets and the need to address the issue of guns in the hands of the community youth.

Ms. Iraida DeJesus, a community resident, informed the public that feeding the pigeons actually results in feeding the rats and urged the community to be aware of that.

Board member Ibrahim Ahmed stated that when building residents complain about youth smoking in their buildings, the residents are instructed to provide the apartment number of the alleged perpetrators. Mr. Ahmed pointed out that this poses an extra risk to the complainants and the process needs to be examined.

District Manager Etta Ritter stated that this will be the last month that board members will be allowed to voice complaints at the General Board meetings. The General Board meeting is a place for the community at large to express their concerns and complaints.

### **ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

#### **Councilman Rafael Salamanca's Report**

Ms. Shanna Knotts, Chief of Staff, at CM Rafael Salamanca's Office, shared the following written report:

#### **Legislation:**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Consumer & Work Protection held a joint committee hearing to hear Intro 857-A, Council Member Salamanca's bill that would expand power to the Department of Sanitation to tow vehicles, and furthermore, require the department to remove vehicles that are abandoned on the street within 72 hours of receiving notice from NYPD to remove said vehicle. Commonsense legislation, this bill removes 'zombie cars' from our streets in order to free up precious curb space for everyday New Yorkers in their neighborhoods.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the full City Council approved Intro 762-B, Council Member Salamanca's bill that would expand restaurants ability to purchase additional marketing resources on third-party delivery apps. The bill also institutes stricter requirements preventing apps from purchasing restaurant names for the purposes of advertising without restaurant consent. As small mom-and-pop restaurants face increased competition from larger, corporate-funded national chain restaurants, this bill facilitates a process in which local restaurants can take advantage of tailored marketing that benefits their business. Intro 762-B now goes to Mayor Eric Adams' desk where it awaits signature into law.

#### **In-District Recap:**

On Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the opening day for Castle Hill Little League, Councilmember Salamanca joined and provided a check presentation for \$317,000.00 which covered the following: Little League Fencing (\$200,000.00), Baseball Field Toro Rake Equipment (\$102,000.00) and League Programming & Operations (\$15,000.00).

#### **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 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

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electronics will be accepted, which 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. \*Flier Attached\*

### **Upcoming Events:**

On Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> Councilmember Salamanca will host Bingo Night at the Bronx Zoo Schiff Hall 2300 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY from 6pm – 9pm. This event will require an RSVP to attend, food and drinks will be provided. \*Flier in progress\*

On Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Councilmember Salamanca will host his annual Noche Boriquena event at Maestros Caterers 1703 Bronxdale Ave. Bronx, NY from 7pm to 12am. RSVP's are not required, as this will be a first come first serve festivity. \*Flier in progress\*

On Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 3pm – 6pm, Councilmember Salamanca will host a Family Day: School's Out Celebration at Noble Playground on E. 177<sup>th</sup> Street btw. Noble Ave. & Bronx River Ave. \*Flier Attached\*

On Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 11am – 2:30pm in partnership with NYC DOT & Bronx River Alliance, Councilmember Salamanca will host his annual Helmet Distribution at Starlight Park 1490 Sheridan Blvd. Bronx, NY. \*Flier Attached\*

On Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> CM Salamanca will host Movies under the Stars for a showing of Mummies at Noble Playground on E. 177<sup>th</sup> Street between Noble Ave. & Bronx River Ave. Refreshments will be provided. \*Flier in progress\*

### **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
- X (Twitter): @CMSalamancaJr
- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr\_d17

### **Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Report**

Ms. Crystal Diaz, Director of Constituent Services,, at AM Chantel Jackson's Office, shared the following report:

### **EVENTS**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the AM is hosting a Mother's Day Event Celebration at the Carry Leeds Center, located at 1720 Crotona Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, from 11:00 AM -3:00 PM.

### **LEGISLATION**

- 140: This bill creates a neutral payment policy for more basic healthcare services and helps ensure that routine outpatient services are not unfairly priced.
- A5499: This bill aims to establish dedicated representation, reduce conflicts of interest, and promote transparency in rental agreements and real estate transactions.
- A6142A: This bill requires that state employees and certain public officials attend implicit bias training in order to promote equitable treatment in work environments.
- A336A: In the wake of the horrific event that occurred at Marcy Correctional Facility that resulted in the death of Robert Brooks, this bill would demand the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to initiate a requirement of the use of body worn cameras for certain officers which would allow for increased accountability and hopefully prevent further similar events.
- A627-A: Requires consent from a parent, guardian, or attorney for DNA collection from a minor before arrest.
- A4258: Nightlife venues, sports centers, theaters, concert venues, and amusement parks must keep opioid overdose reversing medication on hand.
- A4665: prohibits rental car companies from imposing any fees, charges, or penalties other than the actual cost of a toll which will help eliminate the inequality between drivers using their personal vehicles, and those travelling in rental vehicles.
- A7005: Eliminates the requirement that a driver's license, professional license or recreational license be suspended for failing to pay child support. The bill's goal is to prevent further barriers to payment as many use their vehicles to transport themselves to or to complete jobs that help secure payment.
- A960: Authorizes oversight of car dealer transactions, requires detailed costs and credit disclosures, and bans conditional vehicle delivery.
- A6642: Requires real estate appraisers to complete four hours of implicit bias training every two years.

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- A5903: Creates an exemption to the presumption that a child born in wedlock is the child of the birth parent's legal spouse; permits certain actions to be taken by the birth parent without notice to the birth parent's legal spouse.
- A5855: Requires the Administration for Children's Services and schools to inform students of their interview rights and support options. Budget Negotiations
- The New York State budget has yet to be solidified due to some controversial issues being included within the budget.
  - Mask ban: Anyone involved in criminal activity, harassment, or hate speech while wearing a mask will face additional charges. There are concerns surrounding inequitable effects on communities due to possible targeting of minority individuals.
  - Discovery: with current discovery laws prosecutors have a set timeline on producing evidence, which gives defendants more time to review the evidence against them so that they can make more informed decisions when deciding to take a plea deal or go to trial. It also allows more cases to be dismissed if there is insufficient evidence.
- Many prosecutors are having to throw out cases because they are not producing evidence in a timely manner, even though they believe some evidence is not relevant to the case. Prosecutors want more authority over what is considered helpful/useful to a case and want to produce this evidence on their own timeline.
- Involuntary commitment: Allows for the expansion of people who can commit people to mental health services without the consent of the individual. Concerns over police conduct in responding to these issues.
- Soon after the budget is complete, discretionary funding that the Assemblywoman would like to award is due. Organizations/areas that the assemblywoman is either considering or has received requests from that relate to the 40th precinct include:
  - Community clean ups: the Assemblywoman plans to provide funding to an organization to facilitate community clean-ups
  - Bronx Defenders: funding will be used to expand their capacity for walk-in free legal services relating to housing, public benefits, employment, criminal defense, family regulation and immigration. Also for Know your rights training, community engagement, advocacy for youth receiving disciplinary action in schools and pre-litigation intervention for those under investigation by the police, ACS or ICE. The New York State Black Legislative Task Force (NYSBLT) received enhanced recognition from the New York State Assembly this year.
- The Task Force is composed of 35 Black legislators serving in both the New York State Senate and Assembly.
- Assembly Member Chantel Jackson serves as the Chair.
- Founded in 2022, the NYSBLT harnesses the political power of its members to advance economic security and racial justice for Black communities.
- Our mission is to advance legislation and secure financial resources that uplift Black communities.
- Legislative priorities include:
  - Health & Mental Health
  - Economic Empowerment
  - Criminal Justice Reform
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Technology
  - Justice

#### May 2025 Highlights:

- During budget negotiations, the Task Force is advocating for \$30 million to fund two fiscal conduits that will support small nonprofit organizations serving underserved communities across New York State.
- May 3rd: Hosted a Mayoral Forum with five NYC mayoral candidates, in collaboration with the NYC & State Black Delegation, focused on demands and criteria outlined in the "Black Print: An Action Plan for Black New Yorkers."
- May 19th: Introducing a resolution to commemorate Malcolm X's 100th birthday.
- May 20th: Hosting an event titled "Data Sets the Stage: Disaggregation is Not Segregation Breakfast" to highlight a disaggregated data bill introduced by a Task Force member.
- May 21st: Hosting MWBE Advocacy Day, including a press conference to push for increased support for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises.
- May 29th: Welcoming the New York Legal Opportunity Program (NY LEO) to Albany. The day will include:
  - Breakfast with first generation law school students.
  - Introductions on the Senate and Assembly floors.
  - Remarks from Task Force members who are attorneys.

**NYSBLT WEBSITE:** <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=173>

- You can find the website by googling Black Task Force. NYSBLT SOCIAL MEDIA:
- Instagram | X | TikTok | YouTube: @nysbltaskforce

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

For all matters: [nysbltaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:nysbltaskforce@gmail.com), 518-455-5273  
Executive Director: Dorcia Williams, [williamsd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:williamsd@nyassembly.gov)

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## AM WEBSITE

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

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

## NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

- Subscribe to our newsletter using the link in AM Jackson's Instagram bio  
<https://state.us4.listmanage.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](mailto:District79@nyassembly.gov)  
Scheduling requests: [schedulingbx79@gmail.com](mailto:schedulingbx79@gmail.com)

## AM JACKSON STAFF

Sabriena Campbell  
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Natasha Edwards  
Legislative Director  
[edwardsn@nyassembly.gov](mailto:edwardsn@nyassembly.gov)

## Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

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

### To keep up with our office

Instagram : [@bronxdaclark](#)  
Twitter: [@bronxdaclark](#)  
Facebook: [@bronxdaclark](#)  
[www.bronxda.nycgov](http://www.bronxda.nycgov)  
718-590-2000  
198 East 161 East 161 Street Bronx, NY 10451

### To learn more about:

Career Opportunities  
Press Releases  
Learn about what our office is doing through the BXDA Newsletter and other resources please refer to the link below.  
<https://linktr.ee/bronxda>

## Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report

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Lisne Bautista, Scheduler, Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office, provided the following written report:

### **Legislative Updates**

We are currently in Executive Budget Hearings - the CM is on the Budget Negotiation Team and is advocating for our community needs in the citywide budget.

Monday, May 19th, 2025 Committee on Children and Youth Executive Budget Hearing will be taking place.

### **Community Updates:**

Please expect delays in constituent services as our office has been the subject of several terroristic threats and assaults in the last week and a half

Participatory Budgeting Vote Week results will be announced at the end of this week

Thank you to our CB3 Community Stakeholders who were voting sites this year!

### **Upcoming Events:**

6:00pm Thursday, May 15th, 2025 Malcom X Day Chambers Event @ City Hall

8:00pm Thursday, May 15th, 2025 Movie Under the Stars w/ 161st BID - Wicked @ Joyce Kilmer Park

12:00pm Saturday, May 17th, 2025 Multicultural Festival @ DREAM Charter School

### **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 Wednesday of every month
SNAP	Request referral from our office

### **Join our District 16 Advisory Boards**

Board:	Youth	Health & Wellness	Tenant Block & Neighborhood	Seniors	Multicultural
Date:	March 12	March 20	March 17	March 27	April 3
Time:	4:30pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	2:00pm	5:30pm
Location	District Office 1377 Jerome Avenue	District Office 1377 Jerome Avenue	District Office 1377 Jerome Avenue	Concourse Village 777 Concourse Village E	District Office 1377 Jerome Avenue

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### Constituent Service Hours

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

#### How to make an appointment:

- Email: [District16@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16@council.nyc.gov) or Call: (718) 588-7500
- Make sure to include:
  - Full name
  - Address
  - Contact information
  - Description of case

#### Senator Luis Sepulveda's Report

Elizabeth Marte, Community Affairs Director, shared the following written report:

Legislative Updates for May 2025:

<a href="#"><u>S4735</u></a>	<b>SEPULVEDA</b> – Relates to protecting students, faculty, and staff from civil arrest while attending or participating in school activities.
<a href="#"><u>S4737</u></a>	<b>SEPULVEDA</b> – Ensures language assistance services by state agencies and requires state agencies to maintain records and to submit an annual report on language services.
<a href="#"><u>S5088</u></a>	<b>SEPULVEDA</b> – Requires school districts to have diversity, equity, and inclusion officers.

#### Upcoming Events:

This Saturday, May 17th, our office is hosting our second annual health and wellness fair from 11AM to 3PM at Richmond/Echo Park. There will be a variety of services ranging from wellness checks, blood pressure and glucose screenings, as well as pantry. We hope to see you there.

#### Office Partnerships:

On a monthly basis, we partner with NMIC and NYLAG to provide an array of legal services including immigration, eviction prevention, and divorce services. Additionally, the organization Bridgebuilders Community Partnership is in the office, on a bi-weekly basis, to assist with applications for One Shot Deal, Childcare vouchers, and more. All these services are appointment based, be sure to reserve your place by calling our office at 718-991-3161.

Stay updated on our latest events and initiatives by following us on all social media platforms using the handle @NYSenSepulveda.

#### Next Available Appointment Dates:

1. Bridgebuilders: May 20th, June 3rd, June 17th, and July 1st.
2. NMIC: Returning in June.
3. NYLAG: June 10th

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## **Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report**

Ms. Joanna Rivas, Constituent Services Liaison, shared the following written report:

April 29, 2025 – The House passed the Lithium-Ion Battery Act, led by Congressman Torres. This bipartisan bill is a major step forward in protecting public safety. It requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to set national safety standards for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and similar devices. These batteries have been linked to a growing number of fires—many of them deadly—particularly in densely populated areas like the Bronx. This legislation is critical to saving lives and preventing future tragedies in our community.

May 5, 2025 – Congressman Torres urged City Hall to match federal funding for a \$1 million environmental study to help restore the Harlem River. Without the city's \$500,000 contribution, this crucial step toward cleaning up one of our most polluted waterways is at risk.

May 9, 2025 – Thirty-nine House Democrats signed a letter urging the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general to investigate Louisiana's immigration detention system, which has been accused of abuse and poor treatment. Led by Congressman Torres and Rep. Adriano Espaillat, the letter highlights serious concerns, including violations of due process, risks to vulnerable people, and failure to meet medical and legal responsibilities.

May 11, 2025 – Congressman Torres called for a federal investigation into reports that Qatar intends to gift a \$400 million plane to President Trump. He's pushing for oversight and reforms to prevent foreign gifts from becoming personal property of current or former presidents.

That wraps up tonight's updates. As always, our office is here to help with any federal issues like Social Security, Immigration, Passports, or the IRS. With summer coming up, don't forget to check your passport status before booking travel. We can help with checking statuses on first-time applications, renewals, and even same-day appointments if needed. Call us at 718-503-9610 to set up an appointment. Thank you!

## **Councilman Oswald Feliz' Report**

Mr. Ali Saab, a staff member, at CM Oswaldo Feliz' Office, shared time-sensitive information.

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

Greer Mayhew, Bronx Borough Director, at the NYC Comptroller's Brad Lander's Office, shared the following written report:

### **The "Behind Schedule: How the New York City Bus System Slow Rolls Riders" Report**

Last month, New York Comptroller Brad Lander released a new report, Behind Schedule: How the New York City Bus System Slow Rolls Riders, on the performance of the City's bus system, finding that bus riders traveled a mere 8.17 mph on average and faced delays in reaching their stops nearly a third of the time. Outcomes are worse for express bus rides with buses off-schedule nearly half of the time. The report highlights numerous missed opportunities to improve performance and boost ridership, which was down 40% between 2019 and 2024.

Comptroller Lander's analysis found that bus speeds are significantly slower than they were a decade ago and service is increasingly unreliable, while the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) canceled or downsized initiatives that would improve the bus system and commute times.

- Compared to the last decade, buses are now slower in every borough but Manhattan and fall far short of the City's goal to improve bus speeds citywide by 25%.
- New York City buses fail to reach stops at their scheduled time 30% of the time, while express buses are off-schedule 37% of the time.
- Over half of bus lines with headways under 10 minutes are delayed due to "bunching," or being spaced too close together.

While MTA, DOT, and the City Council created actionable bus plans in recent years, Comptroller Lander charts how little DOT and the MTA enacted.

- Since 2022, DOT built only 23.1 miles of protected bus lanes, fulfilling less than the mandated 80 miles in the NYC Streets Plan, and installed fewer bus lanes over the past three years than in the two preceding years.
- Meanwhile, MTA and DOT abandoned SBS implementation, completing only 16 out of 30 potential corridors.
- The MTA, citing concerns over fare evasion, never implemented plans for all-door boarding systemwide, a feature that boosted speeds on SBS routes by up to 19%.

Comptroller Lander proposes 11 recommendations across four key priority areas:

- Plan, design, and build a world-class bus rapid transit (BRT) network for New York City - building on the success of existing initiatives

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- Maximize the effectiveness of existing bus service and priority tools through better enforcement, payment, and accessibility measures
- Strengthen agency management over bus priority initiatives
- Make buses more affordable

#### Audit Report on the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Oversight of Doula Programs in Underserved Neighborhoods

Last week, New York City Comptroller Brad Lander released a new audit of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) Citywide Doula Initiative (CDI), which revealed that the program successfully improves birth and health outcomes for Black and Hispanic women and birthgivers.

The CDI program was launched to address longstanding inequities—including socioeconomic barriers, structural racism, and bias in healthcare services—that drive high rates of maternal mortality and adverse birth outcomes in communities of color. The audit underscores that doula services, long championed by reproductive justice advocates, can narrow racial disparities. Black and Hispanic participants in the program saw lower rates of C-sections, pre-term births, and low birth weights, compared to the general population of births in New York City.

Auditors from the NYC Comptroller's office used citywide birth outcome data from 2022 (published in the most recent Annual Summary of Vital Statistics) and birth outcome data for the period of March 2022 through June 2024 for CDI clients and also surveyed CDI participants and doulas. Auditors identified meaningful improvements in health outcomes for women and birthgivers.

#### Key Findings from the Audit:

- Increased doula access: DOHMH's efforts are increasing doula access and support in underserved neighborhoods. Prenatal visit, doula-attended births, and post-partum visits all increased significantly, with over 2,000 clients receiving services through the CDI program.
- Improved maternal health outcomes: Black and Hispanic CDI clients saw significantly better maternal health outcomes, including lower rates of C-sections, preterm births, and low birth weights, compared to citywide averages. No pregnancy-associated deaths were reported for CDI clients, indicating that doula support may help reduce maternal mortality.
- Strong client satisfaction: Participants expressed satisfaction with the program, with 77% rating their pregnancy/birthing experience with a doula as good or excellent. One respondent stated "having a doula was life changing and more clinics/hospitals should offer it to all patients."

The audit also identifies areas for improvement, including expanding access in shelters, advancing doula-friendly hospital policies, and increasing non-English speaking doula provider capacity, including hospital barriers, shelter access, and language gaps.

To address the findings and continue to improve this successful program, the auditors propose several recommendations for DOHMH to implement such as:

- Improving data collection to ensure more timely and efficient data reporting to identify the effectiveness of doula services on the reduction of negative birth outcomes and maternal mortality.
- Increasing the number of non-English-speaking doulas.
- Continuing to work with DHS to increase doula access to clients in shelters.
- Continuing to promote doula-friendly policies in hospitals and expand doula incorporation into hospital birthing teams.
- Incorporating client satisfaction surveys into their data collection procedures and evaluate satisfaction by vendor, analyzing differences in practice that may affect satisfaction.

#### The Evictions Up, Representation Down Report

Earlier this month, the Evictions Up, Representation Down report was released by New York City Comptroller Brad Lander's office. It found that the Adams Administration has failed to meet the City's Right to Counsel (RTC) mandate for low-income tenants facing eviction in Housing Court. Systemic underfunding, overwhelming caseloads, and state disinvestment caused representation rates to plummet from 71% in 2021 to 42% in 2024. For tenants in the Bronx, where evictions are overwhelmingly concentrated, representation dropped from 88% to 31%.

The report also finds that the State of New York hinders New York City's ability to protect tenants. During the administration of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the State cuts its funding of the City's shelter system plummeted from 47% to just 6% as of Fiscal Year 2024, putting enormous strain on the City's budget to meet the State's right to shelter mandate in Article XVII of the New York Constitution. In addition, the State does not provide funding for the Right to Counsel mandate, despite years of advocacy by tenants for a statewide expansion.

#### Key findings from the report include:

- RTC representation rates citywide dropped dramatically from 71% in FY 21 to 42% in FY 24.

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#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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- The City's failure to meet the Right to Counsel mandate has exacerbated inequities as, the rate of representation in the Bronx, where evictions are overwhelmingly concentrated, has declined more precipitously than other boroughs, down from 81% in Q4 of 2021 to just 31% in Q4 of 2024.
- The Office of Civil Justice reported that 89% of tenants who received full legal representation in an eviction proceeding in FY 2024 were able to remain stably housed.
- After the eviction moratorium expired in January 2021, active eviction cases surged 440% citywide, from 33,000 to 177,000.
- Nonprofit legal service providers saw their caseloads more than double—from 33,000 households in FY2019 to 70,000 in FY2022—while funding and staffing lagged. With climbing eviction filings, increased case complexity, and inadequate funding, RTC providers struggled to meet growing demand, causing low rates of legal representation for low-income New Yorkers facing eviction in Housing Courts and leaving thousands of New Yorkers who are eligible for RTC without legal counsel.
- In 2022, attrition rates at legal service organizations ranged from 20-55%, a major blow to the legal community as housing courts reopened and citywide RTC expansion began. High staff turnovers have a negative effect on the provision of legal services.

The top 10 ZIP codes with the highest rate of filed evictions are all in the south and central Bronx. These neighborhoods with the highest eviction filings are experiencing the lowest rates of representation.

To address the continued insecurity for low-income tenants facing eviction, the Comptroller's report recommends that the City:

- Develop and implement a strategic plan to fulfill the City's RTC mandate, providing 100% of eligible low-income New Yorkers facing eviction with legal counsel over the next 5 years.

To deliver on the City's RTC mandate, the City should:

- Reform RTC contracts to ensure legal service providers have the capacity to deliver on contract requirements.
- Increase case rates and adjust the Universal Access budget in dialogue with legal service providers, the Department of Social Services' Human Resources Administration and Office of Civil Justice.
- Pay service providers on-time – In the midst of a growing funding crisis for the non-profit sector, the City should publish standards for timely payment of invoices and make efforts to streamline the billing and payment process to ensure a predictable flow of funds to vendors.
- Invest in programs that provide upstream solutions to prevent evictions and relieve the pressure on RTC providers.

To address these ongoing issues, the Comptroller recommends that in tandem with the City, the State should:

- Pass the Statewide Right to Counsel law and fund 50% of the cost of RTC for jurisdictions across the State, including New York City.
- Increase funding for HAVP in the 2027 budget to at least \$250M.
- Reverse Cuomo-era budgeting that shifted the cost of single adult shelter onto the City, making \$500 million more available for increased mental health services, better wages, and improved shelter conditions including expanding the number of purpose-built, smaller scale mental health shelters.

If you would like to read about any of the reports featured in this update, please feel free to view our website at [comptroller.nyc.gov](https://comptroller.nyc.gov).

### **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Office**

Jacqueline Orange, Community Liaison, shared time-sensitive information.

### **District Manager's Report**

Good evening, Chairperson Brown, board members, and community members,

I'd like to take a moment during this report to speak frankly about a matter that continues to concern many of us—ongoing quality of life issues such as improper garbage disposal and rodent activity at locations like 936 Home Street.

A board member recently shared frustration that, after years of service, the system still fails to provide timely and effective resolutions. I understand this frustration. I've been tracking complaints like this for over 20 years, and I too have experienced how tedious and slow the process can be.

However, I want to be clear: we cannot give up. This work is difficult, but we do it because our community deserves better—the same level of health, safety, and cleanliness that communities like Riverdale receive.

Here's the reality of how the enforcement system works:

- The DOS Enforcement complaint submitted for 936 Home Street was inspected and closed, and the property owner was issued a violation.
- The DOHMH complaint for rat activity remains open and uninspected at this time.

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- Once either complaint is closed, a new 311 complaint number is required if the condition continues to exist. That new number must be submitted to our office to restart the enforcement process.
- For DOHMH, the baiting and compliance process can take up to 6 months, and while DOHMH is not an exterminator, they will clean and bait the area, and bill the property owner accordingly.

Yes—it's repetitive. Yes—it's slow. But it's the only system we have in place, and consistency is key. The more we file, the more pressure we apply, the more violations and fines are issued—and the more likely we are to see change.

I also want to make an important point: many of these delays are the result of legal constraints. These are not board policies—they are city and state laws. If we want a better, faster system, we need our elected officials to step in and advocate for legislative change.

As board members, your role is to be the eyes and ears of this district. But I also ask that you remain committed, solution-oriented, and not easily discouraged. We are here not just to raise issues—but to keep pushing for outcomes, even when the path is slow.

We all want our neighborhoods treated with the same dignity and urgency as others. That only happens when we continue to file, track, follow up—and speak out.

## **UPDATE**

The street lights under work orders #2208469 and #2209267 are still inoperable

- Simpson Street & E 169th Street – Work Order #2208469
- E 169th Street & E 167th Street – Work Order #2209267 -

## **Starlight Park East 172nd Street Entrance**

Anthony Martinez, Park Manager for Starlight Park, which is within Community District 9 stated that the issue of the uneven grade between the sidewalk and the park presents a safety concern that DPR are committed to addressing in a sustainable way. The Parks Department is excited to announce that they were able to secure the necessary funding to address these concerns. DPR does not have a confirmed timeline for remediation. DPR is prioritizing this project and will keep the community updated as progress is made.

The estimate cost for the reconstruction of Drew Playground is currently at \$9.5m. This cost includes the full reconstruction of the playground area, the reconstruction of the basketball court and the reconstruction of the handball court. A Public Restroom Building reconstruction can range between \$4.5m and \$6m, but a detailed assessment of the building would have to be conducted to provide a more precise estimate.

## **Permits Filed for 1143 Hoe Avenue in Crotona Park East, The Bronx**

1143 Hoe Avenue in Crotona Park East, The Bronx via Google Maps

By: Vanessa Londono 6:30 am on May 8, 2025

Permits have been filed for a seven-story residential building at 1143 Hoe Avenue in Crotona Park East, The Bronx. Located between East 167th Street and Home Street, the lot is near the Simpson Street subway station, served by the 2 and 5 trains. Yonah Grunhut of Grun Group LLC is listed as the owner behind the applications.

The proposed 65-foot-tall development will yield 29,737 square feet designated for residential space. The building will have 47 residences, most likely rentals based on the average unit scope of 632 square feet. The masonry-based structure will also have a 20-foot-long rear yard.

Nikolai Katz Architect is listed as the architect of record.

Demolition permits will likely not be needed as the lot is vacant. An estimated completion date has not been announced.

## **Permits have been filed for a four-story mixed-use building at 826 East 169th Street in Longwood**

Located between Union Avenue and Prospect Avenue, the lot is near the Freeman Street subway station, served by the 2 and 5 trains. Shaya Seidenfeld of MZS Realty is listed as the owner behind the applications.

The proposed 50-foot-tall development will yield 13,010 square feet, with 11,905 square feet designated for residential space and 1,105 square feet for community facility space. The building will have 18 residences, most likely rentals based on the average unit scope of 661 square feet. The concrete-based structure will also have a penthouse but no accessory parking.

Lester Katz, R.A. is listed as the architect of record.

Demolition permits have not been filed yet. An estimated completion date has not been announced.

## **NYPD School Crossing Guard Application**

NYPD 42nd Precinct is actively looking to hire a qualified individual from the community for the School Crossing Guard position. They specifically noted Boone Avenue and East 174th Street as the preferred posts.

At their request, I'm sharing the application link below. Please circulate it to any interested individuals.

## **Chairperson's Report**

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On May 7, 2025, I, along with several other Board members, attended the BP's Community Board Recognition "Night at the Carnival" Event on Wednesday, May 7th at Split Rock. The Bronx Borough President gave recognition to the Economic Development Committee Chairs. Ms. Acqui, the chairperson of the Joint Land Use, Housing, and Economic Development Committee, deserves congratulations.

#### Term Limits

At a recent meeting with the Bronx Borough President, Vanessa L. Gibson, term limits were discussed. Term limits go into effect starting in 2027. Starting in 2027, Community Board Appointees may serve up to four terms (each term is 2 years), totaling 8 years. At the end of this term, if they wish to serve for a longer time, they must take a term off before reapplying.

#### Attendance

Reminder: Please attend all Board meetings and the committee meeting you have selected.

#### NYC Emergency Management & NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

On Thursday, May 15, 2025, NYC Emergency Management's Strengthening Communities Through Recovery (SCTR) program will partner with the South Bronx Emergency Network (SBEN), the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), various community-based organizations, and the Office of New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

This event will focus on registering new voters and sharing important information about heat preparedness ahead of the upcoming summer season. The partnership will also leverage social media and other outreach tools to engage and inform the community.

For more information, please contact Wali Abdun Noor at 929-396-0470 or email [ics@sben-d3.net](mailto:ics@sben-d3.net).

#### ROLL CALL

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

#### APPROVAL OF MEMBERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

The following members requested to be excused:

Joetta Brown  
Edgardo Cedeno  
Randy Dillard  
Maurice Gray  
Beverly Emers  
Aubrey Mike  
Kathy Morris  
Paul Navarro  
Anddy Perdomo

#### MOTION

It was motioned by Abraham Jones and seconded by Dawn Carter to excuse the following members:

Joetta Brown  
Edgardo Cedeno  
Randy Dillard  
Maurice Gray  
Beverly Emers  
Aubrey Mike  
Kathy Morris  
Paul Navarro  
Anddy Perdomo

**ALL IN FAVOR**

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MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was motioned by April Jones and seconded by Joyce Diggs to approve the minutes dated April 8, 2025, with any necessary corrections.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Recreation & Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee

1% Budget Increase for NYC Parks & Recreation Department

Bronx Community Board Three was in receipt of correspondence from the Bronx Borough President highlighting the need for more tree canopies in Bronx districts 1-6. Despite being the greenest borough, the distribution of trees and green spaces is not equitable and is disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable residents. This contributes to poor air quality in the South Bronx, and extreme heat, further exacerbating pre-existing health conditions that can lead to heat-related illness or heat-related mortality.

The committee members in attendance unanimously recommended the approval of a letter of support for increasing the budget for the NYC Parks & Recreation Department by 1%. This funding would directly support tree planting, maintenance, and equitable greening efforts in underserved areas of the Bronx.

MOTION

It was motioned by Joyce Diggs and seconded by Beautiful Winston to approve a letter of support to increase the budget of the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation by 1% for fiscal year 2026.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
23	0	0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Note: Board members Dawn Carter & Wanda Ellis did not vote as they had to leave the meeting early.

BIRTHDAYS

At this time, individuals born in the month of May were acknowledged. Ms. Keziah Sullivan-Norman was celebrated for her recent birthday.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Community resident Ms. Iraida DeJesus asked that the community keep her brother in their prayers as he will be undergoing heart surgery tomorrow.

BENEDICTION

Mr. Abraham Jones led us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS				
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The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.