



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 L. GIBSON
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GLORIA S. ALSTON
CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS

JOETTA BROWN
CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Board Members	43
Present	26
Excused	11
Absent	6
Signed Late	0
Left Early	0

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 12/9/25
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

- Atta Acheampong
- Xiomara Arriola
- Robert Brown
- Dawn Carter
- Edgardo Cedeno
- Francis D'Souza
- Beverly Emers
- Michele Gantt
- Margo Grant
- Maurice Gray
- Shakira Hart
- Michelle Holmes
- Linda Johnson
- Abraham Jones
- April Jones
- Diane Jones
- Victor Latimer
- Tracie Lucas-Lord
- Aubrey Mike
- Anddy Perdomo
- Laredo Regular
- Jeannie Ruiz
- Keziah Sullivan-Norman
- D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas
- Chantel Wells
- Beautiful Winston

Staff Present

- Etta F. Ritter
- Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

- Kolaco Acqui
- Joetta Brown
- Gilberto Constantinez
- Iraida DeJesus
- Randy Dillard
- Wanda Ellis
- Una Lawrence
- Kathy Morris
- Amanda Reed
- Kim Roland
- Jasmine Uribe

Members Absent

- Ibrahim Ahmed
- Eleanor Cano
- Joyce Diggs
- Ligia Guallpa
- Paul Navarro
- Nafisat Sallau

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Crystal Diaz

79th Assembly District Leader

- Chantel Jackson
- Lanita Jones
- Crystal Diaz

Senator Luis Sepulveda

Elizabeth Marte

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Tyreke Israel

Bronx DA's Darcel Clarke Office

Senovia Simpson

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson's Office

Kenny Agosto

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Keziah Sullivan-Norman, Secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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 |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|

INVOCATION

Mr. Edgardo Cedeno led the meeting in prayer.

PUBLIC HEARING

Letter of Recommendation for the opening of High Hopes, a proposed legal cannabis dispensary, to be located at 1283 Westchester Avenue within Bronx Community Board Three

Hope Burgess, President & CEO, Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association
Wanda Salamon, Director, Mothers On the Move

PUBLIC HEARING - OPEN

Ms. Anddy Perdomo, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, presented her report on the proposed siting of **High Hopes Dispensary at 1283 Westchester Avenue**, which will be **owned and operated by Banana Kelly** in partnership with **CannaBronx** and **Mothers on the Move**.

At the Health & Human Services September Committee meeting, the committee members reviewed the application submitted to the **New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)**. If approved, this would become the **first legal cannabis retail location within this corridor** of Community District Three. The proposed site is located on the west side of Westchester Avenue, directly across from the boundary line of Community Board Two.

In accordance with OCM requirements, the Committee reviewed the proposal across five major areas:

1. Equity and Community Commitment

- Banana Kelly has **redeveloped over 2,240 affordable housing units**, served more than **6,800 residents**, and continues to host **food pantries, holiday giveaways, and community programs**.
- Through this partnership, the dispensary commits to **mentoring and incubating local entrepreneurs**, including **justice-involved individuals** and **minority- and women-owned businesses**, to promote **generational wealth**.
- They also plan to provide **scholarships or stipends** for Bronx residents pursuing education in **healthcare, horticulture, or entrepreneurship**.

2. Public Education and Safe Consumption

- High Hopes will hold **community education forums** on responsible cannabis use—covering dosage, delayed onset for edibles, risks of overconsumption, and **safe storage away from children and pets**.
- They will emphasize **state regulations**, including **age restrictions (21+)**, possession limits, and where cannabis use is legally **permitted or prohibited**.
- The dispensary will display the official OCM Dispensary Verification Emblem to promote transparency and public trust.

3. Compliance and Security

- Security will be managed by **off-duty police officers**.
- **All IDs will be scanned and verified** prior to entry.
- Proposed hours are **Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., closed on Sundays**.
- **Odor mitigation** will include commercial-grade ventilation, carbon filtration, and negative air-pressure systems to ensure no odors escape into the community.
- **Deliveries** will enter via **Home Street**, separate from the customer entrance to prevent congestion.

4. Site Suitability

- The location is **ADA-compliant** and **not within restricted distances** of schools, playgrounds, or youth centers.
- The site lies within a **commercially zoned corridor**, surrounded by restaurants, auto shops, delis, and liquor stores.
- Banana Kelly has pledged to **attend 42nd Precinct Community Council meetings** to maintain accountability and partnership with law enforcement.

5. Job Creation and Workforce Development

- The dispensary commits to **hiring locally**, providing **competitive wages**, and creating **career advancement opportunities** for Bronx residents.

6. Product Quality and Transparency

- All cannabis products will be **sourced from licensed suppliers**, **lab-tested for safety**, and **clearly labeled** for informed consumer choice.

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D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
Treasurer

Robert Brown
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

In conclusion, the Committee found that this proposal has the potential to:

- Create **fair economic opportunities** for residents,
- **Generate quality jobs**,
- **Support small businesses**, and
- **Reinvest in the community** all while upholding **state safety, compliance, and education standards**.

Collectively, these outcomes would position this project as an **equity anchor**, a stabilizing force that promotes **inclusive economic growth** and **long-term community benefit** within our district.

At this time, Ms. Perdomo introduced Hope Burgess, President of Banana Kelly, and her team. The floor was then opened for questions from Board Members before proceeding to a motion and vote.

The following questions and concerns were entertained:

Opposed - Mr. Abraham Jones, board member of Bronx Community Three, expressed concerns that a legal cannabis dispensary will usher in a huge drug problem within the next five years.

Mr. Maurice Gray, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, asked how many jobs would be created. Ms. Hope Burgess, President of Banana Kelly, stated that approximately 10 jobs will be created.

Mr. Victor Latimer, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, expressed concerns that the dispensary may attract the youth. Ms. Wanda Salamon, Director of Mothers On the Move, stated that the dispensary's process and operations will serve customers 21 years of age and older with a valid state-issued identification.

PUBLIC HEARING - CLOSED

At this time, Ms. Anddy Perdomo made a motion to approve a letter of recommendation for the opening of High Hopes Cannabis Shop, a proposed legal cannabis dispensary, to be located at **1283 Westchester Avenue** within the boundaries of **Bronx Community Board Three**, contingent upon the applicant's continued compliance with all New York State Office of Cannabis Management regulations.

MOTION

It was motioned by Anddy Perdomo and seconded by Aubrey Mike to approve the Letter of Recommendation for the opening of High Hopes Cannabis Shop, a proposed legal cannabis dispensary, to be located at 1283 Westchester Avenue, within the boundaries of **Bronx Community Board Three**, contingent upon the applicant's continued compliance with all New York State Office of Cannabis Management regulations.

YES	NO	ABSTAIN
21	5	0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC SESSION

Announcements

- Ms. Shirlene Altidor, Director of Outreach and Recruitment at CommonPoint The Bronx Center, gave a brief overview of the program services available.
- Mr. Nelson Rivera, Director of Residential Services at the Fortune Society, shared information and events.
- Mr. Misha Savage, Neighborhood Tech Help Program Coordinator at the New York Public Library, shared information on the NYPL Neighborhood Tech Help: Free, one-on-one tech support. Neighborhood Tech Help is a drop-in service that will help New Yorkers build digital skills. Trained experts can assist with everything from fixing your device to using the internet safely to complete daily tasks.
- Ms. Laura Risimini, Director of Grants at Amplify Her Foundation, stated that the Foundation is seeking to recruit 10 to 12 women aged 18 or older for the 6-month Incubator program. Contact: laura@amplifyherfoundation.org www.AmplifyHerFoundation.org
- Mr. Steven Pacheco, Engagement Coordinator, Mayor's Action Plan (MAP) for Neighborhood Engagement, for the Morris Houses, shared resources and event information.
- Mr. Arturo Martinez, Crotona Park West Outreach Coordinator at Phipps Neighborhoods, shared resource and event information.
- Ms. Dior St. Hillaire, Chairperson of the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB), which is a volunteer citizens' advisory board dedicated to helping The Bronx contribute to New York City's zero waste goals. SWAB is seeking community input to inform future policy that affects the Bronx for the next TEN YEARS.

Community Concerns

Mr. Laredo Regular, a board member of Bronx Community Board Three, expressed his concerns about the oversaturation of HPD buildings near Boone and West Farms Avenues. Mr. Tyreke Israel, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Althea Stevens, recommends that Mr. Regular contact the councilmember to encourage the development of additional buildings that support mixed-income communities.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Roll Call

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

Approval Of Members Requesting To Be Excused

It was motioned by Robert Brown and seconded by Atta Acheamong to excuse the following members:

Kolaco Acqui
Joetta Brown
Gilberto Constantinez
Iraida DeJesus
Randy Dillard
Wanda Ellis
Una Lawrence
Kathy Morris
Amanda Reed
Kim Roland
Jasmine Uribe

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Approval Of Minutes

It was motioned by Andy Perdomo and seconded by Dawn Carter to approve the November 2025 minutes, with any necessary corrections.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Elected Official's Reports

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson, 79th Assembly District, shared the following information:

- Encouraged qualifying nonprofits in Community District Three to provide immediate community solutions to apply for a grant from the \$30 million pool set aside for Black organizations.
- Requested ideas for bills and legislation.
- Asked for photos to be sent to her office that identify garbage dump out locations.
- Spoke about the importance of filling the 79th Assembly District County Committee seats.
- Announced upcoming events.

Councilman Rafael Salamanca's Report

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

Legislation:

On Monday, November 24th, Council Member Salamanca had his bill, Introduction 1368, which would require employers to provide time off to their employees for bereavement following a firearm-related death of a family member, heard in the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection. This bill would amend the City's Earned Safe and Sick Time Act, adding a required 10-day, paid bereavement time when any family member of an employee dies from a firearm-related death. This bill is in response to the unfortunate number of tragedies that have struck Bronx families and the lack of proper grieving time for families in the aftermath of said tragedy. Currently, the bill has 25 Council Members signed on as co-sponsors.

In-District Recap:

On Saturday, November 22, 2025, CM Salamanca first attended the annual Baldor turkey & grocery distribution in partnership with the Point CDC & Community Board 2. Shortly after, the CM visited P.S.1, the Courtland School, for its annual fall festival, where he made a \$1.85 million check presentation for its new auditorium. Over the years the total investment provided to P.S.1 is \$3,595,000.00 for technological upgrades, a hydroponic lab, the new auditorium, and a \$1 million laptop initiative launched with the NAACP.

On November 21, 2025, CM Salamanca visited senior centers in his district, including Melrose, Mott Haven, HOGAR, Casa Boricua & James Monroe, where he distributed over 600 turkeys for the holiday season.

On November 17, 2025, CM Salamanca hosted a Turkey Giveaway in partnership with the Hunts Point Produce Market and Common Point for community residents. Over 300 turkeys, along with fresh fruits and veggies, were provided to families for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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On November 14, 2025, CM Salamanca attended the groundbreaking of Daniel Boone Playground with the NYC Parks Department. This project was valued at \$12.2M, of which he was able to secure \$10M. This community space will feature an all-inclusive, sensory-friendly play area designed for children of all abilities.

Office Operations

Our office remains open and fully operational to provide 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.

Upcoming Events

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10 am CM Salamanca will host his annual Children's Coat distribution in partnership with the Southern Blvd. BID, Urban Health Plan, and Ponce Bank at the district office. This event is open to the public, but the child must be present to receive a coat.

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 written report:

Upcoming AD79 Events

Event Name	Date	Time	Location
Next Wave Career Summit	February 18th 2026	10AM-3PM	Bronx Community College 2155 University Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453

LEGISLATION & GRANTS

Session Summary

The beginning of the Legislative Session is soon approaching! January 7th marks the first day of NYS legislative session, which is the period in which NYS elected officials meet to discuss and pass the NYS budget and pending legislation. From January to June, Assemblywoman Chantel Jackson will be in Albany to continue her legislative duties Monday through Wednesday most weeks. Despite her presence in Albany, there will still be presence in our district office, so please continue to forward your community concerns and inquiry to our District Staff! Natasha Edwards, our Legislative Director, is available via phone (518-455-5272) and email (edwardsn@nyassembly.gov) in our Albany office for any legislative, budget or grant funding related inquiries.

Hot Topics

Many topics have been discussed in the off session by several members of the legislature that will likely be brought to the main stage this session:

Financial Exploitation of Elders: On December 2nd, the NYS Assembly Banks, Aging and Children and Families committees hosted a joint hearing surrounding the financial exploitation of elders in NYS. The Assemblywoman sits on the Banks committee and finds this issue important to address. In 2024, the FBI reported that crimes that targeted Nyers over 60 resulted in 6,200 complaints and over \$257 million in financial losses. This represented a 44% increase in reported complaints and a 27% increase in resulting financial losses. The financial exploitation of older adults includes methods such as AI generated scams, phishing, social media interactions and direct messages/phone calls. Potential solutions discussed in this hearing included:

- A mandatory 15 day hold by banks on withdrawals/purchases when financial exploitation is expected
- Mandatory banking alerts for potential scam transactions
- Delays in large transactions to check in on potential scamming
- Second verification laws
- Universal protections on social media to prevent scams
- A special division within the Attorney General's office to target financial exploitation cases
- Scam awareness training

MTA Fare Increase: In September an increase in fare prices for NYC transit was approved. The increase will begin in January. Base fare for subways, local buses and Access-A-Ride will increase from \$2.90 to \$3.00. Reduced fare rates will increase from \$1.45 to \$1.50. Express bus fare will increase from \$7 to \$7.25 and reduced fare will increase from \$3.50 to \$3.60. Single ride tickets will increase from \$3.25 to \$3.50.

Please check the MTA website for more information

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Raise the Age: During the 2025 SOMOS Conference in Puerto Rico, Assemblymember Jackson, Black Taskforce Members, other NYS officials, and representatives of NYS organizations gathered to discuss Raise the Age, a law passed by the NYS legislature in 2017. Before Raise the Age took effect in 2019, New York was one of only two states that prosecuted all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, regardless of the offense. As of 2019, the law changed what happens when a 16- or 17-year-old is arrested for a crime. Instead of adult criminal court, most of these cases now go through family court, where the focus is on accountability and providing services rather than criminalization. Assemblywoman Jackson supports this legislation and helped lead a discussion on issues such as the allocation of funds under the law, opposition calls for potential rollbacks, possible improvements or expansions, and more.

If you have any opinions/solutions that you would like to make known to the office regarding the issues shared above as well as other issues like SNAP cuts, public safety and any other issues you deem important, please feel free to share them with our office

Budget & Grants

Community organizations are encouraged to submit capital and programmatic funding requests for this year as well as discretionary funding requests for next year* (see resources below for submission process)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IX-iCdvJCMEGbpL_1zT1Ug9PZvTX0FPR

NEW YORK STATE BLACK LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE (NYSBLT)

This year, the New York State Black Legislative Task Force (NYSBLT) received enhanced recognition from the New York State Assembly.

- The Black Legislative 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

Recent Accomplishments:

- During the 2025 legislative session, we secured a historic \$30 million in the state budget to uplift underserved communities across NYS.
To ensure these resources reflect community needs, we launched a Statewide Listening Tour from July 24 to November 21, making 12 stops across the state—from the five boroughs, Long Island, and Westchester to the five major upstate cities: Albany, Binghamton, Rochester, Buffalo, and Syracuse.
- A \$22 million funding application was released on November 3 and closed on November 17.
- A final application was released on Monday, December 1, for organizations seeking funding for housing-related projects. Applications are due by the end of day Wednesday, December 10.
 - Application link: <https://lisc.tfaforms.net/145>
 - Criteria for Consideration:
 - Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization
 - Examples for projects or programs (not required):
 - Housing development projects requiring investment in the capital stack
 - First-time homebuyer programming
 - Ability to complete a project phase or programming within 12 months
 - Important:
 - This application focuses specifically on housing-related initiatives, with a total of \$8 million remaining for distribution. Please note that an organization does not need to be a housing organization in order to apply; however, it must be seeking funding for a housing-related project.
 - Another application was released on November 3rd and closed on November 17th for organizations providing services in the areas of health, criminal justice reform, education, cultural preservation, nonprofit capacity building - A total of \$22 million has already been allocated through that process.
 - Please note that the current application is separate from the previous application, however both applications are still connected with the NYSBLT \$30 million funding opportunity - It is not a second round, and organizations do not need to submit any supplemental information related to their previous application.
 - LISC-NY, our fiscal conduit, will be receiving and reviewing all applications. If organizations have any questions, they can reach out to Valerie White at vwhite@lisc.org, Christine O'Connell at coconnell@lisc.org.

NYSBLT WEBSITE:

[Black Task Force | Committees | New York State Assembly](#)

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

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

Constituent matters: District79@nyassembly.gov

Scheduling requests: schedulingbx79@gmail.com

AM JACKSON STAFF

Sabriena Campbell Chief of Staff
campbells@nyassembly.gov

Nya Vincent Communications Director
Vincentn@nyassembly.gov

Crystal Diaz Constituent Services Director
diazc@nyassembly.gov

Natasha Edwards Legislative Director
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
718-590-2000
198 East 161 East 161 Street Bronx, NY 10451

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report

Tyreke Isreal, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office, shared time sensitive information.

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:	Health & Wellness	Youth	Tenant Block & Neighborhood	Seniors	Multicultural
Date:	June 12th	June 23rd	July 7th	June 26th	September (TBD)
Time:	5:30pm	4:30pm	6:00pm	2:00pm	5:30pm

For anyone who would like to sign up for text message updates from Council Member Althea Stevens sign up via this link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/k0DBwAd>

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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

Senator Luis Sepulveda's Report

Ms. Elizabeth Marte, Community Affairs Director, Senator Sepulveda's office, shared time-sensitive information.

District Managers Report

The following represents a brief summary of issues of importance affecting Bronx Community District Three for the period covering November 12th to the present:

NYC Department of Environmental Protection-Update

In late November, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the release of NYC Noise, a new, innovative mobile application that will help both residents and DEP gain a deeper understanding of the city's noise. Available for free on iPhone and Android, the app enables users to record decibel levels, classify noise types, and visualize noise levels in their surroundings while providing valuable data to DEP. Using the app, New Yorkers can document the time, date, location, and source of a noise by taking a simple five-second reading. Results appear in both map and table formats, showing average and maximum decibel levels along with user notes on noise type—such as construction, traffic, or music. By allowing New Yorkers to measure and track noise in their neighborhood, DEP can better analyze citywide noise patterns. This data will help DEP identify hotspots and guide targeted enforcement efforts. The link for the press release is:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/news/25-030/dep-launches-new-innovative-mobile-app-better-understand-city-s-noise#/0>

DEP is still requesting that you use 311 to report all noise conditions.

NYC Fire Department - Winter Fire Safety

Tis the season to be #FDNYSmart to ensure that your festivities stay cheery and safe, FDNY want's to share the following information:

- Be #FDNYSmart and know how to Safely Get Out
- Be #FDNYSmart and Celebrate the Holidays Safely
- Be #FDNYSmart and Safe in the Kitchen
- Be #FDNYSmart and Remember to Close the Door
- Be #FDNYSmart When calling 9-1-1
- Be #FDNYSmart about Battery Safety!
- Never leave Candles Unattended
- FDNY PSA Lighters are not toys

Constituents and stakeholders are encouraged to visit [FDNY Foundation: Home- FDNY Smart](#)

Sanitation Foundation

Have you ever wondered...

- How does NYC handle 44 million pounds of trash every day?
- Can less waste actually make neighborhoods safer and healthier?
- What would happen if thousands of New Yorkers became sustainability leaders?

If this is you, NYC Trash Academy is your next step.

Applications Now Open!

The Sanitation Foundation is accepting applications until January 12th [NYC Trash Academy — Sanitation Foundation](#). This free eight-week educational series is offered online with in-person events and is tailored for New Yorkers who are passionate about creating a more sustainable city.

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NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection

Free Tax Prep flyers and Holiday Shopping Tips link is below. The Tax Prep flyers do not include the 2025 income levels; however, I will share them once I receive an updated copy from DCWP.

[Multilingual Brochure for NYC Free Tax Prep](#)

[Holiday Shopping Tips in English](#)

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is hiring Lifeguards. Being an NYC Parks Lifeguard is more than a summer job. It challenges you, strengthens you, and builds skills that last a lifetime.

We're looking for dedicated, mission-driven individuals to play a critical role in monitoring our pools and beaches, making summer happen for millions of New Yorkers.

DPR offers a variety of swim programs, ranging from learn-to-swim lessons to recreational swimming to training for swim team competitions.

[Swim Programs : NYC Parks](#)

The Cross Bronx Expressway Five Bridges Project

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has prepared a Draft Design Report/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (DDR/EA) for the project. NYSDOT has also prepared a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) EA for the Project. The Project has been advanced in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Eminent Domain Procedure Law (EDPL).

The DDR/NEPA EA and SEQRA EA is available for public review at the following locations:

- Bronx River Houses Community Center
- Clason's Point Library
- Bronx Community Board 3 Office
- Bronx Community Board 6 Office
- Bronx Community Board 9 Office
- Bronx River Alliance Office
- The Office of Assembly Member Karines Reyes, R.N. – District 87
- The Office of Assembly Member Chantel Jackson – District 79
- The Office of Assembly Member Emerita Torres – District 85

Submit comments at the public hearings, by email to Rehab5CBEBridges@dot.ny.gov, or by mail to:

Cross Bronx Expressway Project Team
NYSDOT, 47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Public comments will be accepted until January 9, 2026.

The final public hearing for the Project will be held as listed below. The virtual hearing will feature the same formal presentation delivered twice, at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM, followed by public testimony sessions.

Hearing 3 (Virtual on Zoom)*

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom ID: 834 3999 6917

Invite Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83439996917>

Presentations at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM

Sol on the Park – Project Update

Sol on the Park is an 18-story affordable senior housing development located at St. Paul's Place and Park Avenue within the Morris II NYCHA campus. The project—developed by The NRP Group, Self-help Realty Group, and Foxy Management, with Magnusson Architecture & Planning as the design team—will deliver 229 affordable rental units for seniors earning up to 50% AMI, including units set aside for NYCHA residents and formerly homeless seniors. The development emphasizes sustainability, resiliency, and community integration, with all-electric systems, LEED Platinum design standards, extensive community amenities, rooftop terraces, landscaped outdoor spaces, and urban agriculture components. London House has recently been brought on as the new consulting team for this project.

Key Components of the Development Include:

- 229 affordable senior units, with:
 - 35% set aside for residents of Morris Houses
 - 30% designated for formerly homeless seniors
 - 35% available through NYC Housing Connect as deeply affordable units
- Community Facilities:
 - Community health center
 - Nutrition education and vocational training spaces
 - Two floors of community amenities • Outdoor landscaped plaza and three rooftop terraces
 - Urban farming and low-maintenance garden areas

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Kolaco Acqui
1st Vice-Chairperson

Kathy Morris
2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman
Secretary

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
Treasurer

Robert Brown
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

- Social Services & Supportive Programming:
 - On-site 24/7 social workers providing entitlement assistance
 - Self-help Community Services delivering aging-in-place and chronic-care support
 - Bronx EOC to offer targeted educational and workforce programming
 - Union Community Help Medicare offering federally funded medical assistance
 - Full-time security on site
 - Multi-generational engagement opportunities for the broader NYCHA campus
- Community Integration:
 - Dedicated Community Room for the Morris Resident Association
 - Creation of a small dog park for resident use
 - Transfer assistance for eligible NYCHA residents

Additional Project Notes:

- Project funding is anticipated to be secured by June 2026.
- A RAD conversion is being considered for select buildings within the Morris II development; additional details will be provided as they become available.

Bronx Borough Board Meeting – December 15, 2025

- The Bronx Borough Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 405A.
- The agenda will include the project memo and the resolution from NYC EDC regarding the Kingsbridge Armory, which will require a vote from Community Board 7 as well as the Bronx members of the City Council. All Chairpersons are expected to attend or designate a representative to ensure quorum and allow the meeting to proceed.

Committee Reports

By-Laws and Membership Committee Report

The By-Laws and Membership Committee recommend the removal of the following board members:

- Mr. Nafisat Sallau
- Ms. Ligia Gualpa

Ms. Wanda Ellis, Chairperson of the By-Laws and Membership Committee, contacted the board members in question regarding their non-attendance at meetings; no responses were received.

Removal is recommended due to three (3) consecutive missed meetings from September 2025 through November 2025. This recommendation complies with Bronx Community Board Three's By-Laws, Article III, Sec. 4-4C, which outline the procedures for removing appointed members.

Certified letters were mailed on November 14, 2025, notifying them of this action and giving them five (5) working days to respond in writing.

Ms. Sullivan-Norman requested that a motion be made to remove board members Nafisat Sallau and Ligia Gualpa due to three consecutive missed meetings from September 2025 through November 2025.

MOTION

It was motioned by Beverly Emers and seconded by Tracie Lucas Lord to remove board members **Nafisat Sallau and Ligia Gualpa** from Bronx Community Board Three due to three (3) consecutive missed meetings during the period of September 2025 through November 2025.

YES	NO	ABSTAIN
25	0	1

MOTION CARRIED

BIRTHDAYS

At this time, people born in December were recognized.

BENEDICTION

Mr. Edgardo Cedeno led us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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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