



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

JOETTA BROWN
CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER
DISTRICT MANAGER

GLORIA S. ALSTON
CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 03/11/25
Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Atta Acheampong
Kolaco Acqui
Ibrahim Ahmed
Xiomara Arriola
Joetta Brown
Robert Brown
Dawn Carter
Edgardo Cedenio
Gilberto Constantine
Joyce Diggs
Francis D'Souza
Wanda Ellis
Beverly Emers
Michele Gantt
Maurice Gray
Michelle Holmes
Linda Johnson
April Jones
Diane Jones
Victor Latimer
Una Lawrence
Tracie Lucas-Lord
Aubrey Mike
Jacquelyn Moore-Hill
Kathy Morris
Paul Navarro
Anddy Perdomo
Amanda Reed
Laredo Regular
Jeannie Ruiz
Keziah Sullivan-Norman
Jasmine Uribe
D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas
Beautiful Winston

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

Randy Dillard
Linda Kemp

Members Absent

Aaron Dumfeh
Margo Grant
Abraham Jones
Bryan Wigfall

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Lisne Bautista

Senator Luis Sepulveda

Christian Cardus

Bronx DA's Darcel Clarke Office

Senovia Simpson

Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Ali Saab

Congressman Ritchie Torres Office

Joanna Rivas

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

INVOCATION

Dea. Edgardo Cedenio led us in prayer.

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PUBLIC HEARING

Adreina Baez, Domestic Violence Advocate, Bronx District Attorney
Melissa Palacios, Domestic Violence Advocate, Bronx District Attorney
Jasmine Jimenez, Strangulation Advocate, Bronx District Attorney

Topic: Discuss the Bronx District Attorney's Office response and support process for domestic violence cases

Ms. Melissa Palacios shared the following:

- Most Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) referrals come from within the District Attorney's Office. However, a small percentage of referrals are initiated from the community.
- DVU steps in after the defendant in the domestic violence case gets arrested.
- DVU client support is tailored based on the client's particular post-traumatic experience and their current state of mind.
- There are in-house therapists to assist with the client's case.
- Client housing needs are assessed and supported.
- DVU provides transportation to and from court.
- DVU assists the client with their Victim Impact Statement.
- DVU never closes a case and is always available to the client.

Ms. Adreina Baez stated the following regarding the Early Victim Engagement Program (EVE):

- EVE assists the client with crisis intervention during the arraignment process.
- EVE completes the client assessment, then the client is assigned an advocate.
- EVE consistently follows up with the client with frequent check-ins.
- EVE provides updated orders of protection for the client.

Ms. Jasmine Jimenez spoke on the following regarding Strangulation Advocacy:

- Most strangulation cases are also DVU cases and provide information about strangulation and the criminal justice process.
- The difference between strangulation and choking: Choking is when something is lodged in the throat, and strangulation is when pressure is put on the windpipe.
- The strangulation advocate's role is pre-arrest and provides information.
- Fifty percent of strangulation incidents do not reflect marks on the body.
- Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence.

At this time, the presentation was concluded.

Questions were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

PUBLIC SESSION

Announcements

Ms. Teresa Cunningham, Bureau of Community Affairs, NYC Department of Sanitation, made the following announcement:

- Separation of compost from trash is now mandatory. If you do not separate food waste from trash, you may get a warning.
- Starting April 1, 2025, all NYC residents will be subject to fines.
- Compost must be stored in the brown bin or the regular 55-gallon bin with the DSNY decal, which can be purchased online or at Home Depot.
- DOS recommends that only clear garbage bags be used to line the bins.

Tanya Osborne of CannaDiva made the following announcements regarding the organization:

- CannaDiva is a women-centered cannabis education company.
- CannaDiva represents the Cannabis Workforce Initiative, a NYState sponsored program that provides free workforce development training within the industry.

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- Offers free 15-hour certificate training.
- Cannadiva is looking to liaise with organizations to inform the community about the program.

Alexander Reyes and Kimberly Troncoso of the Oyate Group discussed the organization's mission to eradicate poverty across New York and mentioned the Brandon Hendricks Scholarship.

In 2020, the Oyate Group launched the Brandon Hendricks Scholarship in honor of a rising star from our community who was killed by senseless gun violence on June 29th, 2020. Brandon Hendricks was a consistent source of hope and inspiration for everyone who knew him and had recently been accepted to college with a full scholarship. To honor Brandon's life, our organization offers financial scholarships in his name to multiple high school seniors from the Bronx who have recently been admitted to college.

Community Concerns:

A resident of 1409 Fulton Avenue has struggled with a lack of heat in her apartment for two years. She shared her information with the staff of Bronx Community Board Three for follow-up.

Queen Eva McFadden, My Sister's Keeper, thanked Bronx Community Board Three for their outreach regarding My Sister's Keeper Kwanzaa event in December 2024.

A staff member from the Dona Elsie Family Shelter expressed concerns about the lack of response to recent 911 calls. The staff member provided their contact information to the Bronx Community Board Three staff for follow-up.

A volunteer at the Jardin de la Familia, a garden overseen by GreenThumb, shared that there is a willow tree in the garden that needs attention, as its branches are hanging in a manner that could pose a risk to garden participants. The volunteer provided their contact information to the staff of Bronx Community Board Three for follow-up.

Mr. Aubrey Mike, a Bronx Community Board Three board member, spoke on the importance of the community being prepared in the event of an emergency.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

Councilman Rafael Salamanca's Report

Ms. Shanna Knotts, Chief of Staff, shared the following written report:

Legislation:

Our office is currently working on drafting two pieces of legislation that will increase transparency surrounding e-bikes/scooter 'corral zones,' as well as legislation that will streamline emergency response efforts within city properties. Additional information on the bills are as follows:

In response to community complaints surrounding the placement of e-bike/scooter 'corral zones,' Council Member Salamanca is drafting legislation that would require New York City Department of Transportation to seek input from and notify community boards and local elected officials within sixty days of placing designated corral zones on city streets. These corral zones are designated areas created by DOT for bike/scooter users to place devices at the conclusion of their trips. While a step in the right direction from users indiscriminately leaving bikes/scooters in random locations, these corral zones tend to be on street corners that create tripping hazards and/or obstacles for pedestrians using crosswalks. The purpose of this bill would be to require DOT to seek critical input from local stakeholders as to what placement works best for that particular community.

Secondly, following efforts by municipalities and school districts across the country to streamline emergency response operations in emergency situations, Council Member Salamanca is drafting legislation that would establish the creation of a digitized, uniform emergency grid mapping system for New York City properties, including, but not limited to, New York City schools, hospitals, parks and government buildings. With a uniform grid mapping system, first responders, whether they be NYPD or FDNY, would utilize the same mapping system that takes into account site-specific features and geo-oriented navigation to streamline emergency response efforts and expedite response times. Too often, emergency responders are forced to rely on outdated hard-copy blueprints that lack detailed property characteristics and/or a defined navigational compass. This bill would change that, while also providing responders with a digitized mapping system.

Both pieces of legislation are in the final stages of drafting, with formal introduction estimated to be within the next month to month and a half.

Office Operations

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Our office operates daily (Monday – Friday) 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 located at 1070 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10459.

Immigration attorneys are available to provide constituents with free consultation and application assistance on Monday's and Tuesday's. However, this service is offered by appointment only. For more information or to schedule a consultation please contact our office directly at (718) 402-6130.

CM Salamanca has partnered with DSNY for the E-Cycle NYC program. This a free service where you can discard electronics that you no longer need, want or utilize. They can be dropped off to our district office weekly from Wednesday – Friday between the hours of 10am – 3pm. A variety of electronics will be accepted, that don't include household items such as vacuums, microwaves, batteries, light bulbs or ballasts. Please refer to the flier with full details. This opportunity will remain available to community members, and residents for the next few months.

Upcoming Events

- On Wednesday, March 19th from 6:00pm – 9:00pm, CM Salamanca will host his annual Women of Distinction event at Bronx Zoo's Schiff Hall 2300 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY. RSVP's are required to attend. The following link can be copied and pasted into a browser, and it will take you directly to the registration form: <https://forms.gle/2qRZiLDwT2bQdgT26> *Flyer Attached*
- On Thursday, April 10th from 10am – 1pm, CM Salamanca will be hosting his annual Heroes Recognition Breakfast at New York Botanical Garden 2950 Southern Bronx, NY. RSVP's will be required to attend. *Flyer 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 about legislation, upcoming events and other pivotal information.

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

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Report

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

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

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

Upcoming Events:

BXDA WOMEN RE ENTRY EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE FAIR:

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Time: 3 pm - 6 pm

Location: PSS Davidson Center 950 Union Ave, BX, NY 10459

PROM DRESS AND SUIT DRIVE:

We are thrilled to announce a special collaboration with Bronx Fashion Week: the Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark is hosting a **Prom Dress and Suit Drive**, extending until **April 18th**. We invite you to join us in this initiative by donating gently worn formal dresses, suits, shoes, accessories, and handbags.

To contribute, simply drop off your donations at the designated bin located in the welcoming lobby of 198 E 161st Street from 9 am to 5 pm.

For any inquiries or further details, please don't hesitate to contact our dedicated Community Engagement team at CEU@bronxda.nyc.gov. Your support and generosity make a significant difference, and we sincerely appreciate your participation in this endeavor. Thank you!

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4th ANNUAL PROM DRESS & SUIT DRIVE

Sponsored by

Office of Bronx District Attorney

Darcel D. Clark

&

Bronx Fashion Week



We are accepting donations of gently used formal dresses and suits for Bronx High School seniors.



☒ Must be clean.

☒ No rips, tears or damages please.

☒ Bags and shoes welcome too!

DROP OFF AT BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 198 EAST 161ST STREET BRONX, NEW YORK 9AM - 5PM

Bin Located In Lobby

Contact Us At
CEU@bronxda.nyc.gov
718 838 7649

ACCEPTING UNTIL APRIL 18, 2025

CHILD SAFETY FAIR:

Date: Saturday, April 19, 2025

Time: 11 am - 3 pm

Location: P.S. 106 Parkchester 1514 Olmstead Ave, Bronx, NY 10462

Flyer & details to come!

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

<https://linktr.ee/bronxda>

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report

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

Legislative Updates

1. Int. 794 - This Local Law was passed by the Council to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the composition of the youth board has been enacted. This bill would require that appointments or recommendations for youth board members must be made with best efforts to ensure that appointees have demonstrated relevant experience in the area of youth welfare. Additionally, this bill would require that to the extent practicable, at least 3 members of the board be between the ages of 16-24, in order to ensure actual youth representation.

2. Int. 735 - This Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of correction to report on sexual assault and sexual harassment of correctional staff and providing staff access to mental health treatment resources has been enacted. This bill would require the Department of Correction (DOC) to report on alleged incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment by incarcerated individuals against staff working in City jails. For each incident, DOC would be required to report information related to the alleged incident and

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related investigation. The bill would also require the DOC to ensure that staff have access to mental health resources relating to reducing stress and other adverse mental health impacts for persons working in correctional facilities.

Community Updates:

1. Senior Support Squad - Seniors who are members of Council Member Stevens Senior Advisory Board volunteer to support D16 office events and are looking for seniors to join their squad.

2. Participatory Budgeting Vote Week is 3/29/25 - 4/06/25 a. For suggestions on early voting sites or voting sites during vote week please reach out to Lisne Bautista lbautista@council.nyc.gov 718-588-7500

Upcoming Events:

1. Black Girl Magic Brunch - Sunday March 23rd, 2025 1:00pm-4:00pm at Bronx Music Hall (438 East 163rd St, Bronx, NY 10451)
 - a. In celebration of the 2nd Annual Black Girl Magic Day (February 15th) and the theme of Wealth in Health
 - b. Food, performances, services, honorees

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

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

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

Legislative Updates:

We are happy to announce that the Senator has a new initiative, Vision 32: Empowering the Bronx which encapsulates the capital projects the Senator is funding throughout the 32nd Senatorial District. The Senator has assigned \$5 million dollars to fund capital projects in the schools of the district. Part of this initiative includes advocating with Latinos United for Change and Advocacy aka LUCHA for dedicated funding to address the economic disparities that persist Latino communities within the district. This funding will support educational programs, workforce development, and language access initiatives—creating new pathways to success for countless Bronx families.

Additionally, the Senator was a cosponsor and supporter of Senator Sanders important legislation establishing the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies which is tasked with examining the legacy of slavery, subsequent discrimination against people of African descent, and the impact these forces continue to have in the present day.

<u>S894</u>	SEPULVEDA -- Requires school districts to establish a language assistance program for limited English proficient parents of students.
<u>S240</u> <u>5</u>	SEPULVEDA -- Requires persistently dangerous schools to file an incident reduction plan detailing the steps the school will take to reduce incidents of violence and disruption.
<u>S246</u> <u>6</u>	SEPULVEDA -- Relates to guidance to facilities and programs overseen by state agencies on interactions with federal immigration authorities.
<u>S381</u> <u>7</u>	SEPULVEDA -- Establishes a temporary state commission to study and make recommendations on violence in state correctional facilities.
<u>S383</u> <u>0</u>	SEPULVEDA -- Relates to available transportation for correction facility visitation.

The district office is located at 975 Kelly Street Bronx, NY 10459, and is open Monday through Friday from 9am – 5pm, with in person constituent service hours Monday through Thursday from 10AM – 3PM.

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Office Partnerships: On a monthly basis, we partner with NMIC to provide immigration services and NYLAG to provide constituents with legal services varying from eviction to divorce. Additionally, Bridgebuilders will be in the office on a bi-weekly basis, to assist with One Shot Deal applications, childcare applications, and more. All in-office sessions are appointment based only, 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: March 25th and March 25th
2. NMIC: March 17th
3. NYLAG: April 8th

Upcoming Events:

In collaboration with Bronx Works, we are holding a tax workshop in the office to complete 2024 taxes, the next date is this Friday, March 14th. Please call for an appointment.

Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report

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

Congressman Torres announced today that he will be reintroducing the bill, the BODEGA Act, which will open up federal funds for bodegas to install security systems like panic buttons and ensure faster response times from the NYPD. Bodegas are the heart and soul of the Bronx and we must protect them from violent crime.

On March 8th, Congressman Torres reintroduced legislation to improve the federal response to health emergencies in light of the recent measles and bird flu outbreaks.

Congressman Torres is also advocating for the restoration of Medicare telehealth benefits which help so many senior citizens and their caregivers. Medicare recipients who use virtual or telephone options for doctors' visits will lose that benefit on April 1st. If you have a personal story on the impact of Medicare or Medicaid you would like to share with us, please call our office.

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

Councilman Oswald Feliz' Report

Mr. Ali Saab, staff member, shared time sensitive information.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MEMBER REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

The following members requested to be excused:

Randy Dillard
Linda Kemp

MOTION

It was motioned by Kathy Morris and seconded by Jeannie Ruiz to excuse the following members:

Randy Dillard
Linda Kemp

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was motioned by Beautiful Winston and seconded by Joyce Diggs to approve the minutes dated February 11, 2025, with any necessary corrections.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, provided a written report which represents a summary of issues of importance affecting Bronx Community District Three for the period covering February 11th to the present:

NYC Bronx Borough President's Office

The Bronx Borough President's Office is hosting a **Call for Action** on Tuesday, March 10th from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at the East 174th Street train station to encourage Bronx residents to apply to their local Community Board. Approximately five members of Community Board Three have volunteered to participate and engage with the community on this matter. For the 3rd year in a row, digital applications are available in both English and Spanish for interested applicants. The deadline has been extended to Friday, March 21, 2025.

Volvy's Management Corp.

Volvy's management Corp. Intends to close Weiher Court from 3rd Ave to Washington Ave for Boom/Concrete Pump to be placed on the roadway for the new building at 1010 Washington Ave Bronx

This closure is scheduled to take place in the flowing days and hours March 9 2025 through April 10, 2025 two to three days a week (Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm)

JEK Communications

Cablevision has been contracted to conduct excavation work on the existing cable television infrastructure at **425 East 161st Street**, within Community District Three. JEK Communications is in the process of obtaining permits for this location and looks to start work within 7 days, with work not exceeding 14 days. Please be assured that all affected areas will be restored to their original condition upon completion of the work.

919 Freeman Street

Permits have been filed for a six-story mixed-use building at 919 Freeman Street in **Crotona Park East**, The Bronx. Located between Southern Boulevard and Intervale Avenue, the lot is near the Freeman Street subway station, served by the 2 and 5 trains. Westorchard Management is listed as the owner behind the applications.

The proposed 79-foot-tall development will yield 12,389 square feet, with 10,440 square feet designated for residential space, 1,730 square feet for commercial space, and 218 square feet for community facility space. The building will have 15 residences, most likely rentals based on the average unit scope of 696 square feet. Boaz M. Golani 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.

NYS Office of Cannabis Management

Complaints related to unlicensed cannabis shops and to check the legality of shops operating within Community District Three. It is important that you have a physical address not cross streets ie: 1452 Bronxwood Lane when you are verifying a shop or reporting an unlicensed business. To report illegal cannabis dispensaries please file a complaint at complaints@ocm.ny.gov

Feel free to check out the NYS Office of Cannabis Management website <https://cannabis.ny.gov/>

To verify a shop's legality please click on URL link: <https://cannabis.ny.gov/dispensary-location-verification>

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To report illegal cannabis dispensaries, please file a complaint at complaints@ocm.ny.gov or call 311 or 212-NEW-YORK (212-639-9675) for assistance. To report an incident <https://cannabis.ny.gov/report-an-incident>

If you witness the illegal sale of cannabis products on the streets, please report it to Community Board Three for follow up. Include the exact location and hours of operation. Do not engage with the seller. Photos are encouraged but not required.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr. Gilberto Constantinez recently celebrated his birthday.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

It was noted to keep Ms. Gloria Alston, Ms. April Jones, Ms. Rita Jones, and Ms. Joetta Brown in prayer

BENEDICTION

Dea. Edgardo Cedenio led us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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