



# *The City of New York*

## *Bronx Community Board Three*

1426 Boston Road, Bronx, NY 10456  
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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**

**JOETTA BROWN**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

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

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

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Board Members</b> | <b>44</b> |
| <b>Present</b>       | <b>35</b> |
| <b>Excused</b>       | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Absent</b>        | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Signed Late</b>   | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>Left Early</b>    | <b>1</b>  |

### **BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 09/09/25  
Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue  
Time: 6:00 P.M.

#### **Members Present**

Kolaco Acqui  
Ibrahim Ahmed  
Xiomara Arriola  
Joetta Brown  
Robert Brown  
Eleanor Cano  
Dawn Carter  
Edgardo Cedenio  
Iraida DeJesus  
Randy Dillard  
Francis D'Souza  
Wanda Ellis  
Beverly Emers  
Michele Gantt  
Margo Grant  
Shakira Hart  
Michelle Holmes  
Linda Johnson (L/E)  
April Jones  
Diane Jones  
Una Lawrence  
Tracie Lucas-Lord  
Jacquelyn Moore-Hill  
Kathy Morris  
Paul Navarro  
Anddy Perdomo  
Amanda Reed  
Laredo Regular  
Kim Roland  
Jeannie Ruiz  
Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
Jasmine Uribe  
D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas  
Chantel Wells  
Beautiful Winston

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

Tamara Rothstein

#### **Assemblymember Chantel Jackson**

Crystal Diaz

#### **Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter  
Courtland W. Hankins, III

#### **Members Excused**

Atta Acheampong  
Gilberto Constantine  
Joyce Diggs  
Maurice Gray  
Abraham Jones  
Victor Latimer  
Aubrey Mike

#### **Members Absent**

Ligia Gualpa  
Nafisat Sallau

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

Tyreke Israel

#### **Senator Luis Sepulveda**

Nicole Liberato

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

Senovia Simpson

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

Vanessa L. Gibson  
Kenny Agosto

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Kolaco Acqui  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson

Kathy Morris  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
Secretary

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas Robert Brown  
Treasurer Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

## **INVOCATION**

Deacon Edgardo Cedeno led us in prayer.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Alex Kipp, Director of Education & Engagement, NYC Conflict of Interest Board (COIB)**

**Topic: Discuss conflict of interest policy as it relates to Community Boards and their board members.**

Ms. Joetta, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Mr. Alex Kipp to those in attendance.

Mr. Kipp discussed chapter 68 of the City Charter which details the conflicts of interest law that applies to all current and former New York City public servants, and how the law relates to board members.

Mr. Kipp mentioned the “Three D’s”:

1. **Disclose** - The board member must publicly reveal the nature of their conflict of interest. This ensures transparency and puts all other participants on notice of the potential bias.
2. **Discuss** - The board member is generally allowed to participate in the discussion of the issue. They may offer their expertise and ask questions to contribute to the deliberation; however, they cannot advocate for a particular outcome.
3. **Do Not Vote** - The board member must formally recuse themselves from voting on the measure. This prevents them from using their position of authority to influence a decision in a way that would benefit their private interests.

Mr. Kipp provided several examples to provide more clarity and understanding for the board members and the audience.

Mr. Kipp concluded his presentation, and questions were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Announcements**

Ms. Andrea Forde, Secretary of the Estella B. Diggs Democratic Club, announced the Estella B. Diggs Democratic Club Open House event on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Estella B. Diggs Park.

### **Community Concerns**

Ms. Cerita Parker thanked District Manager Etta Ritter for her work in getting the entrance reopened at Starlight Park. Ms. Parker also highlighted issues at the #4 train 161<sup>st</sup> Street subway station. Ms. Parker was instructed to send an email to Board #3’s office to forward to Bronx Community Board 4 for follow-up.

Mr. Tyreke Israel, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Althea Stevens, noted that the MTA subway system is under state jurisdiction and he will bring these issues to the attention of Assemblymember Amanda Septimo, who represents the district where the 161<sup>st</sup> Street station is located.

Mr. Jeffrey Flowers brought up concerns with the P.S. 186X park being closed and not providing a needed space for the community youth to play. Ms. Kathy Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, advised Mr. Flowers to speak to Ms. Templeman, the principal of PS 186X, to start the conversation about addressing the issue.

## **AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

## **Roll Call**

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

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### **Approval Of Members Requesting To Be Excused**

The following members requested to be excused:

Atta Acheampong  
Gilberto Constantinez  
Joyce Diggs  
Maurice Gray  
Abraham Jones  
Victor Latimer  
Aubrey Mike

### **MOTION**

**It was motioned by Kathy Morris and seconded by Robert Brown to excuse the following members:**

Atta Acheampong  
Gilberto Constantinez  
Joyce Diggs  
Maurice Gray  
Abraham Jones  
Victor Latimer  
Aubrey Mike

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval Of Minutes**

It was motioned by Beautiful Winston and seconded by Beverly Emers to approve the minutes from June 2025, with any necessary corrections.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Elected Official's Reports**

#### **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson Report**

The Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President, congratulated the newly appointed Bronx Community Board Three board members, provided Bronx BP office updates, and shared time-sensitive information.

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

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

#### **Legislation:**

On August 14, CM Salamanca introduced Intro 1368, which will require New York City businesses to provide **10 days of bereavement leave** to anyone who loses a family member to gun violence. With this bill, we are ensuring that families are shown the proper respect while they make arrangements to lay their loved ones to rest, while also providing them with more financial protection to take the adequate time off to grieve.

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

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, CM Salamanca did a check presentation for the Hunts Point Cooperative Meat Market in the amount of \$12 million for their renovation project of Building C. This will ensure that the market continues to have the resources it needs to be successful for the foreseeable future. The CM has been able to secure allocations of \$31 million in critical capital upgrades for the Meat Market as a whole.

### **Office Operations**

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- Our office remains open and in full operation to offer a variety of constituent services. Those looking for assistance can give us a call, submit an email or visit us in person at the district office.
- We also have an immigration attorneys available to provide constituents with free consultation and application assistance. However, this service is offered by-appointment only. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact our office directly.
- CM Salamanca has partnered with DSNY for the E-Cycle NYC program. This a free service where you can discard electronics that you no longer need, want or utilize. They can be dropped off 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.

#### 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:

#### Upcoming AD79 Events

| Event Name                           | Date                | Time               | Location                                                  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hamilton at Regal Theatre</b>     | Sat, Sept 8, 2025   | 5:00PM- 7:45 PM    | Regal Concourse<br>214 E. 161st St., Bronx, NY<br>10451   |
| <b>Shredding Event</b>               | Sun, Sept 9, 2025   | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Claremont Center                                          |
| <b>Strollin For Life</b>             | September 18, 2025  | 9:00AM- 1:00PM     | Joyce Kilmer Park                                         |
| <b>D79 Advisory Board</b>            | Thur, Sept 25, 2025 | 6:00PM- 7:00PM     | VIA Zoom                                                  |
| <b>Hispanic Heritage Celebration</b> | Sat, Oct 11, 2025   | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Boricua College<br>890 Washington Ave,<br>Bronx, NY 10451 |
| <b>Halloween Haunted House</b>       | Fri, Oct 31, 2025   | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  | 780 Concourse Village<br>West, Bronx, NY 10451            |

#### **LEGISLATION & GRANTS**

##### **Bills passed:**

- A429: Passed both Senate and Assembly and signed into law. The bill requires landlords to notify adjoining units of a bed bug infestation in a rental residential premises without identifying information, and to notify all tenants of an infestation in a common area by posting such notice in a conspicuous location accessible to all tenants.
- A4677-A: Passed the Assembly, Senate bill is in the Insurance committee. The bill requires insurance to cover lactation consultant services.
- A4159-A: Passed Assembly and Senate, not yet signed by the governor. The bill prohibits blocking certified peer support advocates, who were previously incarcerated, from providing treatment services in correctional facilities.
- A8254: Passed Assembly and Senate, not yet signed by the governor. This bill relates to training police officers on how to respond to situations involving individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.
- A8727-A: Directs the commissioner of education to conduct a study of recess held in elementary schools in kindergarten through grade six.

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- A5524: Provides that an unsuccessful offerer may additionally request a written explanation comparable to such debriefing to be provided by mail or electronic mail, which the state agency shall provide within sixty days of the offerer's request for a written explanation; lengthens the period in which a debriefing shall be requested by the unsuccessful offerer and the length of time in which a state agency must respond from 15 days to 30 days.

#### **Policy Updates:**

- Legislative staff is having a discussion with other Bronx elected officials to discuss legislative priorities and partnerships.

#### **Proposed Funding Ideas:**

#### **Assemblywoman Ideas:**

Taking children to Broadway shows

#### **Constituent Ideas:**

- Updates to Railroad Park
  - Public garden
  - Updated play area
  - Basketball court
  - Outdoor fitness classes/accessible workout area
  - Family rec area
  - Mini dog park
  - Local art installations
- Enforcement cameras for illegal dumping

#### **2025 Legislative Grants**

##### **Women and Children**

- Youth Justice Network Inc: \$32,000 to support services and programs by providing young people with individualized advocacy, mentorship, and opportunities to grow, thrive, and lead within the community

##### **Education**

- East Side House, Inc.: \$250,000 to support their afterschool program, which provides academic enrichment, increases social-emotional support, enhances arts and athletics, and supports working families.

##### **Entrepreneurship**

- Workshop in Business Opportunities Inc: \$10,000 to support their 16-week entrepreneur summit program

##### **LGBTQ+**

- SAGE : \$50,000 to support educational and recreational programs within the LGBTQ+ Elderly community

##### **Mental Health**

- Destination Tomorrow: \$25,000 to support programming costs for youth in the community
- Partnership with Children: \$50,000 to provide comprehensive mental health programming and trauma informed counseling to students
- The Children's Aid Society: \$20,000 to support transition-aged foster youth and court involved youth programs for the community.

##### **Legal and Community Services**

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity: \$15,000 to support a community biweekly dance program.
- The Bronx Defenders: \$45,000 to expand capacity for walk-in free legal services and programs relating to housing, public benefits, employment, criminal defense, family regulation, and immigration within the community.
- Bronx Spreading Love: \$55,000 to support cultural events and programs to build community renewal.
- Crotona Park Running Club: \$18,000 to provide the New York Unity Race, Fitness Classes, Annual Community Wellness Day and other wellness programs for the community.
- New York Common Pantry: \$25,000 to support the operating costs and community food programs in the district
- PS/MS 29X The Melrose School: \$13,000 to support educational and recreational programs

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- Union Grove Baptist Church: \$15,000 to provide a back-to-school community health awareness fair, holiday meals for low-income members of the community, as well as weekly food pantry services.
- WHEDco: \$20,000 to support community engagement programs, small business services, and other community programs at the Melrose Cast Center and Bronx Commons

**\*Community organizations are encouraged to still submit capital 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?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IX-iCdvJCMEGbpL_1zT1Ug9PZvTX0FPR?usp=drive_link)

## **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

### **June 2025 Highlights:**

- June 5th: Hosted a Pastel, Seersuckers, and Sundress Day at the Capitol.
- June 9th: Hosted a Black Music Month Celebration at the Capitol which included a press conference, lunch, a legislative resolution introduction, and a floor introduction for legends such as Kurtis Blow, G. Keith Alexander, and Dr. Bob Lee on the Assembly and Senate floor.
- June 19th: Hosted a Juneteenth event in collaboration with the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, Asian Caucus and the Office of NYS Senator Cordell Cleare at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr State Building in Harlem. During this event, we raised the Juneteenth and Black Liberation flags and had performances by local community groups.

### **2025 Legislative Session Highlights:**

- Achieved 23 Budget Wins, including securing \$30 million to invest in underserved communities across NYS.
- Members advanced at least 16 bills addressing critical issues such as health, public safety, economic development, education, technology, and housing—each passing one or both houses of the legislature.
- Members introduced at least 15 legislative resolutions.
- Hosted 14 events in Albany

The Black Legislative Task Force is currently circulating a google form to collect the contact information for community-based organizations that are interested in receiving updates on the \$30 million we secured for underserved communities:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcvFKd5rOX7x104eDoFEiOsMXSJQNipBI0Fsh9LXUM4DBLZw/viewform?usp=header>

### **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, 518-455-5273

Executive Director: Dorcia Williams, [williamsd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:williamsd@nyassembly.gov)

### **AM WEBSITE**

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

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## NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

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

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

## OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Constituent matters: [District79@nyassembly.gov](mailto:District79@nyassembly.gov)  
Scheduling requests: [schedulingbx79@gmail.com](mailto:schedulingbx79@gmail.com)

## AM JACKSON STAFF

|                                            |                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sabriena Campbell Chief of Staff           | <a href="mailto:campbells@nyassembly.gov">campbells@nyassembly.gov</a> |
| Nya Vincent Communications Director        | <a href="mailto:Vincentn@nyassembly.gov">Vincentn@nyassembly.gov</a>   |
| Crystal Diaz Constituent Services Director | <a href="mailto:diazc@nyassembly.gov">diazc@nyassembly.gov</a>         |
| Natasha Edwards Legislative Director       | <a href="mailto:edwardsn@nyassembly.gov">edwardsn@nyassembly.gov</a>   |

## Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

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

### BXDA Re-entry Employment Resource Fair

The Bronx District Attorney's Office is hosting a Re-entry Employment Resource Fair for justice-impacted individuals re-entering the community. This event will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm at St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx NY 10468.

This fair aims to provide individuals, relatives, and friends impacted by the justice system with valuable community resources such as job opportunities, securing employment, DMV services for identification assistance, health and mental health resources, understanding their rights, and exploring educational and trade programs.

### BXDA 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 5k Walk/Run/Roll to End Domestic Violence

The Bronx District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Bronx Borough President's Office, Urban Resource Institute, 161 Street BID, and the New York Yankees, is holding our 8th Annual Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic Violence on **Saturday, October 18th, 2025, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

All are welcome to join DA Clark, your colleagues, survivors of abuse, and other members of the community in our BXDA annual event. Survivors will begin the event by speaking about their experiences and bravery.

**The event starts and ends at Lou Gehrig Plaza near the Supreme Court steps at 161st Street and the Grand Concourse at 9:30 AM. The first 1000 to register and attend will receive a DV 5K T-shirt.** The first 1000 to complete the 5K will receive a DV 5K Run/Walk/Roll medal. You can register using the link below or scan the QR code on the attached flyer.

This is a free event. See link to register [Click here to register](#)

### BXDA Darcel Clark's Youth Advisory Council Applications

We're excited to share that our Bronx District Attorney, Darcel D. Clark is recruiting for the Youth Advisory Council 2025 - 2026. This is an exciting initiative to empower Bronx students in grades 8-12 as advocates for meaningful change. As members, young people will have the opportunity to share with DA Clark their valuable insights and perspectives on matters affecting them and their communities, while learning about the criminal justice system. Please find the attached flyer for more details. The application deadline is **Friday, September 26, 2025**. Those selected will receive information about the first meeting via email. To apply, simply scan the QR code on the flyer or click the link below. Please share this opportunity with any youth who may be interested.

Application Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/szYvtchCZ9>

For inquiries or further information, email the Community Engagement team at [bxdayac@bronxda.nyc.gov](mailto:bxdayac@bronxda.nyc.gov)

To keep up with our office

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

### **Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report**

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

### **Legislative Updates**

Introduced the following bills:

- a. Res 0935-2025: Resolution calling upon the City of New York to recognize institutional and systemic racism and generations of harm embedded in today's child protective services (CPS) systems
- b. Res 1027-2025: Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S7746/A7005, which would prevent the suspension of driver's licenses, professional licenses, or recreational licenses as a punishment for failure to pay child support
- c. Intro 1370-2025: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the online submission of citizens' complaints to enforce dumping prohibition laws

### **City Hall Updates:**

Budget passed in June

Council Member Stevens secured \$8.6 million in FY26 for District 16, ranging from capital projects to public safety, youth & senior programming, addressing food insecurity, and housing - This includes \$1 Million CM Stevens secured for a City-Wide investment to support Black communities

### **Upcoming Events:**

Movie Under the Stars w/ 161st BID & Bronx Cinema - Date: September 11, 2025 - Time: 7:00pm - Location: Joyce Kilmer Park

### **District 16 In-Office Services**

| <b>Service Agency</b>        | <b>Frequency</b>                 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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**

| <b>Board:</b> | <b>Health &amp; Wellness</b> | <b>Youth</b> | <b>Tenant Block &amp; Neighborhood</b> | <b>Seniors</b> | <b>Multicultural</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>  | June 12th                    | June 23rd    | July 7th                               | June 26th      | September (TBD)      |
| <b>Time:</b>  | 5:30pm                       | 4:30pm       | 6:00pm                                 | 2:00pm         | 5:30pm               |

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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>

### Constituent Service Hours

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

#### 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

Nicole Liberato, Community Liaison, Senator Sepulveda's office, shared the following report:

**S8469** - Relates to the proximity of an adult-use retail dispensary licensee's business location to a school • This is a new bill that the SS introduced, and his office will focus on this upcoming session

This bill aims to address the error made by OCM in regard to the proximity to schools for dispensaries. • We are trying to grandfather in businesses that were approved for a final license before OCM announced their error. • This will protect licensees who relied on prior state guidance while maintaining the integrity of the Cannabis Law moving forward. It also provides certainty to businesses, investors, landlords, and communities who have supported the launch of New York's regulated cannabis marketplace.

**S 3967-B** - Relates to individuals engaged in prostitution who are victims of or witnesses to a crime

- This bill passed both houses in June and we are waiting for it to be given to the governor to hopefully sign into law.
- This bill protects a victim or witness to a crime from prosecution for prostitution, prostitution in a school zone, or permitting prostitution when they seek help. The concept is similar to the so-called "Good Samaritan" law enacted in 2011 to protect people who seek help for someone suffering an overdose.
- Ultimately, it creates a safe space for people to come forward to testify or ask for help without the fear of being prosecuted.

**NEW BILL** - Requiring a driver be present in all motor vehicles operated for hire

- This bill, which is still in the works, would require all for-hire vehicles to have a physical driver present, seated behind the steering wheel and engaging the activity of driving
- It will prevent big tech companies from eliminating drivers from for-hire vehicles. The language of the bill will be narrowly tailored to apply only to hire vehicles, including UBER/LYFT, taxis, and community car services.
- This bill will in no way stop an individual from purchasing or using an autonomous vehicle. However, it will ensure that the 200,000 livery drivers in New York keep their jobs!

#### Community Updates:

We want to thank everyone who participated in our back-to-school giveaway this past Friday! Over 1,000 backpacks have been distributed within our district between community family days and our annual back to school giveaway. We gave over 100 bags of produce, 300 Bronx Zoo tickets, and free books during our giveaway.

#### Upcoming Events:

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Kathy Morris  
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Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
Secretary

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas  
Treasurer

Robert Brown  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

- A Healthy Lifestyle Convention on October 25th from 10AM – 2PM at Common Point. Flyer pending.
- Financial Literacy Series, TBD.

Our district office is located at 975 Kelly Street Suite 203 Bronx, NY 10459, and is open Mondays through Fridays from 9am – 5pm, with in person constituent service hours on Mondays through Thursdays from 10AM – 3PM.

### **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: September 9th, September 23rd, October 7th, October 21st, November 18th, December 2nd.
2. NMIC: September 15th, October 20th, November 17th, December 15th.
3. NYLAG: September 15th, October 2nd, December 2nd.

### **Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report**

Ms. Tamar Rothstein, Constituent Services Liaison, shared the following written report:

- May 28, 2025 – Rep. Ritchie Torres wrote to Homeland Security to explain why ICE detained Dylan, a 20-year-old NYC student who legally entered the U.S. from Venezuela under a Biden-era asylum program. Dylan was living in the Bronx with his family when he was arrested after a routine court hearing. Torres questioned how the arrest serves public safety and asked for assurance that Dylan's legal rights—like access to a lawyer and medical care—are being upheld.
- June 9, 2025 – A long-awaited study to restore the Harlem River is moving forward after a \$1 million funding deal was announced on Friday. The study, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will explore ways to improve the river's natural habitats, water quality, flood protection, and public access. New York City is contributing \$500,000, matching federal funds secured by Representatives Ritchie Torres and Adriano Espaillat.

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!

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

Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, shared a brief summary of issues of importance affecting Bronx Community District Three:

#### **MEND NYC Program Overview**

MEND NYC is a citywide initiative that offers free mediation and conflict resolution services to help address a variety of neighborhood disputes. The program provides an alternative to traditional enforcement, creating a constructive and collaborative setting where parties can come together with the assistance of trained mediators.

Through MEND NYC, residents, businesses, and community organizations have the opportunity to resolve conflicts outside of formal enforcement channels, reduce neighborhood tension, and build stronger relationships. Mediation sessions are voluntary, confidential, and focused on reaching mutually agreeable solutions that support the well-being of all parties involved.

Bronx Community Board Three encourages stakeholders to utilize MEND NYC as a resource for resolving disputes, strengthening dialogue, and promoting a safer and more cohesive community.

### **NYC Capital & Expense Budget Requests – How It Works**

#### **1. Overview**

Every fiscal year, community boards submit **capital** and **expense** budget requests to the City of New York. These requests allow communities to advocate for local priorities, highlight neighborhood needs, and influence agency funding decisions.

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#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

|                                  |                                  |                        |                           |                              |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Kolaco Acqui                     | Kathy Morris                     | Keziah Sullivan-Norman | D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas | Robert Brown                 |
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- **Capital Budget** = Long-term investments in physical infrastructure (projects that cost more than \$35,000 and last at least 5 years).
- **Expense Budget** = Annual funding to support city services, programs, or personnel (operating costs).  
The City's fiscal year runs **July 1 – June 30**.

## 2. Capital Budget Requests

- Cover **bricks-and-mortar** projects: parks, playgrounds, streets, sewers, schools, libraries, police/fire facilities, community centers, etc.
- Must be durable (expected life of at least 5 years) and exceed \$35,000.
- Examples: playground reconstruction, sewer upgrades, building renovations, new technology systems for schools, resurfacing of roads.
- Agencies (e.g., Parks, DOT, DEP, DOE) review requests and assess feasibility, cost, and alignment with citywide priorities.

## 3. Expense Budget Requests

- Cover **services and operational funding**, usually for one fiscal year.
  - Examples: more sanitation pickups, afterschool programs, youth employment slots, staffing for social service programs, health screenings, traffic enforcement initiatives.
- Agencies review requests and determine if they can reallocate resources or need new funding.

**Budget Consultations will be held in September regarding the capital and expense budget requests.**

**Health & Human Services Committee** meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> will be hos - Banana Kelly will discuss their application to the NYS OCM for a retail dispensary at 1283 Westchester Avenue.

### DOT street light outages within Community District Three

Bronx Community Board Three currently has several **outstanding street light outages** listed on the District Service Cabinet (DSC) Agenda.

- The affected locations have been **inspected**, and **work orders have already been submitted** for correction.
- The New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) has confirmed that their **previous street lighting maintenance contract expired**.
- DOT is presently **negotiating with a new contractor** to address these work orders.
- Ongoing **challenges in selecting a qualified vendor** have delayed repairs, preventing the outstanding outages from being resolved until a **new contract is awarded**.

Bronx CB3 will continue to monitor this matter, maintain communication with DOT, and advocate for expedited contract resolution to restore safe and reliable street lighting across the district.

### Chairperson's Report

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called on each newly appointed Bronx Community Board Three board member to introduce themselves to all in attendance.

Ms. Brown discussed the importance of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) within Bronx Community District Three. She urged board members to reflect on the need for a BID in the district and to consider the steps required to create one.

It was noted that WHEDco (Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation) is currently engaged along the Southern Boulevard/Crotona Park East corridor. Their work includes conducting a Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA), supporting merchant organizing and the establishment of a merchants association, leading commercial revitalization and early-action projects, and facilitating cross-promotion and small business support initiatives. These efforts were recognized as laying the groundwork for potential BID development in the future.

**At this time, Kathy Morris made a motion to extend the General Board meeting by an additional 30 minutes.**

### **MOTION**

It was motioned by Kathy Morris and seconded by Tracie Lucas-Lord to extend the General Board meeting by an additional 30 minutes if needed.

**YES** **ABSTAIN** **NO**

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### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

|                                  |                                  |                        |                           |                              |
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MOTION PASSED

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation, Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee

Ms. D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas shared a synopsis of the Parks & Recreation, Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee from June 18, 2025.

The Parks and Recreation/Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee, recommends approving a letter of support for the proposed capital reconstruction schematic designs for Eae J. Mitchell Park and Youth Village Park to the full board. The Joint Committee previously issued separate conditional letters of support in June. At this time, Ms. Van Heusesn-Thomas opened the floor to questions. No questions were entertained.

Ms. Van Heusen-Thomas requested that a motion be made to approve the proposed capital reconstruction schematic design for Eae. J. Mitchell Park.

MOTION

It was motioned by Beverly Emers and seconded by Randy Dillard to approve a letter of support for the proposed capital reconstruction schematic design for Eae J. Mitchell Park.

| YES | ABSTAIN | NO |
|-----|---------|----|
| 34  | 0       | 0  |

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Van Heusen-Thomas requested that a motion be made to approve the proposed capital reconstruction schematic design for Youth Village Park.

MOTION

It was motioned by Beverly Emers and seconded by Dawn Carter to approve a letter of support for the proposed capital reconstruction schematic design for Youth Village Park.

| YES | ABSTAIN | NO |
|-----|---------|----|
| 33  | 1       | 0  |

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws Committee reviewed official documentation concerning Ms. Jacquelyn Moore-Hill, including written complaints and correspondence from Board leadership. Based on this review, the Committee determined that Ms. Moore-Hill engaged in inappropriate behavior and conduct during and after meetings, including aggressive actions toward Board leadership, the use of profanity and unprofessional language in a public setting, and repeated efforts to circumvent established Board protocols. In light of these findings, the By-Laws Committee recommends her removal as a Board Member of Bronx Community Board Three, pursuant to Article III, Sections 4, 4A, 4B, and 4C of the Revised By-Laws.

The By-Laws and Membership Committee requests that the following motion be presented for a vote:

To move that Bronx Community Board Three adopt the recommendation of the By-Laws & Membership Committee and remove Board Member Jacquelyn Moore-Hill in accordance with Article III, Sections 4, 4A, 4B, and 4C of the Revised By-Laws dated January 14, 2025

MOTION

It was motioned by Beverly Emers and seconded by Paul Navarro to table the recommendation of the By-Laws & Membership Committee to remove Board Member Jacquelyn Moore-Hill in accordance with Article III, Sections 4, 4A, 4B, and 4C of the Revised By-Laws dated January 14, 2025, until the next scheduled board meeting in October 2025.

| EXECUTIVE OFFICERS               |                                  |                        |                           |                              |
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| YES | ABSTAIN | NO |
|-----|---------|----|
| 20  | 0       | 12 |

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

Please note the following regarding the above vote:

- Board member Jacquelyn Moore-Hill was not allowed to vote on the motion involving her.
- Board member Linda Johnson did not vote as she left the meeting early.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

At this time, individuals born in the month of September were acknowledged.

#### **SICKNESS & DISTRESS**

Please keep board member Joyce Diggs in your prayers as she is currently not well.

#### **BENEDICTION**

Mr. Abraham Ahmed led us in prayer.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

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