



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 Members	38
Present	23
Excused	11
Absent	4
Signed Late	0
Left Early	0

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 4/14/26
Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Atta Acheampong
Kolaco Acqui
Xiomara Arriola
Joetta Brown
Robert Brown
Edgardo Cedeno
Iraida DeJesus
Francis D'Souza
Wanda Ellis
Michele Gantt
Maurice Gray
Michelle Holmes
Linda Johnson
April Jones
Diane Jones
Tracie Lucas-Lord
Aubrey Mike
Kathy Morris
Anddy Perdomo
Laredo Regular
D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas
Chantel Wells
Beautiful Winston

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson's Office

Kenny Agosto

NYC Comptroller Mark Levine

Yves Filius

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

Ibrahim Ahmed
Dawn Carter
Gilberto Constantinez
Shakira Hart
Abraham Jones
Victor Latimer
Una Lawrence
Amanda Reed
Jeannie Ruiz
Keziah Sullivan-Norman
Jasmine Uribe

Members Absent

Ibrahim Ahmed
Eleanor Cano
Joyce Diggs
Margo Grant
Kim Roland

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Lisne Bautista

Councilmember Justion Sanchez's Office

River Alexander

Senator Luis Sepulveda's Office

Elizabeth Marta

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

INVOCATION

Deacon Edgardo Cedeno, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, led the meeting in prayer.

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

PRESENTATION

John Helderman, Community Disaster Program Manager – Bronx, American Red Cross

Topic: Discuss the role of the American Red Cross - Disaster Relief, Emergency Management, and Preparedness

Ms. Joetta Brown, chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Mr. Helderman to the community at large. Mr. Helderman spoke on the following:

The American Red Cross provides 24/7 emergency management, including disaster relief (shelter, food, health services) and preparedness training. Volunteers deliver aid via Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs), while "Be Red Cross Ready" programs help individuals create emergency plans and survival kits. Get immediate help, find an open shelter, and learn to prepare at [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org).

Key Services & Information

- **Disaster Relief:** The Red Cross provides emergency shelters, hot meals, and mental health support, with 95% of disaster workers being volunteers.
- **Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs):** Mobile units distribute food, water, and relief supplies in affected communities.
- **Disaster Preparedness Planning:** Resources are available to create family emergency plans, including identifying risks, evacuation routes, and communication plans.
- **Be Red Cross Ready:** Programs teach how to build a survival kit (water, food, radio, meds) and stay informed.
- **Training & Certification:** Classes are offered in CPR, First Aid, AED, and AED use, alongside professional safety courses.
- **Disaster Recovery Services:** Assistance with finding resources, replacing documents, and emotional recovery after disasters.

Emergency Preparation Steps

- **Make a Plan:** Define how to respond to local disasters (fires, floods, tornadoes) and create an evacuation plan.
- **Build a Kit:** Prepare a 3-day supply for evacuation or a 2-week supply for home, including water, non-perishable food, and a battery-powered radio.
- **Stay Informed:** Download the free Red Cross Emergency App or text "GETEMERGENCY" to 90999.

The Red Cross relies on volunteers to manage disasters, provide aid, and teach preparedness. Individuals can sign up as disaster preparedness volunteers to help their local community.

PUBLIC SESSION

Announcements

Ms. Imani Cenac of Nos Quedamos gave an update on the Resiliency Hub at Bronx Sunshine Garden located within Bronx District Three at 17968 Bryant Avenue. Mr. Manny Rodriguez, administrator at Bronx Sunshine Garden, spoke on the events and resources that the garden hosts. There is currently a ground level tree house being constructed that will also be a puppet theater. Ms. Andrea Forde spoke about her HDfC building agreeing to host the broadband internet hardware for the garden.

Ms. Lisne Batista of Councilmember Althea Stevens office, spoke on the Participatory Budgeting process.

Mr. Scott Daly of the Cary Leeds Center shared time sensitive information.

Andrea Forde, resident and stakeholder of Bronx District Three, shared time sensitive information

Community Concerns

Roll Call

Ms. Wanda Ellis, Chair of the Membership & Bylaws Committee of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Approval of Members Requesting to be Excused

The following members requested to be excused:

Ibrahim Ahmed
Dawn Carter
Gilberto Constantine
Shakira Hart
Abraham Jones
Victor Latimer
Una Lawrence
Amanda Reed
Jeannie Ruiz
Keziah Sullivan-Norman
Jasmine Uribe

MOTION

It was motioned by Tracie Lucas Lord and seconded by Laredo Regular to excuse the following members:

Ibrahim Ahmed
Dawn Carter
Gilberto Constantine

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ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Approval Of Minutes

It was moved by Kathy Morris and seconded by Robert Brown to approve the March 10, 2026, minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Elected Official's Reports

Senator Luis Sepulveda's Office

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

Legislative Updates for April 2026:

<u>S9593</u>	SEPULVEDA – - Prohibiting the approval of final plans, specifications, or estimates for state highway projects that would add width or lanes within one hundred feet of a federal, state, or municipal housing project. - Restriction applies when the housing project is located in a zip code where the three-year average asthma emergency department incidence rate exceeds seventy per ten thousand residents, as determined by the Department of Health. - Ensures that state transportation planning considers the health and well-being of residents in public housing communities. - By prohibiting highway widening projects within proximity to these developments in areas already experiencing high asthma rates, the bill helps prevent further harm and promotes healthier living environments.
<u>S9556</u>	SEPULVEDA – - Allows non resident children to enroll in schools in district with open enrollment policy. - Allows students to enroll in school districts they are not residents in, creating more educational opportunity, a more equitable education system, and more opportunities for socioeconomic mobility and variety of learning experience.
<u>S9332</u>	SEPULVEDA - “Anti-Slumlord Act” - prohibit owners of residential property from purchasing further property until their existing portfolio is certified to be clear of all immediately hazardous violations, and to incentivize residential property owners to use their capital to correct immediately hazardous conditions before expanding their residential property portfolio. - This bill aims at stopping unsafe and hazardous housing conditions due to a landlord refusing to fix these conditions. This bill stops a landlord with outstanding hazardous condition cases from purchasing another building just to continue the cycle.

Community Updates:

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.

Upcoming Events:

1. **Healthy Lifestyle Convention – Common Point – May 15th- 10-2PM (In partnership with Common Point and Bronx Health Link)**
2. **Third Annual Health and Wellness Fair – Richmond/Echo Park – May 16th from 11AM – 3PM. Flyer is coming soon.**
3. **Veterans Brunch Appreciation Day - TBA**

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Office Partnerships: On a monthly basis, we partner with NMIC, NAICA and NYLAG to provide an array of legal services including immigration, eviction prevention, and divorce services. Additionally, the organization of Bridgebuilders Community Partnership is in the office, on a bi-weekly basis, to assist with applications for a 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:

NMIC: April 29th, May 18th, June 15th, June 22nd.

NYLAG: April 22nd, May 26th, June 23rd.

NMIC: April 28th, May 18th, and June 15th.

NAICA: May 14th.

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report

Ms. Lise Bautista did not provide a written report and shared time-sensitive information.

Councilmember Justin Sanchez's Report

River Alexander, Legislative Director, did not provide a written report and shared time-sensitive information.

NYC Comptroller Mark Levine

Yves Filius, Bronx Borough Director, did not provide a written report and shared time-sensitive information.

Bronx Borough President's Office Report

Mr. Kenny Agosto shared time-sensitive information.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Joetta Brown encouraged all board members to review the roles of each Bronx Community Board Executive Board position in order to be prepared for the upcoming June elections.

District Manager's Report

Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, spoke on items of importance from the period of February 11th to the present. The District Manager's report was emailed to those on Bronx Community Board Three's listserv.

The NYC Department of City Planning has created a survey for Community Boards to distribute to their listserv as it relates to the FY2028 District Needs Statement.

Bronx Community Board Three is requesting that residents, community stakeholders, businesses, and service providers participate in the FY2028 Community District Needs Survey. Your input will help the Board identify the top priorities and concerns within Community District Three and will inform our FY2028 District Needs Statement submitted to New York City agencies.

We encourage you to complete the survey and share it with others in your network so that we can gather as much community input as possible.

Survey Link: FY2028 Survey for Public Input on Community District Needs: (<http://s.alchemer.com/s3/3c92d659897f>)

Thank you for helping Bronx Community Board Three advocate for the needs of our community.

Sanitation & Environmental Initiatives

The Sanitation Foundation continues to support the work of the New York City Department of Sanitation in maintaining clean and healthy communities. Their efforts focus on reducing waste sent to landfills, promoting sustainability, and supporting citywide cleanliness initiatives.

Bronx Community Board Three will continue to collaborate with DSNY and partner organizations to address persistent sanitation concerns, including illegal dumping, litter conditions, and enforcement within high-traffic corridors across the district.---

Parks & Community Gardens – GreenThumb

NYC Parks GreenThumb is the largest community gardening program in the nation, administered through New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

GreenThumb supports community gardens through:

- Community Engagement – empowering local residents to steward and activate garden spaces
- Operations & Maintenance Support – providing materials, tools, and technical assistance
- Programming & Education – offering workshops, youth engagement, and environmental education
- Planning & Sustainability – ensuring long-term viability of garden spaces

Community District Three is home to a significant number of GreenThumb gardens, which continue to serve as critical open spaces that promote environmental stewardship, food access, and youth engagement.---

Community Arts Initiative – CITYarts

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CITYarts, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, engages youth in improving their communities through the creation of public murals. These projects are guided by professional artists who work collaboratively with young people to bring each vision to fruition.

Bronx Community Board Three is currently seeking community input on viable mural locations where property owners are willing to provide formal consent. Community members with potential sites or interest in participating are encouraged to contact the Board Office for further coordination.---

Transportation & Infrastructure – Pothole Reporting

The Board Office continues to receive and track pothole complaints across the district. Locations are actively being forwarded to the New York City Department of Transportation for inspection, repair, and follow-up.

Board Members and community residents are encouraged to continue submitting locations, along with nearest addresses and intersections, to assist with coordinated tracking and inclusion in capital planning and maintenance schedules.---

Office Relocation Update

The Board Office continues to work closely with the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) regarding potential relocation sites. The following locations are currently under review:

1759 West Farms Road The Board is awaiting additional information from the landlord to proceed with a full site inspection and feasibility assessment. Initial considerations include accessibility, layout constraints, and suitability for hosting public meetings.

1211 Southern Boulevard The landlord has indicated availability of approximately 3,000 square feet, which may be subdivided to meet the Board's spatial requirements of 1500 sq. ft. This location is under further review for compliance with operational needs.

830 Stebbins Avenue This site offers approximately 1,410 square feet and is being evaluated as a potential option within the Board's size limitations. Considerations include functionality, accessibility, and ability to support staff operations and public interface.

The Board Office will continue to assess each location to ensure that any selected space adequately supports administrative functions, public engagement, and accessibility for evening meetings and community participation.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bronx Community Three recognized attendees born in April, including District Manager Etta Ritter.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

BENEDICTION

Ms. Diane Jones led us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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