



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GLORIA ALSTON
CHAIRWOMAN

JOHN W. DUDLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MINUTES

Date: 12/17/2019
 Time: 6:00PM
 Location: 1332 Fulton Avenue

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Jerry Aviles
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Nelson Delerme
 Wanda Ellis
 Abdul Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Victor Latimer
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Edna Quinones
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Olympia Jay Striplin

Bronx Borough President's Office

Tom Lucania

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Office

Shanna Knotts

State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office

Latoya Matthew

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Winifred Bama
 Joetta Brown
 Vladimir Cruz
 Randy Dillard
 Marilyn Johnson
 Rita Jones
 Una Lawrence
 Terrence Podolsky
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas

Members Absent

Melody Jimenez
 Elizabeth Luciany
 Aubrey Mike
 Marlon Molina
 Gina M. Newton
 Cassandra Saunders
 Keziah Sullivan
 Patrick Willis

Assemblyman Michael Blake's Office

Michaela Ritz

SS Luis R. Sepulveda's Office

Flor Gay

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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 1st Vice-Chairperson

Linda Kemp
 2nd Vice-Chairperson

Joetta Brown
 Secretary

Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Treasurer

Rita Jones
 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Guests Names

Keith Kalb, NYC DOT
Jacqueline Carter, NYC Transit
Matthew Arancio, NYC DOT
Jessica Cignarella, NYC DOT
Naomi Delphin, NYC DOT

All Other Guests Names on File

Call to Order

Ms. Gloria S. Alston, chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, requested that Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 1st vice chairperson, call the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Invocation

Rev. Idus A. Jr. led us in prayer.

Correspondence

Currently, there was no correspondence for review.

Exchange of Information/Community Concerns

At this time, community concerns were exchanged not limited to the following:

Community Concern

- Ms. Nordalys Mendez, representative from WHEDCo, informed the community at-large of the following events:
 - On Thursday, December 19th from 6:00pm-7:00pm, there will be a Melrose Tree Lighting Ceremony at Railroad Park on the corner of East 161st street and Park Avenue.
 - On Saturday, December 21st, there will be Melrose Parranda "Annual Puerto Rican-Style Christmas Caroling Procession", 7:00pm, at 443 E. 162nd Street.
 - The **Melrose Stories Exhibit Walking Tour** is an interactive tour that incorporates many historic sites and wonderful restaurants that will host the exhibits throughout Melrose! Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- Ms. Kathy Johnson-Morris, board member, requested assistance regarding "**late mail delivery**" from the Southern Boulevard station. Mr. John Dudley, district manager, stated CM Rafael Salamanca requested that a postal audit of the Southern Boulevard Post Office be conducted, in early 2019. The audit concluded that resident's complaints were justified relating to late mail deliveries, undelivered packages, extended routes, long wait times in line and discourteous employees. At the conclusion of the audit, a plan was to be put in place relating to : parcel lockers, conducting on-site reviews, adding service specific retail customer services lines, adding a mobile payment option, holding "meet and greet" sessions with customers, and monitoring wait time in line. The DM instructed the community at-large to send an email to him regarding the Southern Boulevard Station and/or the Morrisania Station, regarding their issues of concern. The DM will forward all concerns to CM Salamanca for review and to schedule a meeting to address said concerns with the Bronx Inspector General.
- A concern was raised by a homeowner regarding developers being permitted to develop a location that is out of character or the location is not zoned for said development. The DM informed the community-at large that a developer would not be approved for a permit to develop a site, if the current zoning does not permit said development. The DM instructed the community at-large to send him an email if they feel that a development within their area should not be permitted. The DM will check with the NYC Department of City Planning related to the zoning question, and the NYC Department of Buildings which approves new building permits.
- Ms. Yesmin Vega, representative from WHEDCo, stated that Southern Boulevard Coalition is hosting its **2020 Community Visioning: A Holiday Celebration** on Wednesday, December 18th from 5:00pm-8:00pm, at 1283 Westchester Avenue.
- Dion Powell, community member, stated that he is hosting a "**Veteran First Time Investment Program**" for stock investments.
- Mr. Colbert Nembhard, branch librarian, at Morrisania Public Library, stated that the library will be closed for two weeks to remove asbestos and remain open for the installation of the HVAC system. The library will not be closed for a year.
- Abdul Johnson, founder of C-Ball, stated that he has partnered with BronxNet, and Butler Houses. C-Ball deals with sports and media for youths aged 14-28. Mr. Johnson stated that he is currently working with the Five Family Focus Program, which will address mental, physical, emotional, health and nutrition support to the residents of Butler Houses. It was suggested that Mr. Abdul Johnson make a formal presentation before the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee, in the coming year.

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Roll Call

Ms. Linda Kemp, 2nd Vice Chairperson, called the roll. A quorum was established.

Members Requesting to be Excused

- Winifred Bama
- Joetta Brown
- Vladimir Cruz
- Randy Dillard
- Marilyn Johnson
- Rita Jones
- Una Lawrence
- Terrence Podolsky
- Deidra Van Heusen

Motion

It was motioned by Abraham Jones and seconded by Rev. Frederick Crawford, to excuse the following member(s):

- Winifred Bama
- Joetta Brown
- Vladimir Cruz
- Randy Dillard
- Marilyn Johnson
- Rita Jones
- Una Lawrence
- Terrence Podolsky
- Deidra Van Heusen

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of the Prior Meeting

Motion

It was motioned by Anddy Perdomo and seconded by Rev. Frederick Crawford, to approve the minutes of the prior meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, with the necessary corrections if there be any.

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Amendments to the Agenda

At this time, there were no amendments to the agenda.

Presentation(s)

Jacqueline Carter, Assistant Director, Government & Community Relations, MTA NYC Transit

Topic: Discuss MTA New York City Transit Proposed Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign Project

Rev. Bruce Rivera introduced Ms. Jacqueline Carter, assistant director, Government & Community Relations, MTA NYC Transit, to those in attendance. Ms. Carter came before the General Board to discuss MTA's New York City Transit Proposed Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign Project.

Ms. Carter introduced her colleagues Ms. Jessica Cignarella from MTA NYC Transit and Naomi Delphin, NYC Department of Transportation, to further discuss the proposed Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign Project. Ms. Cignarella stated that the

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draft plan was released in May 2019. She noted that MTA Transit and DOT held several survey outreach events on the street and in subway stations connecting with thousands of riders. MTA also hosted a digital open house with approximately 750 people responding. The following redesign strategies were addressed:

- More direct Routings
- Bus Stop Balancing
- Improved Connectivity
- Increased Frequency
- More Bus Priority

Ms. Naomi Delphin, representative from the NYC Department of Transportation, stated that DOT used a variety of bus priority treatments to provide faster and more reliable bus service, not limited to the following:

- New Bus Lanes
- Upgraded Bus Lane
- Protected Bus Lane
- Transit and Freight Priority Street
- Bus Boarders
- Bus Queue Jump Lane and Transit Signal Priority
- Curb Management
- Pedestrian Safety
- Bus Stop Accessibility Turn Restrictions

The proposed Final Plan for the Bronx Bus Network Redesign Project will be finalized by Spring 2020. The Final Plan will be implemented in Summer/Fall 2020. At this time, questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

Ms. Carter requested that everyone write down the following website address to read the proposed final plan: new.mta.info/BronxBusRedesign#fastforwardNYC, and to make more informed decisions or to address specific concerns, regarding ones route. The links below were sent after the meeting was held.

<https://new.mta.info/bronxbusredesign/archive>

<https://new.mta.info/bronxbusredesign>

Borough President's Ruben Diaz, Jr.'s Report

Tom Lucania, representative from the Bronx Borough President's Office, provided a written report via e-mail which was electronically sent to board members and those on Bronx Community Board Three's list serve.

Mr. Lucania announced the following:

- The New York Yankees, Nike and Major League Baseball have agreed to allow the mom and pop stores within the 161 Street BID to sell official Yankee and Nike merchandise.
- The Bronx Borough President's Annual Chanukah Celebration will be held on Thursday, December 19th, 10:00am, at Riverdale YMCA, located at 5625 Arlington Avenue.

Board members were also encouraged to complete the Sexual Harassment Training by contacting the board office or Tom Lucania.

Report of Elected Officials

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Report

Shanna Knotts, Deputy Chief of Staff at CM Rafael Salamanca's office, distributed the following information:

- *CM Rafael Salamanca will be hosting an **OATH Resource Fair** on Wednesday, December 18th, from 10am-4pm at the Hunts Point Library, 877 Southern Boulevard*
- A flier listing the services provided by CM Rafael Salamanca office, was also distributed to the community at-large

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State Senator Rivera's Report

Latoya Matthew, counsel for State Senator Gustavo Rivera, stated that the State Senator would like to wish everyone a joyous and prosperous Holiday Season.

Assemblyman Michael Blake's Report

Ms. Michaela Ritz, representative from Assemblyman Michael Blake's Office, informed the community at-large of the following events the assemblyman's office is hosting:

- Christmas in the Bronx on Wednesday, December 18th, from 3:00pm-6:00pm, at the BronxWorks Classic Center, located at 286 East 156th Street. Bring a toy for a boy or girl, from infant to 14 years old and gift cards for youth ages 15-17.
- Michael Blake's Community Holiday Celebration - Sunday, December 22nd, 7:00pm at Flava's Restaurant & Lounge, located at 3114 Third Avenue.

Chairperson's Report

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 2nd vice chairperson, stated that a Special Election will be held at this time to fill the vacant position of Treasurer. Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera requested that Ms. Wanda Ellis and Ms. Andy Perdomo tally the votes.

At this time, nominations from the floor were received to fill the vacant position of **Treasurer** as follows:

Ms. Kathy Johnson-Morris nominated herself. No other person was nominated. The position was unanimously filled by Ms. Kathy Johnson-Morris.

Announcements

Mr. Abraham Jones, executive director at Claremont Neighborhood Center, Inc., stated that BronxCare Intergrated Systems will be hosting their "Healthfirst Annual Toy Party" at Claremont Neighborhood Center on Thursday, December 19th from 3:00pm-7:00pm.

Birthday's

At this time, everyone born in the month of December was requested to stand and be acknowledged. Everyone in attendance sang Happy Birthday to those persons born in December.

Benediction

Mr. Abraham Jones led us in prayer

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

***"Nearly all men can stand adversity,
but if you want to test a man's character,
give him power."
-Abraham Lincoln***

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