



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

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 12/12/17
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Winifred Bama
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Randy Dillard
 Francis Dsouza
 Eric Henry
 Marilyn Johnson
 Abraham Jones
 Rita Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Una Lawrence
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Marlon Molina
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Terrence Podolsky
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Lanet Rivera
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 Saadia Walters
 John Wilson III

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
 Wanda Ellis
 Abdul Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Elizabeth Luciany
 Judith Ojo
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Alberto Pimentel
 Edna Quinones
 Cassandra Saunders
 D'Andra Van Heusen

Members Absent

Robin Morgan
 Patrick Willis

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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 Secretary

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 Treasurer

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 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Guests Names

Dr. Mark Naison, Fordham University
Clyde Frazier

All Other Guests Names on File

Call To Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 2nd Vice-Chairperson at Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Invocation

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

Community Concerns/Exchange of Information

At this time, the following information was exchanged:

- Ms. Joetta Brown, board member, is requesting that residents and homeowners sign up for Organics collection, by calling 311. "Give Food Scraps New Life". Ms. Brown noted that if enough residents and homeowners request this service, a drop off site within Community District Three will be needed.
- Min. Abraham Jones, board member, informed those in attendance of HealthFirst and Claremont Neighborhood Center's FREE Holiday Celebration Party on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 5:00pm-8:00 at 489 East 169th Street.
Mr. Gilberto Constantinez, board member, requested assistance in getting more light on Simpson Street where the Detective Borough Bronx Station is located at 1086 Simpson Street on East 167th and Westchester Avenue. Mr. Constantinez stated that the lighting is poor in this vicinity and can be unsafe during this time of year. The District Manager stated that this location is within Community District Two, however, he would look to forward this complaint to the appropriate agency.

Roll Call

Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr, secretary called the roll and a quorum was established at this time.

Members Requesting to be Excused

Rev. Frederick Crawford
Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
Wanda Ellis
Abdul Johnson
Kathy Johnson-Morris
Elizabeth Luciany
Judith Ojo
Laila Patino
Anddy Perdomo
Alberto Pimentel
Edna Quinones
Cassandra Saunders
D'Andra Van Heusen

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to excuse the following member(s):

Rev. Frederick Crawford
Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
Wanda Ellis
Abdul Johnson

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Judith Ojo
Laila Patino
Anddy Perdomo
Alberto Pimentel
Edna Quinones
Cassandra Saunders
D'Andra Van Heusen

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes of the prior meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, with the necessary corrections, if there be any.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Bronx Borough President's Report

Mr. Tom Lucania, representative from the Bronx Borough President's Office, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Please see the attached December Bronx Borough President's report:

***Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
December 2017
Community Board Report***

**Borough President Diaz Urges Bronx Residents to
Apply to Their Local Community Board**

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is inviting Bronx residents to make a difference in their community by joining their local Community Board. The Office of The Bronx Borough President will be accepting applications for all 12 Community Boards from city residents who reside, work or have professional or other significant interests in The Bronx.

"Participation on local Community Boards can provide Bronx residents with a forum to share with their community their expertise and talents," stated Borough President Diaz. "There are great things happening in The Bronx that involve the participation of community boards. It is important that community residents participate in the decisions that are building and revitalizing our borough, and our community boards are a great place to do so," said Borough President Diaz.

In addition, Borough President Diaz is encouraging young people ages 16 and 17 to apply for community board membership. Presently, there are six high school students who have been appointed by the borough president to community boards, and is working to insure that there is a least one youth member per community board.

"I believe that the earlier young people become engaged in community affairs and interact with government officials and agencies, the better they will understand government and become active leaders in their communities. It is important to hear the voices of our youth when planning for our neighborhoods." said Borough President Diaz.

Applications are available at the Borough President's Community Board office at 851 Grand Concourse Room 207 or by calling (718) 590-3913 or at your local community board office. Interested applicants may also get the application on line at bronxboropres.nyc.gov.

The deadline for submission of applications for the next round of appointments is February 9, 2018.

Current community board members, who are up for reappointment in 2018, will receive their reappointment application in the mail by mid-December.

**BP DIAZ ISSUES AFFIRMATIVE RECOMMENDATION ON
JEROME AVE. ULURP**

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Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. issued an affirmative recommendation with conditions for the proposed rezoning of Jerome Avenue, as part of his charter-mandated responsibilities in the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

“The plan for the future of Jerome Avenue represents tremendous transformative potential for the entire Bronx. Whatever we do, we must ensure that this rezoning works for everyone, especially the tenants who currently call the affected neighborhoods home,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. “The commitments my office has negotiated with the administration will help do just that.”

The affirmative recommendation comes following negotiations between Borough President Diaz and the de Blasio Administration on several key items that will lead to greater tenant protections and affordability options within the Jerome Avenue corridor following its rezoning.

The complete ULURP recommendation with list of commitments can be viewed at <http://on.nyc.gov/2jsi7yb>.

“The people of The Bronx are not opposed to improvements. In fact, we expect our fair share of community benefits. The residents who testified at my hearing last month asked for greater affordability, more significant tenant protections and assurances that this rezoning would work for everyone, including them. These commitments from the City are important steps towards those goals,” said Borough President Diaz.

The borough president added, “Now that this process is in the hands of the City Planning Commission and the City Council, I urge Council Members Vanessa Gibson and Fernando Cabrera to ensure that both the best possible agreement is negotiated with the administration and that the city keeps all of its commitments.”

BP DIAZ TO ICE: GET OUT OF NEW YORK COURTS

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has written a letter to officials at the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), demanding that the agency remove its officers from New York State’s courts.

If that removal is not forthcoming, Borough President Diaz is asking Hon. Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the New York State Court System, to refuse to allow State court officers and other court personnel to cooperate with immigration officials in a courthouse absent a warrant from a Federal judge, and, further, to ban immigration officers from the State’s courthouses, extending New York State’s sanctuary state policy to the courts.

“The presence of ICE agents in New York State courtrooms has had a chilling effect on justice in our state,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. “We have heard from advocacy organizations that individuals are not coming to court in our state for fear of being arrested by immigration agents and then deported. This is preventing the fair adjudication of cases within our system, and is an affront to the concept of impartial justice. Governor Cuomo has correctly declared New York to be a sanctuary state, and these protections must extend to our court system.”

In the letter, the borough president notes that failing to come to court can have grave consequences in a wide variety of areas, and that fear of deportation should not be clouding the legal process.

“[ICE’s] approach and its ideological roots would be problematic in any context. But when it is employed in a place that undermines our society’s pursuit of justice, the courthouse, it is no longer just a problem,” wrote Borough President Diaz. “It is an offense to decency.”

Read the full letter at <http://on.nyc.gov/2BMSVuF>.

Salamanca, Diaz Jr. & Vacca Continue Call for Action Following Last Year’s Hunts Point Tragedy

A little less than a year ago, my community in Hunts Point was shocked and deeply saddened when two young girls lost their lives in a tragic accident at home. With their family living in what is known as a cluster site, Ibanez and Scylee Ambrose, ages 1 and 2, were killed when a faulty radiator in their bedroom blew and spewed hot steam throughout the room, leaving these two young children with fatal burns.

Following the incident, Councilman Rafael Salamanca, Jr. joined Councilman Jimmy Vacca and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and introduced two pieces of legislation to bring change following the negligence at this cluster site.

Both bills received a hearing today, moving them one step closer to becoming law.

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[Int. No. 1524](#), sponsored by Councilman Salamanca at the behest of the Borough President, would require DHS to inspect radiators during any inspection related to health, safety, or the physical conditions of a homeless shelter. Int. No. 1524 would take effect immediately.

[Int. No. 1529](#), Councilmember Vacca's legislation done at the behest of the Borough President, would require DHS to report to the Council and post on its website information about its plans to phase-out the existing stock of cluster site shelters.

"While it has been a year since this tragic incident in my district, it's my belief that without real action to address the problems that led to two children losing their lives, the same could again happen in the future," said Councilman Salamanca.

"While DHS and others are making strides to fix these issues administratively, as always, I believe there is a role the Council can play by codifying the requirements established by these two bills to ensure important procedures will survive in future administrations, as well as phase out current unjust infrastructure definitely," he added.

"It is our responsibility as elected leaders to ensure that the most vulnerable among us have the same expectation of safety and dignity that any of us would demand when it comes to where we live. These two bills will help bring added safety to homeless housing in our city, and I am proud to join my colleagues Council Members Vacca and Salamanca in bringing this important package of legislation before the City Council," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

"Cluster site housing has caused an unacceptable amount of suffering for some of our city's most vulnerable residents," said Council Member James Vacca. "Late last year we witnessed the horrific deaths of two young girls because they were being housed in substandard cluster site housing. My legislation, Introduction-1529, will guarantee that cluster sites are phased out in a transparent and accountable manner, leading to a safer shelter system. I'm pleased to join my colleagues in addressing these very critical issues."

BP Diaz Calls for State Monitor of Public Housing

In a letter to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has called on the State government to appoint a monitor to oversee the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

"More than 400,000 New Yorkers call our city's public housing developments their home. This latest report only reinforces the mistrust that many residents already have in the New York City Housing Authority," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** "A State-appointed monitor is the only credible way forward to provide for the safety and well-being of our city's public housing residents."

Borough President Diaz's letter comes on the heels of a damning report from the New York City Department of Investigation (NYCDOI) which found that NYCHA had failed to conduct mandatory testing for lead contamination within their apartments, but since 2013 has submitted false documents to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) indicating that all required testing had been completed and that the housing authority was in compliance with federal law.

Previous reports issued by the NYCDOI have found that NYCHA has neglected to provide working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to residents, has not maintained elevators properly and has failed to prevent convicted criminals from living within public housing developments.

Read the full letter at <http://on.nyc.gov/2zJt2Ox>.

In its current report the NYCDOI calls for a monitor to oversee NYCHA, a position Borough President Diaz wholeheartedly agrees with. However, given the City's current position supervising NYCHA, as well as the federal government's apparent distaste for public housing and overall incompetence, the borough president believes that only the state has the ability to appoint a credible monitor to examine NYCHA at this time.

"The families who call our City's public housing developments home deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. It is now plainly clear that a State-appointed monitor is the only way to make that happen," said **Borough President Diaz**.

Bronx NYCHA Task Force Issues Report

"Safe at Home?" Examines Public Safety Issues Facing NYCHA Residents

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The Bronx Public Housing Task Force—made up of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and City Council Members Ritchie Torres and Vanessa Gibson—issued its report, titled “**Safe at Home?**” outlining solutions to the numerous safety and quality of life issues currently facing New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenants.

The report includes numerous recommendations for NYCHA, including requiring the agency to better address critical repairs, expanding the City’s Summer Youth Employment Program to cover all eligible NYCHA residents, creating mental health and wellness clinics within NYCHA facilities, expanding youth programming options in NYCHA developments and getting young people who live in NYCHA more involved in the well-being of their communities, among others.

The full report can be read at <http://on.nyc.gov/2mJRV7h>.

“NYCHA tenants must be safe in their own homes, be it from crime or environmental hazards that lurk in their apartments. This report offers well-considered recommendations that NYCHA can implement to manage repairs, foster greater public safety and engage young people in shaping the future of their communities,” said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** “Given the ongoing issues facing NYCHA right now, the agency needs to take concrete steps towards getting its house in order and ensuring the health and safety of its residents. Adopting the recommendations in this report would help make that happen. I want to thank my colleagues District Attorney Clark and Council members Gibson and Torres, as well as the numerous stakeholders and NYCHA residents who took part in this process, for their efforts on behalf of this task force.”

“The findings of this report make it clear that NYCHA is in need of immediate reforms from the ground up,” said **City Council Member Ritchie Torres**, Chair of the Council’s Committee on Public Housing. The recommendations offered here can improve the quality of life for all residents and ensure that public safety is maintained at all developments. I thank the Borough President, District Attorney Clark and Council Member Gibson for working with me to improve NYCHA and ensure they families have safe homes.”

“NYCHA residents deserve to live in safe communities. I am proud to join Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Chair of the Committee on Public Housing Ritchie Torres, and Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark in releasing this important report detailing the very real safety issues Bronx NYCHA residents face and step-by-step recommendations for meaningful community improvement,” said **City Council Member Vanessa Gibson**, Chair of the Council’s Committee on Public Safety. “By combining brick and mortar improvements with tenant empowerment and youth development, we believe this report presents a holistic approach to community safety that we strongly urge the City of New York to adopt. On behalf of the residents of public housing in District 16, I’m grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this Task Force to ensure that tenants’ priorities remain at the forefront of our discussions. My gratitude to my colleagues for their partnership on this important topic and my appreciation to all the residents who attended our public hearings and voiced their concerns. We heard you loud and clear and today’s report is reflective of our commitment to ensure that all residents of public housing live in safer communities.”

In December 2015, Borough President Diaz announced that he would convene a task force to study the issue of public safety in public housing in The Bronx.

The new task force would work with NYCHA tenants, law enforcement agencies, elected officials, community organizations and others to focus on solutions to crime and public safety issues that affect the borough’s NYCHA developments. The task force officially launched in January 2016, with City Council Members Gibson and Torres as its inaugural members. District Attorney Clark would also join the task force in 2016.

In addition to meetings with numerous stakeholders, the task force also solicited direct input from public housing tenants in The Bronx through a survey as well as three public hearings over the past year.

BP DIAZ HOSTS ANNUAL BRONX CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

On Thursday, December 7, 2017, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. hosted the borough’s annual Christmas tree at The Bronx County Building.

The ceremony took place featured the lighting of a Christmas tree, draped in hundreds of lights for the delight of the participants and the community-at-large. The event also included performances by The Celia Cruz Bronx High School and Millennium Art Academy choirs, as well as a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus.

“Christmas is a wonderful time of year, when we take a moment to reflect on the blessings in our own lives as well as how we can assist the less fortunate. The annual tree lighting is always a wonderful event, and I want to thank everyone who joined us as we kicked off the holiday season,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. “This holiday season, I urge everyone to give thanks for the simple things in life. Material things are not what is important, but family and friendships are.”

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Statement from Borough President Diaz RE: President Trump's Move to End Temporary Protected Status for Haitian Refugees

"President Trump's order to end temporary protected status for Haitians is a needlessly appalling concession to his anti-immigrant base at the expense of families who need our humanitarian assistance. The federal government should not be uprooting lives or breaking families apart, nor should we be forcing those who came to this nation looking for help during a desperate time to return to a country that is not entirely prepared for their arrival. The president must rescind this senseless dictate," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**

Statement from Borough President Diaz RE: Senate Passage of the Trump Tax Bill

"The Trump administration and the Republican-led Congress have partnered to pass a new tax law that is a disaster for the people of New York City.

"This new law eliminates local deductions and the ability to deduct medical expenses, both of which will only increase the burden on those who are struggling to get by.

"A rushed, hyper-partisan tax plan that benefits the super-rich at the expense of the sick is not what this city and this nation deserve," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**

Upcoming Event:

Borough President's Annual Chanukah Celebration

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

10:00am

Riverdale YMCA -5625 Arlington Ave.

RSVP- 718-590-6116 or jlaufer@bronxbp.nyc.gov

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. extends his best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and Best Wishes in 2018. He thanks all the members of the community board, the district managers and office staff for all of their work during 2017 and looks forward to great accomplishments in the New Year.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report

Shana Knotts, representative of CM Rafael Salamanca, indicated that the office is located at 1070 Southern Boulevard, in the 17th council district. CM Rafael Salamanca provides assistance on housing and immigration services. Ms. Knotts distributed the following information:

"Salamanca Requests Action is Taken by NYCHA Following DOI Report"

"Why I'm continuing my demand for answers from NYCHA"

See Attachments

CM Vanessa Gibson's Report

Mr. Michael Ivory, representative from CM Vanessa Gibson, distributed a flyer regarding NYPD Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, December 21st.

See Attachment

Congressman Jose E. Serrano's Report

Maryam Muhammad, representative from Congressman Jose E. Serrano wished everyone in attendance a **"Happy and Prosperous Holiday"**

Maryam noted that the Congressman's office deals with all federal issues relating to but not limited to immigration, United States Postal

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Services and social security issues.

NYC Comptroller's Office -Scott Stringer

Mr. Antirson Ortiz, representative from the NYC Comptroller's Office, stated that the Comptroller is looking to increase the frequency of bus service, due to the fact that buses currently run 7 miles per hour.

District Manager's Report

Mr. John W. Dudley, district manager at Bronx Community Board Three, did not have a written report, at this time. The district manager stated that he is looking forward to undertaking some promising initiatives in 2018, not limited to the following:

Enforcement of Illegal parking along Washington Avenue

Installation of parking meters along Southern Boulevard to improve sanitation district scorecard ratings

Scheduling a meeting with CM Salamanca regarding United States Postal issues in District 3

Committee Report(s)

Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee

Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee informed those in attendance that she is working with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to improve Playground #9, within Community District Three. Ms. Jones noted that she is looking to have a Fitness Park with a bicycle ramp.

At this time, Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera stated that the Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee came to a consensus to recommend for approval, the co-naming of Prospect Avenue between East 166th and East 165th Streets (St. Anthony of Padua's Church) to **The Chantels-Hit Record "MAYBE" 1958.**

Dr. Mark Naison, Founder and Director, Bronx African American History Project, distributed a hand out regarding the Bronx African American History Projects support for the co-naming of Prospect Avenue between East 166th Street and East 165th to **The Chantels-Hit Record "MAYBE" 1958.**

Mr. Clyde Frazier, music/concert promoter, gave his support for the co-naming of Prospect Avenue, between East 166th Street to East 165th Street on behalf of the Chantels. He noted that the Chantel's are most deserving of this tribute.

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to approve the co-naming of Prospect Avenue between East 166th and East 165th Streets (St. Anthony Padua's Church), to The Chantels-Hit Record "MAYBE" 1958.

YES

NO

24

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All In Favor

Motion Carried

Benediction

Min. Abraham Jones led us in prayer led us in prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

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