



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: 9/13/17
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

- Kolaco Acqui
- Gloria Alston
- Winifred Bama
- Dawn Carter
- Gilberto Constantinez
- Rev. Frederick Crawford
- Randy Dillard
- Francis Dsouza
- Wanda Ellis
- Eric Henry
- Abdul Johnson
- Marilyn Johnson
- Kathy Johnson-Morris
- Rita Jones
- Una Lawrence
- Wilbert Tee Lawton
- Elizabeth Luciany
- Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
- Laila Patino
- Alberto Pimentel
- Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
- Cassandra Saunders
- Olympia Jay Striplin
- D'Andra Van Heusen
- Saadia Walters
- Patrick Willis

Staff Present

- Etta F. Ritter
- John W. Dudley

Members Excused

- Xiomara Arriola
- Joetta Brown
- Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
- Abraham Jones
- Linda Kemp
- Robin Morgan
- Judith Ojo
- Anddy Perdomo
- Terrence Podolsky
- Lanet Rivera

Members Absent

- Marlon Molina
- Edna Quinones
- John Wilson III

Guests Names

All Other Guests Names on File

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
1 st Vice-Chairperson | Linda Kemp
2 nd Vice-Chairperson | Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
Secretary | Kathy Johnson Morris
Treasurer | Rita Jones
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

Call To Order

Ms. Gloria Alston, chairperson at Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Invocation

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

Community Concerns/Exchange of Information

At this time, the following information was exchanged:

- Mr. Colbert Nembherd, branch librarian at Morrisania Public Library, informed those in attendance that they will be hosting an Employer Pop-Up Recruitment Event on Wednesday, September 20th from 11:00am-2:00pm. Morrisania Library is located at 610 East 169th Street. Pre-registration is required.
- Mr. Abdul Johnson, founder of C-Ball, introduced the C-Ball Rac's to those in attendance. The C-Ball Rac's players introduced themselves, each representing their respective Community Board.
- Rev. Frederick Crawford, board member noted that there are two (2) stop signs down. The locations are as follows:
 - Jennings and West Farms Road
 - East 172nd and West Farms RoadMr. John Dudley, district manager noted that correspondence would be sent to the NYC Department of Transportation, requesting replacement of said STOP signs. At this time, there was no 311 complaint number associated with this complaint.
- Mr. Ricardo Cosme, a representative from Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs, (NAICA) informed the community at-large of the services that NAICA provides. NAICA provides anti-eviction legal services to families receiving public assistance that are at risk of losing their homes. NAICA's Homelessness Prevention Law Project, funded by the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) currently provides free legal and referral services to over 800 households annually. NAICA also provides homeless services. NAICA will be hosting a Community Health Fair on Wednesday, September 20th from 1:00pm-6:00pm, at 3339 Park Ave.

Roll Call

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

Members Requesting to be Excused

Xiomara Arriola
Joetta Brown
Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
Abraham Jones
Linda Kemp
Robin Morgan
Judith Ojo
Anndy Perdomo
Terrence Podolsky
Lanet Rivera

Motion

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

Xiomara Arriola
Joetta Brown
Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson

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Anndy Perdomo
Terrence Podolsky
Lanet Rivera

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Amendments to the Agenda

Rev. Bruce Rivera requested that the agenda be amended to include the co-naming of **Trinity Avenue between East 163-East 161st Street to "Joanne Webb-Dixon Way"**.

At this time, a motion was made to co-name Trinity Avenue between East 163-East 161st Street to "**Joanne Webb-Dixon Way**".

YES

NO

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Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes of the prior meeting held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, with the necessary corrections, if there be any.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Bronx Borough President's Report

Mr. Tom Lucania, director of Community Boards provided the following report:

**Borough President Diaz & Speaker Mark-Viverito
Announce Funding for Pregones Theater**

Bronx leaders highlight \$500K in joint funding to expand historic Latino cultural institution

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito visited Pregones Theater in the South Bronx today to tour the theater's existing facility and discuss the forthcoming expansion of the historic cultural institution.

Pregones Theater is one of the premiere arts organizations in New York City and one of the most recognized Latino cultural organizations in the world. Both Borough President Diaz and Speaker Mark-Viverito have both provided \$250,000 in capital funding to Pregones Theater in this year's budget, which will be used towards the goal of constructing a new facility for the historic theater company adjacent to its current location on Walton Avenue.

"Pregones Theater is a true jewel of our borough, and one of the most important cultural institutions in our city," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** "The arts and culture are important aspects of The Bronx, and Pregones Theater has played a key role in fostering our borough's arts community since its inception. This funding will allow for a much-anticipated expansion of education and other programming at the theater, and I am proud to partner with Speaker Mark-Viverito on this important project, which will greatly enhance this nationally-recognized cultural organization."

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Registration is Open for the 2017 Tour de Bronx

Online registration is open for the 23rd annual Tour de Bronx!

The Tour de Bronx, which is recognized as the largest free cycling event in New York State, will take place on Sunday, October 22, 2017. Avid and casual riders from all over the Atlantic region and beyond choose from two routes and descend upon the borough for a full day of cycling and touring.

The 40-mile route offers riders views of Bronx waterfronts through Throggs Neck, City Island and Orchard Beach. The ride continues northwest through Woodlawn Cemetery and Kingsbridge/Riverdale. The 25-mile route takes riders through several Bronx parks and greenways as well as historic neighborhoods like the Grand Concourse and Mott Haven. Both rides end at the iconic New York Botanical Garden where they will enjoy a free music festival and receive a souvenir t-shirt and light snacks.

"It's just a great opportunity for both Bronxites and visitors to experience the borough in a unique way," says Olga Luz Tirado, executive director of The Bronx Tourism Council and producer of the event.

"The Tour de Bronx brings thousands of visitors to The Bronx each year, and we welcome them with open arms. I urge cyclists from all over the region and the world to sign up for this year's Tour de Bronx and get a firsthand look at the great things that are happening in our borough," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Tour de Bronx is made possible with the support of Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, St. Barnabas Health System, and Mercy College. Domino's provides pizza for the event and Coca Cola supplies the water and Powerade sports drink.

For more information and/or to register for the 2017 Tour de Bronx, log onto www.tourdebronx.com

BP Diaz Allocates Over \$20 Million to Bronx Education Projects

On the first day of the new school year, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announced that his office is providing more than \$20 million in capital funds to 87 education projects all over the borough, as part of his FY 2018 capital funding allocations.

Projects funded this year include numerous classroom upgrades, the creation of new media centers, library renovations, technology upgrades, playgrounds, auditorium renovations and other physical plant improvements in public schools across The Bronx.

"I am proud to have funded so many important school projects in every corner of our borough. As I have said many times before, a quality education is the foundation that elevates all of us as society and as a community," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** "Funding like this is critical to our borough's continued growth."

School projects funded by Borough President Diaz this year include \$400,000 for the restoration and modernization of the library at the Bronx High School for Law & Community Service; \$600,000 for technology upgrades for the entire school at I.S. 339; \$50,000 for new computers and carts at New School for Leadership and Journalism, as well as dozens of technology upgrades at schools across the borough.

In addition, \$1,200,000 has been allocated to the Taft Educational Campus for renovations and improvements to the school's athletic field, which will be converted into a multi-purpose sports field. The borough president has also allocated \$4,632,000 towards the complete renovation of several school auditoriums. This includes renovations such as seat replacement, new lighting, sound systems and curtains.

Since taking office in 2009, Borough President Diaz has provided \$60,226,000 in capital funding to 388 school projects, nearly a quarter of his office's total capital allocations during the time period.

"Helping to improve our schools is one more step forward towards providing better education in The Bronx. At the same time, this critical funding helps keep our educational institutions vibrant, and our students, teachers and parents inspired, and is an important component as we continue push to improve the lives of our 1.4 million residents," said Borough President Diaz.

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This year, Borough President Diaz's office has provided \$58,718,000 in total capital dollars across 146 projects. Since coming to office in 2009, Borough President Diaz has provided \$248,646,000 in total capital funding to 725 projects.

A complete list of Borough President Diaz's capital allocations towards education in FY 2018 can be found at <http://on.nyc.gov/2j5bo06>.

**Statement from Borough President Diaz
RE: Trump Administration's Repeal of DACA**

"Doing away with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is another step in the wrong direction by the Trump Administration and represents a wrong-headed turn in immigration policy. It is no secret that President Trump came right out of the gates with hateful invective, launching his presidential campaign with xenophobic rhetoric labeling hardworking immigrants as 'criminals' and 'rapists.' His intentions were clear from Day 1 of his campaign, and since becoming president, he has done nothing but find ways to divide this country, building walls between the realities of the contributions that immigrants have made to our country while also spreading lies that cater to his alt-right base.

"DACA should not be weaponized as a list to deport and divide families. DACA should not be used to deprive students of educational opportunities that benefit us all, as a community, down the road when they make great contributions to our nation, using the tools they learned here, in our great country. I'm calling upon Congress to stop the madness and create a pathway welcoming DREAMers to become an integral part of our society," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

**Borough President Diaz, Mayor de Blasio Join Bus Riders
to Inaugurate First Workday of Bx6 Select Bus Service**

Service will provide 24,000 daily riders with faster, more reliable connections to subways, Metro North, and 20 bus routes along four miles from Manhattan to the Bronx; the fourteenth SBS route builds on Mayor's commitment to SBS expansion across the five boroughs

Mayor Bill de Blasio today marked the first week of the Bx6 Select Bus Service (SBS) in Manhattan and the Bronx, a joint project of the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) and MTA NYC Transit (NYCT). The four-mile route currently serves approximately 24,000 daily riders, and will provide them with faster, more reliable connection to the 1,C,4,B,D,2,5, and 6 trains, Metro North, and 20 other bus routes. Across the city, SBS routes have reduced bus riders' travel times by as much as 30 percent. One in ten bus rides are now taken on an SBS route.

The Mayor rode the Bx6 SBS today along 1.5 miles of East 161st Street between River Avenue and Intervale Avenue in the Bronx.

"Bus riders deserve faster, more reliable service," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "For riders on the BX6, this Select Bus Service means getting to work on-time, and getting home to family faster. We have committed to bringing Select Bus Service to more communities because it is a proven solution that reduces travel time, increases bus reliability and helps us meet the goals of major initiatives – both for a safer city under Vision Zero and a more equitable one under OneNYC."

"One of the most frequent concerns I hear from Bronx residents is the inability to easily navigate east/west travel in this borough, especially via public transportation. This new service, which will connect Northern Manhattan and the courthouse and stadium areas to the Hunts Point Market and everything in between through use of express stops and a dedicated bus lane will make it easier for Bronxites and others to travel to and from two of our most significant employment sites. I want to thank Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner Trottenberg and the DOT as well as the MTA for working with my office to implement this new service as smoothly as possible," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

**Governor Cuomo and Senators Schumer, Gillibrand and Congressman Serrano Announce Nearly \$2.5 Million in Federal Funding
For New Regional Food Hub in the Bronx**

Food Hub Will Increase Access of Fresh, Local Food, Support New York's Farmers and Create 95 New Jobs, 150 Construction Jobs

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand and U.S. Representative José E. Serrano today announced \$2,484,746 in federal funding has been awarded for the New York State Greenmarket Regional Food Hub. The funding was allocated through the Economic Development Administration and will allow GrowNYC to move forward with construction of the new South Bronx food hub, first announced by the Governor in August 2016. The new facility will include a new wholesale farmers' market, USDA compliant cold storage facility, a food-processing center, and other infrastructure upgrades to support local food businesses. The new facility will move nearly 20 million pounds of local produce a year and create 95 permanent jobs and 150 construction jobs.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. said, "This Regional Food Hub will build on our borough's continued success in creating jobs and bringing positive economic development to our borough. I congratulate Governor Cuomo and Congressman Serrano on securing this critical funding."

BP Diaz Allocates Over \$2 Million to Borough Colleges

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announced today that his office will allocate more than \$2 million in capital funds to help support higher education institutions throughout The Bronx this year.

"I am committed to providing all the necessary resources the school system in The Bronx needs to help our students to strive for a higher education," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. "We have always been known as 'the borough of universities,' and investing in our higher education institutions is imperative in order to provide a top-flight education for all of our residents."

Funds will go towards improving Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance routes, as well as other improvements, for Bronx Community College's Roscoe C Brown Jr. Student Center Hall of Fame Playhouse; upgrades for Hostos Community College's Allied Health Building; converting 25 Lehman College classrooms into state-of-the-art "Networked Smart Classrooms," as well as provide equipment for their Access & Technology Center; and renovating a new state of the art facility at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University.

In total, Borough President Diaz has allocated \$2,138,000 million across four colleges and universities in FY18. Since 2009, Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. has invested \$13,142,000 in capital funds towards higher education.

Zaro's Will Return to Parkchester

World-renowned bakery will also expand Port Morris location to include retail component

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. braids a challah bread during a visit to the Zaro's Family Bakery commercial kitchen in Port Morris on August 14, 2017. Zaro's has announced that it will return to Parkchester in Fall 2017, and will expand its Port Morris facility to include a retail component in Spring 2018.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Zaro's Family Bakery and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation announced today that the company would open a new retail location in Parkchester on Metropolitan Oval this coming fall.

Zaro's closed their original Parkchester location on Hugh Grant Circle, which had originally opened in June 1959, at the end of 2015. In addition to returning to Parkchester, the company announced that it would open a retail location at their current Port Morris commercial baking facility in Spring 2018.

"Zaro's has been a great neighbor to The Bronx ever since they first founded their business in our borough in 1927. Their return to Parkchester, as well as their expansion in Port Morris, shows that their commitment to The Bronx has not wavered one bit during the 90 years they have called our borough home," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. "I congratulate Zaro's on their expansion, and wish them another successful 90 years right here in The Bronx."

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NYC Parks Begins Second Round of Renovations at Playground 52 in The Bronx as Part of Community Parks Initiative

Playground to receive more upgrades in second phase of renovations, an \$8.6 million transformation in total

NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, yesterday joined Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Community Board 2 District Manager Bobby Crespo, and kids from the West Bronx Recreation Center to break ground on phase II of reconstruction at Playground 52 in the South Bronx.

This is the second phase of reconstruction at Playground 52, which will include the instillation of new play equipment for ages 2 – 12 and adult fitness equipment, including ADA accessible exercise structures. Larger plant beds and new plants will also be added. Funding for phase II was provided by the Mayor’s office in the amount of \$5,300,000.

“Through the Community Parks Initiative, we are transforming neighborhoods that have long been overlooked,” said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. “Playground 52 is much more than a playground—it’s a huge park that will act as an outdoor living room for this neighborhood. Here, the community will come together to exercise, play, enjoy events at the amphitheater and try out tricks at the new skate park.”

Both phases of the project are expected to be complete by the first quarter of 2018. The first phase—which began in May 2016 and is still underway—includes a \$3,350,000 makeover of the amphitheater, basketball courts, and a new skate park. Phase I was funded with \$1.725 million from Borough President Diaz, \$1 million from the City Council, and \$310,000 from the Mayor. The comfort station is also being renovated as part of a separate, multi-site Mayoral funded project.

Playground52 is one of the more than 60 sites identified for improvement through the Community Parks Initiative (CPI)—a multi-faceted program to invest in community parks that have not undergone significant improvements in decades. CPI is investing \$318 million in capital dollars through 2019 to make renovations on more than 60 under-resourced public parks located in New York City’s densely populated and growing neighborhoods with higher-than-average concentrations of poverty.

“Projects such as the renovation of Playground 52 have a positive impact on the quality of life in our borough, and are important in helping improve the health of our Bronxites by providing access to parkland. We want Bronx residents to get out of their homes to enjoy the park and its facilities,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. “I am proud to have provided capital funding for the renovation of Playground 52, which has been not just a community park but also a destination for host of cultural events, including concerts and dance competitions.”

Playground 52 is named for the advocacy group “52 People for Progress”. First assembled in 1980 under the direction of Al Quinones, the group invested thousands of hours improving their neighborhood park, and has been actively involved in this renovation project. 52 People for Progress is an early example of an advocacy group that joined forces with Parks to help revitalize and maintain parkland within their community.

The New York Public Library Secures New, Larger Home for the Van Cortlandt Branch in the Bronx

Purchase of property on Cannon Place will double the size of the beloved branch, which will open at its new location in 2019

The New York Public Library has finalized its purchase of a 5,800-square-foot building that will now be transformed into the new, larger home of the Van Cortlandt branch in the Bronx.

The new property at 3882 Cannon Place is only three blocks from the existing 2,700-square-foot branch and more than double the size, allowing the Library to better accommodate the growing community with more space for reading, programs, computers, and more. The new location also has an outdoor space.

The Van Cortlandt Library has been at its original one-room location at 3874 Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx since 1968. Even with limited space, the branch has seen a 49 percent increase in program attendance in recent years – and needs to expand.

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City Council Member Andrew Cohen, State Senator Jeff Klein, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. allocated over \$2 million for the project, which is expected to be complete in spring 2019.

The Library will now begin work on transforming the new space into a branch library. To do this, it will launch a “Building for You” community engagement campaign, soliciting feedback from the community on its wants and needs for a new space to help inform design and plans. In the coming months, the Library will conduct a survey in the existing branch and online, and will hold community meetings.

“This new branch library will be a tremendous upgrade from the existing location, and I am proud to have provided capital funding towards this project to make this relocation work. The new Van Cortlandt Branch Library will provide the readers of the Northwest Bronx with a state-of-the-art facility, and I congratulate the New York Public Library for making this project a priority. I look forward to visiting this new branch when it opens in the future,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

District Managers Report

Mr. John Dudley, district manager, provided the following verbal report not limited to the following:

The NYC Department of City Planning Southern Boulevard Corridor Study will reconvene with a community meeting in the month of October 2017, to provide a status update on the results of the community survey undertaken during the summer months. This meeting will serve to determine future planning and policy determinations for the corridor in 2017-2018.

The district manager also noted that the October 2017 General Board meeting will focus on board approval of the FY’2019 Capital and Expense Budget recommendations to be submitted by Bronx Community Board Three, to the Office of Management and Budget. It was also noted that a “Public Hearing” will be held at said meeting where the public can provide testimony on capital and expense budget recommendations.

The district manager also asked that the new board members introduce themselves to those in attendance as follows:

Dawn Carter
Gilberto Constantinez
Francis Dsouza
Marilyn Johnson
Robin Morgan
Olympia Jay Striplin

The new members were “welcomed” as Bronx Community Board Three members.

Committee Reports

Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee

ULURP Application C150232 PQX – Iola Jordan – In the Matter of an application submitted by the Administration for Children’s Services and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the acquisition of property located at 421 East 161st Street (Block 2383, Lot 12) for continued use as a child care center

Questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

Public Hearing OPEN

There was no “Public Testimony”

Public Hearing - CLOSED

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MOTION

It was motioned and seconded to approve a ULURP Application C150232 PQX – Iola Jordan – In the Matter of an application submitted by the Administration for Children’s Services and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the acquisition of property located at 421 East 161st Street (Block 2383, Lot 12) for continued use as a child care center.

YES

NO

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1

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee

Request to co-name Hoe Avenue between Jennings Street and East 172nd Street to **Rev. Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way**

A brief discussion was made regarding Rev. Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford’s accomplishments within Community District Three and abroad.

It was motioned and seconded to co-name Hoe Avenue between Jennings Street and East 172nd Street to **Rev. Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way**.

YES

NO

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1

MOTION CARRIED

Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee Report

Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Committee, noted that she has been instrumental in getting Clinton Playground #9, fiberglass back boards and safety surface coating, along with getting the cracks filled within this playground. Ms. Jones is looking to request the installation of bleachers and/or skate board ramps and rails within Playground #9. Ms. Rita Jones is anticipating that Priority #13 in the capital and expense budget submission be moved up.

Birthday/Sickness and Distress

Ms. Gloria Alston requested that all those born in the month of September to stand and be acknowledged. The committee members sang Happy Birthday to the September babies.

Benediction

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

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