



**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

**HON. VANESSA GIBSON**  
**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

**JOETTA BROWN**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

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

**BOARD MINUTES**

Date: 11/12/2024  
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue  
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present**

Atta Acheampong  
 Kolaco Acqui  
 Ibrahim Ahmed  
 Xiomara Arriola  
 Robert Brown  
 Dawn Carter  
 Edgardo Cedeno  
 Gilberto Constantinez  
 Joyce Diggs  
 Randy Dillard  
 Francis D'Souza  
 Wanda Ellis  
 Beverly Emers  
 Michele Gantt  
 Margo Grant  
 Michelle Holmes  
 Linda Johnson  
 April Jones  
 Una Lawrence  
 Tracie Lucas-Lord  
 Aubrey Mike  
 Jacquelyn Moore-Hill  
 Kathy Morris  
 Paul Navarro  
 Amanda Reed  
 Jeannie Ruiz  
 Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
 Arona Testamark  
 Jasmine Uribe  
 D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas  
 Bryan Wigfall

**Congressman Ritchie Torres**

Joanna Rivas

**Bronx District Attorney's Office**

Senovia Simpson

**Staff Present**

Etta F. Ritter  
 Courtland W. Hankins, III

**Members Excused**

Gloria Alston  
 Joetta Brown  
 Maurice Gray  
 Victor Latimer  
 Raymond Moya  
 Anddy Perdomo  
 Laredo Regular

**Members Absent**

Rev. Frederick Crawford  
 Aaron Dumfeh  
 Abraham Jones  
 Diane Jones  
 Adriano Joseph  
 Linda Kemp  
 Christian Matthew  
 Beautiful Winston

**Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office**

Lisne Bautista

**Councilmember Oswald Feliz**

Miguel Pena

**Mayor Adam's Office**

Leonardo Coello

**Assemblymember Chantel Jackson**

Crystal Diaz

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Kathy Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

**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 Treasurer	Robert Brown Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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## **INVOCATION**

Mr. Edgardo Cedeno led us in prayer.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Antonio Whitaker, Bureau of Community Affairs, NYC Department of Sanitation**

**Topic:** Containerization Requirement for Residential Properties With 1-9 Units  
Curbside Composting  
Increase in Commercial Fine Amounts for Repeat Offenders

Ms. Kathy Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Mr. Antonio Whitaker to those in attendance.

Mr. Whitaker shared the following information:

#### Containerization Requirement for Residential Properties With 1-9 Units

As of November 12, 2024, all properties with 1-9 residential units are required to use bins, 55 gallons or less, with secure lids for trash set out.

If you already use a bin with a secure lid that is 55 gallons or less for trash set out, you may continue to use it until June 2026. After that, you will need to switch to the Official NYC Bin.

Secure Lid - The bin lid must fit flush over the bin and garbage should not be overflowing over the lid.

Official NYC Black Trash Bins will become mandatory in June 2026.

Home Depot is official reseller of NYC Black Bin. [www.bins.nyc](http://www.bins.nyc) for purchase of all bins, including compost and recycle bins.

#### Curbside Composting

Curbside Composting service is now available to ALL Bronx residents!

No sign-up needed. Compost is picked up every week on your recycling day.

#### Increase in Commercial Fine Amounts for Repeat Offenders

Starting Jan 2, 2025, summons start as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Summons amount is \$50.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - Summons amount is \$100.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense (and subsequent) - Summons amount is \$200.00

## **PUBLIC HEARING OPEN**

### **1. Concerns Raised by Homeowners:**

- Garbage bins being stolen, leading to financial strain due to replacement costs.
- Will using the wrong colored bags in bins result in fines?

### **2. Safety Concerns Raised by Seniors:**

- Designated garbage set-out time of 8:00 PM during winter months was identified as a safety issue.
- Seniors feel unsafe taking bins out at that time due to poor lighting and increased risks in the dark.
- A request was made to allow earlier set-out times, specifically at 5:00 PM.

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Treasurer

Robert Brown  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Ms. Hannah Leshaw, a resident and homeowner of Bronx District Three, asked that her letter dated 10/1/24 be incorporated into the November 12, 2024, minutes as written comments on a community concern. (Letter attached).

## **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Community Concerns**

Ms. Queen Eva McFadden announced her plans to host a toy drive in December 2024. She mentioned that she is seeking a venue outside of NYCHA properties for the event. Ms. Etta Ritter stated that she would send an email to community partners on Ms. McFadden's behalf, requesting their assistance with this initiative.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Daniel Silvera, Community Ambassador, Bridge Builders Community Partnership, shared time sensitive information.

## **ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

### **Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Report**

Ms. Crystal Diaz, Director of Constituent Services, shared time sensitive information and the following information:

#### **AM WEBSITE**

You can find the website by googling Assembly Member Chantel Jackson; the survey is on her main page.

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

#### **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  
[campbellhunters@nyassembly.gov](mailto:campbellhunters@nyassembly.gov)

Sade Johnson  
Scheduler & Communications Director  
[johnsons@nyassembly.gov](mailto:johnsons@nyassembly.gov)

Crystal Diaz  
Constituent Services Director  
[diazc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:diazc@nyassembly.gov)  
347-234-5597

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

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## **Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report**

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

We are excited to announce two remarkable initiatives that reflect our commitment to giving back to the community and fostering inclusivity. We invite everyone to participate in these charitable efforts:

- The BX DA's Office is collecting food for a Thanksgiving Giveaway in partnership with Destination Tomorrow.
- Canned Food Drive for Transgender Awareness Week:

In honor of Transgender Awareness Week, we have organized a canned food drive to support those in need. All donated items will be delivered to Destination Tomorrow, a grassroots agency that is the LGBTQ+ center of the Bronx. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, will help ensure everyone in our community has access to nutritious meals this holiday season. **Drop off donations until Friday, November 22, 2024**

- Coat Drive for New York Cares:

Winter is fast approaching, and we want to do our part in keeping the less fortunate warm. Join us in our coat drive as we collect gently used coats to donate to New York Cares. By giving the gift of warmth, you can help those in our community stay cozy during the colder months. The donation bin is located at our main office in the lobby of 198 East 161st Street. **ACCEPTING COATS UNTIL: Friday, December 6, 2024.**

Thank you for your generosity and embodying our commitment to compassion and community involvement.

To keep up with our office :

**Instagram :** @bronxdaclark

**Twitter:** @bronxdaclark

**Facebook:** @bronxdaclark

[www.bronxda.nycgov](http://www.bronxda.nycgov)

718-590-2000

198 East 161 East 161 street Bronx, NY 10451

## **Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report**

Ms. Joanna Rivas, Constituent Services Liaison for Congressman Ritchie Torres, provided the following written report:

- There is a push for improvement on the quality of life around the Cross Bronx. We helped secure the \$2M federal grant for the study. Includes upcoming workshops. Congressman Ritchie Torres highlighted the importance of community input in the planning process for improvements to the Cross Bronx Expressway.
- As of October 24, 2024, Rep. Ritchie Torres will introduce The Affordable Remittance Act into the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation addresses the high costs associated with international remittance payments, which are a crucial source of financial support for low- and middle-income countries. By ensuring that affordable remittance providers have access to the Federal Reserve's FedNow payment system, the bill seeks to drive down transaction costs, increase efficiency, and expand financial inclusion.
- As of 10/30/2024, Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) wrote to Molly Wasow Park, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Social Services, concerning New York City's Fair Fares program. The letter can be found: <https://ritchietorres.house.gov/posts/congressman-ritchie-torres-to-nyc-social-services-dept-expedite-expansion-of-fair-fares>

*"I am respectfully calling upon DSS to expedite the expansion of Fair Fares so that New Yorkers with less no longer have to pay more in transportation costs. The City's bureaucracy must operate not on its own leisurely timetable but on the timetable of the lowest-income New Yorkers, for whom lower costs are a matter of urgency."* – Congressman Ritchie Torres

Our office is open for Constituent Services, and we can assist with any federal issues you may have. Amongst them being Social Security, Immigration, Passports, and issues with the IRS. If you have any issues, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact our office at 718-503-9610 to schedule an appointment. Thank you for your time.

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

The November 2024 Bronx Borough President's Report was forwarded to those on Bronx Community Board Three's listserv.

A list of Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's capital budget allocations for projects in your Community Board for Fiscal Year 2023 through Fiscal Year 2025 has been emailed to Bronx Community Board Three's listserv. Over the last three fiscal years, the Borough President was able to allocate nearly \$94.5 in capital funding throughout the Bronx for housing, education, parks, hospitals and many other important capital projects.

Community Board Application Process will be opening soon. The Borough President's office will notify the board once the application portal is open. Please share this with your friends, families, and neighbors who may be interested. You will be able to find the application (link to application) on the Bronx Borough President's Website. You can also obtain this information from the board directly, as well as from the Borough President's Community Board Unit.

### **Borough President Gibson Joins Partners in Celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month**

On November 14, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson joins Bronx Care Health System, Ponce Bank, Fidelis Care, and ProHealth Connect to host Puerto Rican Heritage Month at the newly opened 14,000 square-foot, 250-seat Bronx Music Hall located in the Melrose section. There, she will honor several Bronx pioneers and architects of a revitalized and flourishing Bronx, now serving as a cultural mecca attracting thousands of tourists and New Yorkers alike traveling in to enjoy the rich heritage, cuisine, and burgeoning arts community found in New York City's northern-most borough. This year's honorees are Puerto Rican-born community advocate and Founder of the Rainbow Garden of Life + Health, Maximo "Maxi" Rivera; Culinary Educator & Celebrity Chef, Chef Billy Jack Perez; Crain's New York Business's 2021 Most Notable Women on Wall Street, Executive Vice-President and Chief External Affairs Officer at Ponce Bank, Madelyn V. Marquez, Co-Talent Coordinator for The 116th Street Festival, Jerry Vargas, Bronx Business owner and Philanthropist, Gino Pacheco. The event will feature Bomba and Plena performers, a reading by Puerto Rican Poet Jennifer Diaz, and more.

WHAT: Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson joins Bronx Care Health System, Ponce Bank, Fidelis Care, and ProHealth Connect to host Puerto Heritage Month at the newly opened 14,000-square-foot, 250-seat Bronx Music Hall located in the Melrose section.

WHEN: Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

WHERE: Bronx Music Hall 438 East 163rd Street, Bronx, NY 10451

### **Borough President Gibson Releases Topographic Bureau's 2023 Annual Development Report. The Bronx Experienced the Highest Level of Investment To Date. With \$4.3 Billion In Total Development**

On October 28, 2024, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson joined the Topographic Bureau in releasing their annual development report for 2023, highlighting the most successful year yet in total development funding for the borough. With over \$4.3 Billion dollars of investment across 357 individual properties, the report spotlights total investments made in both mixed-use (\$1.5 Billion) and residential development (\$1.7 Billion) last year. Notably, over 10,000 new residential housing units were also built in 2023. This is a significant milestone in the face of an ongoing housing crisis city-wide. The Borough President is very excited about this report, as it showcases the ever-growing level of development and opportunity here in the Bronx. Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson says, "This scale of investment is a positive reflection of our continued effort to revitalize The Bronx. Working together with our development leaders, Bronx businesses, community boards, non-profits, and elected officials, we achieved great economic growth last year and boosted the local economy, created jobs, and further enhanced the quality of life for all Bronx residents." A featured development from 2023 is the Penn Access Project, which will create four ADA-accessible Metro-North Railroad stations in Hunts Point, Parkchester/Van Nest, Morris Park, and Co-op City. This large-scale public investment will be the biggest expansion of Metro-North's service since its founding in 1983.

### **Borough President Gibson Joins Council Member Marmorato and The Morris Park Business Improvement District to Host a Halloween Skate Party**

On October 25, 2024, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, Councilmember Kristy Marmorato, the Morris Park Business Improvement District, PIX11 News, and Founder of Go! Sports NYC Ray Mendez hosted a Halloween Skate Party at Loreto Playground at 1111 Van Nest Avenue between Tomlinson and Haight Avenues. Borough President Gibson said she wanted to thank the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, the Morris Park Business Improvement District; Go! Sports NYC; Council Member Kristy Marmorato; State Senator Nathalia Fernandez; Assembly Member Michael Benedetto; and everyone else who supported our Skate Party this weekend. Bronx Borough President Gibson said "Together, we are fostering connections with our community and encouraging healthy, active lifestyles for our residents."

### **Borough President Gibson Seeks Up To \$20 Million In State Money to Support Economic Development in Morris Park and Along the Harlem River in the South Bronx**

October 18, 2024, the application period for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) program was completed. As part of the application process, Bronx Borough President Gibson submitted two applications for the state to consider. One was for the Greater Morris Park area, and the other for

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the Harlem River Gateway District. Borough President Gibson worked with numerous stakeholders across The Bronx to identify capital projects that would support these communities and benefit from DRI funding.

The Greater Morris Park DRI area has general boundaries of Pelham Parkway to the north, Hutchinson River Parkway to the east, East Tremont Avenue and Westchester Avenue to the south, and Bronx Park and White Plains Road to the west. It includes the neighborhoods of Morris Park, Van Nest, Westchester Square, Indian Village, and Pelham Parkway. Existing Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) within the Greater Morris Park DRI include the Morris Park, Westchester Square, and White Plains Road BIDs. This area is a top 10 job center for New York City and will soon see two new Metro-North stations as part of the Penn Station Access project. A recent rezoning was approved along with \$500 million in capital to support the community. Borough President Gibson in her recommendation as part of the rezoning process, stated her commitment to the Morris Park community, and is showing that with action.

As part of the application, 32 projects were identified, totaling approximately \$105 million in capital-requested funding. The wide range of projects includes beautification projects, public park improvements, and transit, traffic, and pedestrian infrastructure projects. In an equally important application, the Harlem River Gateway District has seen a significant influx of new development and investment in recent years, but these increases have also brought additional needs.

"The South Bronx has seen tremendous growth in the past few years, which is a testament to the resiliency and vitality of our borough," said Borough President Gibson. "It is our mission to ensure this community receives the necessary capital investment to undo years of economic neglect and stimulate continued growth and prosperity."

The Harlem River Gateway District has general boundaries of the Harlem River to the west, the Harlem River and Bronx Kill to the south, the Bruckner Expressway to the east, and East 149th Street to the north. It includes the neighborhoods of Mott Haven and Concourse. Over recent years, the Bronx waterfront has been studied, and these studies have helped transform the community into a regional destination.

"With the Yankees, the recently opened Bronx Children's Museum, and the world's first Hip Hop Museum opening in 2025, this area has opportunities to draw in visitors year-round," said Bronx Borough President Gibson. "Between the tourism and all the new housing being developed, residents need places to buy their groceries and do their shopping, so there is a huge need for capital improvements to help support all this new economic activity."

This application had 14 projects totaling over \$61 million in capital-requested funding, including beautification projects, public park improvements, and infrastructure projects.

The 2024 cycle marks the eighth round of DRI applications which will invest \$100 million in 10 new communities that will be selected by the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC), with The Bronx being located in the New York City REDC. This program is a cornerstone of the State's economic development program, led by Governor Kathy Hochul to transform downtown neighborhoods into vibrant centers that offer high quality of life and are magnets for redevelopment, business, job creation, and economic and housing diversity. The Bronx received a previous DRI award in 2018 for the Bronx Civic Center neighborhood.

"I am optimistic that this is the time for The Bronx to receive additional capital investment," said Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson. "I am very proud of these two applications and believe state funding would go a long way in supporting these communities."

While Borough President Gibson has submitted two applications, only one can be awarded to each REDC in any year. This is a competitive process, and multiple applications are expected to be submitted to the New York City REDC.

"This is a competitive process, so we needed to put in a high-quality application, I believe we did that as both have been a labor of love. I will continue to advocate and fight for The Bronx and look for as many capital opportunities as possible to support our great borough," said Borough President Gibson. "We know both applications cannot receive the award, so we will continue working with community residents and stakeholders to find ways to support them, and I will be applying again for two communities in 2025. I invite all Bronx residents to contact our office if you have capital projects that need support and could be eligible for future DRI funding."

Borough President Gibson acknowledged support from the elected and community officials who sent letters of support for these applications, including:

For Greater Morris Park: Congressman Ritchie Torres, State Senator Nathalia Fernandez, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, State Assemblymember Karines Reyes, State Assemblymember John Zaccaro Jr., State Assemblymember Michael Benedetto, City Council Majority Leader Amanda Farias, City Councilmember Kristy Marmorato, and Community Board 10 District Manager Matthew Cruz.

For the Harlem River Gateway District: Congressman Ritchie Torres, State Senator Jose Serrano, State Assemblymember Amanda Septimo, State Assemblymember Landon Dais, Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Jr., and Community Board 1 District Manager Anthony Jordan.

\*The winning DRI applications are expected to be announced in early 2025\*

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Borough President Gibson's Statement on DOHMH Data That Shows Citywide Decrease in Opioid-Related Deaths. Opioid Deaths in The Bronx Remain High. Opioid Fatalities Continue to Disproportionately Impact Black and Brown New Yorkers.

Borough President Gibson said, "The citywide data released by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is encouraging and highlights the tireless efforts of our healthcare professionals and community advocates on the front lines, diligently working to save lives. However, while we celebrate this progress, we must also recognize that Bronx residents remain disproportionately impacted by this epidemic." The BP proudly announced a \$6 million capital investment in the Lincoln Opioid Recovery and Bridge Clinic at Lincoln Hospital, which focuses on providing patient-centered care to individuals struggling with opioid abuse. Borough President Gibson mentioned she will soon announce Narcan training sessions in partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, equipping Bronxites with the tools to potentially save lives and support our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. She will also continue to advocate for The Bronx to get an equitable share of the Opioid Settlement Fund so we can reinvest in our communities that have been adversely affected by this epidemic. By further prioritizing harm reduction strategies and holistic care services, Bronxites will receive the care they deserve to overcome addiction and lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

Borough President Gibson Calls for Expanded Tree Canopy Coverage in Community Boards 1-6. Declares Extreme Heat During the Summer A Public Health & Safety Issue

September 19, 2024, Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson joined Senior Environmental Protection and Community Relations Manager at WM, Jay Kaplan; Natural Areas Conservancy Executive Director, Sarah Charlop-Powers, President of Bronx Council for Environmental Quality President, Robert Fantuzzi, Ph.D.; Co-Founder of South Bronx Unite, Mychal Johnson; President of Friends of Pelham Bay Park, and Founder of Loving the Bronx, Nilka Martell; and others south of 98 Lincoln Avenue on the Bronx Waterfront in the Mott Haven section to call for action to be taken to address tree canopy coverage disparities in Community Boards 1-6 that contributes to extreme heat conditions that threaten the health and safety of elderly residents and Black New Yorkers. "Despite being the greenest borough, the distribution of trees and greenspaces is not equitable and is disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable residents," said Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson. "Today's presser is a call to action and attention to address these disparities, which contribute to poor air quality in the South Bronx, and extreme heat, further exacerbating pre-existing health conditions that can lead to heat-related illness or heat-related mortality. We are grateful to have advocates, colleagues in government, and private partners who care about these issues and are committed to working with us to protect the health of our residents and families. According to a report on heat related mortality released by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in June, about 350 heat-related deaths occur in our city each year. Mortality records from New York and other cities across the country have shown that heat kills along age, socioeconomic, and racial lines. Black New Yorkers and older adults are more likely than other New Yorkers to die from heat – both directly and due to exacerbating underlying medical conditions. High levels of heat affecting the Bronx have numerous causes, including the heat island effect, which causes urban areas to have higher levels of heat than outlying rural areas. One of the prevailing factors contributing to the heat island effect is a lack of vegetation. Additionally, an insufficient number of trees and other green space has other effects, including elevated levels of air pollution and increased sewer system overflows during heavy rain events. Mott Haven has 14% tree canopy coverage, and Hunts Point is even lower at 8%, two of the lowest coverage rates of any neighborhoods in the city. With these communities also experiencing high rates of health disparities, we must see immediate change to improve the health and safety of those who live here. At the press conference, the Borough President and advocates called this issue a threat to public health and safety and are demanding additional action to be taken by the city and private entities to address these disparities. Along with calling for a 1% investment in the FY 2026 city budget towards city parks with a focus on neighborhoods with less tree canopy coverage, Borough President Gibson is calling for our private partners to also join with us to invest in initiatives that support existing green spaces or the establishment of new trees and/or parks in neighborhoods with significant need.

**NYC Mayor 's Community Affairs Unit**

Mr. Leonardo Coello, Bronx Borough Director, NYC Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Coello made announcements on the following initiatives:

**E-Bike Battery Exchange Program:**

New York City's e-bike battery exchange program is a pilot program that allows eligible food delivery workers to trade in unsafe e-bikes and batteries for certified models

**Eligibility - Applicants must:**

- Be at least 18 years old
- Reside in New York City
- Own a working e-bike
- Have earned at least \$1,500 in 2024 as a food delivery worker

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Benefits - Selected participants will receive:

- A new e-bike
- Two certified batteries

Application - Applications are expected to begin in early 2025:

Goal - The program aims to:

- Remove unsafe batteries and devices from New York City streets
- Ensure batteries are compatible with the devices they are powering
- Reduce fire and crash risks
- Make safe lithium-ion batteries more affordable

Partnership Assistance for Transit Homelessness (PATH)

The initiative — known as Partnership Assistance for Transit Homelessness (PATH) — brings together members of the NYPD Transit Bureau, New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), and NYC Health + Hospitals to connect New Yorkers living unsheltered in the subway system with shelter and care. Launched in August, PATH teams consist of DHS nurses and outreach staff working alongside NYPD transit police who conduct outreach overnight at subway stations across Manhattan from 8:00 PM to 12:00 PM. While in the field, the interagency PATH teams engage everyone they see who appears to be unsheltered, offering individualized support based on the person’s expressed or observed challenges. The program will be expanded in the months to come.

988 LIFELINE

Call, text, or chat with a 988 Lifeline counselor for help during difficult moments anytime, day or night.

Councilmember Althea Stevens’ Report

Ms. Lisne Bautista, Scheduler, Councilmember Althea Stevens’ Office, did not provide a written report. However, Ms. Bautista did share time sensitive information and the following office details:

District 16 In-Office Services:

Service Agency	Frequency
CUNY Citizenship Now	Every Monday
NAICA	By referral
Department of Buildings	By referral
Choice (Medicaid assistance)	By referral
CUNY Law	First Tuesday of every month
SNAP	Request referral from our office

For anyone who would like to sign up for Council Member Althea Stevens E-Newsletter - Follow this link : <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/2PxkaUc>

Constituent Service Hours:

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

How to make an appointment:

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

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Email: [District16@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District16@council.nyc.gov) or Call: (718) 588-7500

Make sure to include:

- Full name
- Address
- Contact information
- Description of case

### **Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Report**

Ms. Shana Knotts, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Office, shared the following written report:

#### Legislation:

- On October 21st and 22nd, the Committee on Land and its subcommittee hosted the public hearing on the '**City of Yes for Housing Opportunity**' plan, which is one of the largest zoning text amendments filed by the City Planning Commission. Over two days, the committee heard more than 20 hours of agency and public testimony from almost a thousand New Yorkers virtually and in person. The City Council is currently reviewing the testimony and will begin negotiating with the administration to adopt a measure that will best reflect the needs of New York City.
- On October 23rd, the City Council unanimously adopted Intro 87-2024, sponsored by Council Member Salamanca, by a 50-0 vote. In response to the state's 'Raise the Age' mandate, Intro 87 would require the Administration of Children Services to expand its reporting on youth who are in juvenile detention centers, including Horizon Juvenile Center, which is located in District 17. Intro 87 would be a comprehensive review of background data on justice-involved youth.
- On November 13th, Council Member Salamanca will introduce a local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York about the suspension of alternate side parking regulations on **Duarte Day**. **This bill will suspend alternate side parking regulations** on Duarte Day on January 26th of each year. This bill will commemorate the birthday of Juan Pablo Duarte, one of the Dominican Republic's founding fathers. If approved, Duarte Day would be added to the list of holidays observed in which alternate-side parking is suspended.

#### Office Operations:

- 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 attorney available to provide constituents with free consultation and application assistance. However, this service is offered by appointment only. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact our office directly.
- CM Salamanca has partnered with DSNY for the E-Cycle NYC program. This is 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 10 am – 3 pm. A variety of electronics will be accepted that don't include household items such as vacuums, microwaves, batteries, light bulbs, or ballasts. This opportunity will remain available to community members and residents for the next few months.

#### Upcoming Events:

- On Thursday, November 14th, from 10 am – 2 pm, in partnership with Urban Health Plan, CM Salamanca will be hosting a pop-up COVID & Flu Vaccination clinic at the district office, located at 1070 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10459. Appointments are not required; all walk-ins are welcome.
- On Tuesday, November 19th, in partnership with Urban Health Plan, Salamanca will host a Holiday Food distribution at Field of Dreams Park on the corner of 167th Street & Southern Blvd. at 10:30 am. This will be open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. \*
- On Tuesday, November 26th, from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, in partnership with Urban Health Plan, CM Salamanca will be hosting a Fresh Fruit & Veggies distribution at the District Office, located at 1070 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10459. This will be a first come, first serve event while supplies last.

#### 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 updated about legislation, upcoming events, and other pivotal information.

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/CMSalamanca](https://www.facebook.com/CMSalamanca)

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#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

Keziah Sullivan-Norman  
Secretary

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas  
Treasurer

Robert Brown  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

- X (Twitter): @CMSalamancaJr

- Instagram: @cmsalamancajr\_d17

## **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Keziah Sullivan-Norman, Secretary 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:

Gloria Alston  
Joetta Brown  
Maurice Gray  
Victor Latimer  
Raymond Moya  
Anddy Perdomo  
Laredo Regular

## **MOTION**

It was motioned by Mr. Bryan Wigfall and seconded by Mr. Gilberto Constantinez to excuse the following member(s):

Gloria Alston  
Joetta Brown  
Maurice Gray  
Victor Latimer  
Raymond Moya  
Anddy Perdomo  
Laredo Regular

## **ALL IN FAVOR**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was motioned by Ms. Tracie Lucas Lord and seconded by Mr. Randy Dillard to approve the minutes dated September 10, 2024, with any necessary corrections.

## **ALL IN FAVOR**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Joetta Brown yielded the floor to Ms. Wanda Ellis, Chairperson of the By-laws & Membership Committee, to conduct and oversee the election for the Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian position.

**Article V, Section 10, the Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian is responsible for maintaining order and ensuring proper meeting conduct in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order* and other regulations established by the City of New York. Additionally, the position carries duties and powers as assigned by the Chairperson.**

Ms. Ellis requested assistance with the election process from Ms. Tracie Lucas Lord, board member. Ms. Ellis informed the board that members who have completed a two-year term are eligible to run for the position.

The candidates on the ballot were:

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Robert Brown  
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

- **Mr. Robert Brown**
- **Mr. Gilberto Constantinez**

The election results were as follows:

- **Mr. Robert Brown: 20 votes**
- **Mr. Gilberto Constantinez: 10 votes**

Mr. Robert Brown was elected Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian for Bronx Community Board Three.

The board members congratulated Mr. Brown on his election.

### **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

The following represents a brief summary of issues of importance affecting Bronx Community District Three during the period covering October 9<sup>th</sup> through the present:

#### **DA Darcel Clark's Office**

The District Attorney's Office is hosting a Youth Advisory Council meeting focused on civic engagement and literacy—two essential skills for empowering young voices in our community. This is a unique opportunity for youth to learn about the role they can play in shaping their surroundings, advocating for issues that matter to them, and understanding the fundamentals of civic responsibility. By attending, participants will gain valuable insights and connect with peers who are passionate about making a difference. The meeting will take place on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at 198 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street. We strongly encourage attendance, as this meeting is a significant step toward active, informed, and impactful community involvement.

#### **BronxWorks Community Support Opportunity: FE=ABD Program Enrollment Assistance for Eligible Residents**

Facilitated Enrollment for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (FE-ABD) Program. Our program provides vital application assistance for Medicaid, Medicare Savings program, and other benefits to qualifying individuals, particularly those who are aged, blind, or disabled and may need extra support in navigating these essential services.

The FE-ABD Program offers assistance with Medicaid and Medicare Savings program (MSP) applications, recertifications, and eligibility guidance for individuals who meet specific criteria. By simplifying the application process and offering continued support, we aim to help more Bronx residents access and maintain the benefits they need.

BronxWorks is actively seeking new enrollments and would love to extend their assistance to community members who may be eligible for these services. Please feel free to contact Program Coordinator, Wandy Marte, who can provide more information and schedule assistance sessions. Wandy can be reached at 646-761-7474 or via email at [wmarte@bronxworks.org](mailto:wmarte@bronxworks.org).

#### **UPDATE on the Cross Bronx Plaza Retail Mall – 961 East 174th Street(aka 1764 Vyse Avenue), Block 2998, Lot 2 - CROSS BRONX PLAZA LLC**

On Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> a tow operation was conducted at the Cross Bronx Plaza Retail Mall at 961 East 174<sup>th</sup> Street. It was a successful operation all the vehicle owners complied and moved their vehicles out of the parking lot. A DOB summons has been issued to the owner due to the illegal mechanic work on this private parking lot.

#### **NYC Department of Parks and Recreation - Update**

The Crotona Park Nature Center Roof Reconstruction project began on Monday, November 11, 2024, and is anticipated to be completed in June 2024. The mayoral funding totaled \$700,000.00.

#### **The Joint Housing, Land-Use and Economic Development Committee - Update**

On Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the joint committee meeting will hold a presentation on Cross Bronx Expressway Study Concept Refinement updates.

A brief discussion and update will be held on the following topics:

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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Secretary	Treasurer	Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

- Southern Boulevard Brownfield Opportunity Area Study
- PRIORITY- NYSDOT X727.07 - Rehabilitation/Replacement of Five Cross Bronx Expressway (I-95) Bridges between Boston Road and Rosedale Avenue

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee**

The Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee members came to a consensus to recommend approval for the renaming of Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground (Founder of the King Charles Troupe), within Community District Three (see synopsis attached).

**!! Vote Required !!**

Due to time constraints, a motion was made to table this vote as follows:

**Motion**

It was motioned by Ms. Beverly Emers and seconded by Mr. Bryan Wigfall to table the vote for the approval of the renaming of Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground until the December 2024 General Board Meeting.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
9	0	21

**MOTION REJECTED**

At this time, a motion was made as follows:

**Motion**

It was motioned by Mr. Randy Dillard and seconded by Ms. Jacquelyn Moore-Hill to approve the renaming of Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
30	0	0

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All those born in the month of November were wished a Happy Birthday.

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS**

**BENEDICTION**

Ms. Dawn Carter led us in prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

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**Hannah Leshaw**  
833 Courtlandt Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10451  
[HLeshaw@gmail.com](mailto:HLeshaw@gmail.com)  
646-283-6796

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October 1, 2024

Rev. Frederick Crawford, Chairperson  
Etta F. Ritter, District Manager  
Courtland W. Hankins, Community Coordinator  
Bronx Community Board Three  
1426 Boston Road  
Bronx, New York 10456  
Via email: [eritter@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:eritter@cb.nyc.gov) and [cohankins@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:cohankins@cb.nyc.gov)

Dear Chairperson Crawford, District Manager Ritter and Community Coordinator Hankins:

I am writing as a constituent of CB3 to ask you to address the many problems with the Mayor's proposed new garbage container rule for small properties that is scheduled to take effect 11/13/24. As the owner of a 3-family home in which I also reside, I can tell you that this initiative reflects an absolute lack of common sense and no knowledge of NYC logistics. It appears to have been drafted by persons who lack familiarity with NYC streetscapes and practicalities.

My issues with this proposal are as follows:

**1. Containers should not be placed on the sidewalk**

**A. Most sidewalks aren't wide enough for all these containers**

There simply isn't enough sidewalk space on most local streets to place multiple cans outside. When you factor in the limited sidewalk frontage that each small property has, the narrow nature of sidewalks, our beloved tree pits and our freestanding sidewalk mailboxes, there is virtually no space to put multiple trash containers while also maintaining an adequate walking area.

**B. Containers will be stolen**

My current containers have been stolen so many times - from my gated yard! - that I now keep them all chained to the fence. The idea that we can place containers on the sidewalk overnight and not have them stolen is laughable. Additionally, whenever I have tried to report stolen containers to the NYPD - the Mayor's current directed course of action - they have stared at me blankly and refused to even take a report. Homeowners will be forced to bear a high level of inconvenience and cost each time our containers are inevitably stolen.

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**2. Brief spikes in trash volume not considered**

For our small buildings, our garbage output is generally on the lower side requiring only two cans but after holidays or around the changing of a tenant, there is often a short but drastic uptick. Under this proposal, there is no mechanism to handle these kinds of temporary increases in volume and all items would still have to be placed out in containers. As a practical matter, I do not have space to keep extra containers onsite to accommodate these occasional increases in volume. As per the rule, I would have to store the trash overflow somewhere on or in my property, only placing it on the curb piecemeal when my usual output was lower. Forcing me to store trash overflow on my property is NOT a better way to handle trash collection and reduce vermin problems.

**3. Sanitation's work - both by hand and by trucks with mechanical tippers - will be slower and more cumbersome**

Forcing sanitation workers to manually open each container to access the bag is going to drastically slow down trash collection. In our borough of the Bronx, that will be disastrous as sanitation already struggles to handle the high volume of nightly collection.

Retrofitting or replacing garbage trucks in order to add mechanical tippers is a striking example of government waste. Our crowded NYC streets cannot accommodate the physical maneuvering required for the trucks to lift and empty each can. The containers in question will be on the sidewalk with a row of cars parked between them and the truck. Sanitation cannot be expected to wheel these containers back and forth from the sidewalk to the truck, weaving in between the cars. This kind of work-flow will not "speed up" collection as the Mayor claims.

**(Parking Note:** We have already lost thousands of street parking spaces to various DOT initiatives so we should absolutely not reduce street parking any further in order to enable this sanitation proposal.)

**4. Contract should not have gone to out of town company**

I object to NYC giving a contract for high volume mandated purchases to an out of town company. Why were local companies passed over for this lucrative deal?

I ask that the city continue with the most efficient and practical idea: late set-out time, currently 8PM, followed by prompt collection by sanitation. The key, however, is that sanitation has to actually enforce the rule. I can tell you that in my Bronx neighborhood of Melrose many properties continue to set out before 4PM and there has been zero enforcement action. If we can create a system where bags are only on the curb for a few hours we will have a great impact on the vermin problem.

Thank you,



Hannah Leshaw

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**Parks & Recreation and Youth Services and Historical Outreach Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**  
**1426 Boston Road**

**Presentation Synopsis**

**Presenter:** Lonnie Hardy, Director, Caldwell Enrichment Program

**Topic:** Request to rename Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground (Founder of King Charles Troupe)

Ms. Lonnie Hardy addressed the Parks & Recreation Committee as follows:

The King Charles Unicycle Troupe is asking for a letter of support from Bronx Community Board Three and local elected officials to rename Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground. The Letters of Support can be sent to [Naming.Suggestions@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Naming.Suggestions@parks.nyc.gov).

**Background of Jerry Lee King:**

Founder of the King Charles Unicycle Troupe: Jerry Lee King was the visionary behind this groundbreaking all-black unicycle basketball troupe. Founded in the South Bronx, they became the first all-black act to perform with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, making its debut in 1969.

**U.S. Army Veteran:** Jerry King served his country from 1942 to 1945, earning a Medal of Good Conduct.

**Commitment to Youth:** After teaching his son, Charles King, to ride a unicycle at 6, Jerry devoted himself to training neighborhood children in the Bronx at 1400 Clinton Avenue. His lessons in unicycling were not just about mastering a skill but about instilling values such as

**Cultural Impact:** The King Charles Troupe has become an iconic part of the circus world, representing not just athletic prowess but community spirit and the breaking of racial barriers. Jerry's entertainment and youth development contributions have left an indelible mark on the Bronx and beyond.

**Eligibility for Park Renaming:**

**Black/African American Heritage:** Jerry Lee King is of African American heritage, a significant aspect of his contributions to breaking racial barriers in performance arts.

**Deceased for More Than 28 Years:** Jerry King passed away on May 26, 1996.

**New York City Resident:** He was a longtime resident of the Bronx, where he founded and nurtured the King Charles Troupe, contributing to the fabric of the community.

**Contribution to Community Development:** While Jerry did not design a park, his work in the community focused on mentoring youth, promoting active lifestyles, and fostering social cohesion. His legacy aligns with the values many parks and playgrounds embody—especially those focused on youth engagement.

**Publicly Accessible Contributions:** Jerry King's story and that of the King Charles Troupe are well-documented through public records and media coverage. His accomplishments are celebrated in the circus world and local Bronx history.

**Why This Renaming Matters:**

Renaming a Bronx playground after Jerry Lee King would not only honor his legacy but also inspire future generations to pursue their dreams regardless of the obstacles they face. His work with young people in the community, his commitment to fostering discipline through unicycling, and his trailblazing role as a mentor provide a powerful narrative for children and families who visit the park.

King Charles Troupe Documentary Trailer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOt0OKNSjV4>

I kindly ask for your consideration in honoring Jerry Lee King, a true Bronx legend, by renaming a local playground park in his memory.

**About the King Charles Troupe:**

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The King Charles Troupe, which originated from the South Bronx, New York City, plays an unbelievable game of high-energy basketball on unicycles. In 1958, founder Jerry L. King took his son to the park one summer where all the kids could see Charles King display his riding skills at the age of five years old. He started a community unicycle club that instilled discipline, directions, and Christian principles to help youth in the neighborhood build character. In 1968, the Troupe made its debut as the first African American group in Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' 99-year history. Now in its 5th generation, the Troupe has performed to over 100 million fans in a 50-year career. They were inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame and were honored with a street being co-named "King Charles Unicycle Troupe Way"!

During this meeting, the committee members present reached a consensus to recommend the renaming of Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground. This recommendation will be entertained for a vote on the October General Board Agenda.

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