



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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DIAL	Government Services
311	& Information for NYC

Comm. Bd. Info go to: nyc.gov/bronxcb3

HON. VANESSA GIBSON
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GLORIA ALSTON
CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS

JOETTA BROWN
CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 10/8/2024
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Staff Present

Atta Acheampong
 Kolaco Acqui
 Xiomara Arriola
 Joetta Brown
 Robert Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Edgardo Cedeno
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Randy Dillard
 Francis D'Souza
 Aaron Dumfeh
 Wanda Ellis
 Beverly Emers
 Michele Gantt
 Margo Grant
 Maurice Gray
 Michelle Holmes
 April Jones
 Adriano Joseph
 Linda Kemp
 Victor Latimer
 Una Lawrence
 Tracie Lucas-Lord
 Aubrey Mike
 Jacquelyn Moore-Hill
 Kathy Morris
 Anddy Perdomo
 Amanda Reed
 Jeannie Ruiz
 Keziah Sullivan-Norman
 Jasmine Uribe
 D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas
 Beautiful Winston

Etta F. Ritter
 Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

Gloria Alston
 Paul Navarro
 Laredo Regular
 Arona Testamark

Members Absent

Ibrahim Ahmed
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Joyce Diggs
 Linda Johnson
 Abraham Jones
 Diane Jones
 Christian Matthew
 Raymond Moya
 Bryan Wigfall

Bronx Borough President's Office

Kenny Agosto

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Lisne Bautista

Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Juan Lopez

Mayor Adam's Office

Leonardo Coello

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Crystal Diaz

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Gina Williams

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

Greer Mayhew

Congressman Ritchie Torres

Joanna Rivas

Bronx District Attorney's Office

Senovia Simpson

Senator Luis Sepulveda

Christian Cardus

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Kathy Morris
 2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman
 Secretary

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
 Treasurer

Rita Jones
 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

INVOCATION

Ms. Dawn Carter led us in prayer.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

The Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, The Bronx Borough President, made the following announcements:

- Borough President Gibson has made over 600 board member appointments throughout the 12 Bronx community boards. The appointments reflect the diversity of the communities and the districts they serve. The board member applications now have an electronic option and are available in a second language, in order to attract new members to the board.
- Borough President Gibson has allocated \$400k to the NYPD for the installation of night cameras and a mobile unit.
- Borough President Gibson was part of a joint allocation of \$6mm for a new opioid bridge clinic with Lincoln Hospital. The Bronx has the highest number of opioid related deaths in NYC.
- Borough President Gibson will debut the Maternal Health Birthing Report in November 2024.
- Borough President Gibson shared time sensitive information.

The Hon. Althea Stevens, Councilmember of the Bronx 16th District, made the following announcements:

- A Housing Conference on 10/3/24 with 115 people in attendance.
- The councilmember's office will have weekly Health Bucks giveaways until November 2024.
- Councilmember Stevens launched her district's Participatory Budgeting campaign. Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend \$1 million as part of a public budget.

The Hon. Rafael Salamanca, Councilmember of the Bronx 17th District, made the following announcements:

- Curbside Composting has gone Citywide, starting 10/6/24. The service is year-round every week, and collection is on your recycling day.
- The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity proposal, a zoning reform proposal to address the housing crisis, will be voted on by the NYC Council. Councilmember Salamanca mentioned there are 18 components to the proposal and the proposal as whole is very complex. The council members are currently familiarizing themselves with the proposal. One complex issue noted is that infrastructure must be added to the densely populated areas to accommodate the proposed changes.
- CM Salamanca has allocated \$100K in Health Bucks to the 17th Council District.
- CM Salamanca allocated \$310k to Bronx community boards 1,2,3,6,& 9 for technology upgrades in their respective offices.
- CM Salamanca presented a check for \$62k to Bronx Community Board Three for technological office upgrades.
- Councilmember Salamanca proudly shared that Commonpoint (www.commonpoint.org) has purchased the property located at 1665 Hoe Avenue, which until recently housed the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, and would be offering similar services to the community that the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club had been offering for decades. The property was sold to pay for a \$24mm settlement the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club agreed to pay to a trust covering 149 people who sued under the New York Child Victims Act alleging they'd been abused by Dr. Reginald Archibald, a pediatric endocrinologist who volunteered from the 1950s through the 1980s at other clubhouses it ran.

Assemblymember Chantel Jackson's Report

Ms. Crystal Diaz, Director of Constituent Services, provided the following written report.

LEGISLATION

For the 2024-25 legislative session, the Governor signed three of AM Jackson's bills:

1. Disabilities Education Bill (A3982) - Passed on May 23rd, this bill extends specific rules that help put the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 into action, ensuring continued support and services for students with disabilities. This bill was signed on June 28th.

2. NYCHA Bill (A3866B) - Passed on May 28th, this bill requires entities responsible for providing vital services, including gas, to coordinate and work expeditiously to restore service when interrupted. This bill was signed on September 27th.

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3. Urban Development Bill (A10214A) - Passed on May 28th, this bill extends rules related to buildings that are part of urban development projects and have been fixed up using loans from the city. This bill was signed on June 28th.

4. Bed Bug Bill (A9329) - Passed on May 29th, this bill requires landlords and lessors to provide a written notice to tenants about bed bug infestation. This bill is in the process of being signed by the Governor.

AM Jackson's public safety bills:

1. A3855: This bill would require anyone buying a firearm, shotgun, or rifle to meet stricter requirements. Buyers must get a hunting license for shotguns or rifles, take a gun safety course, pass a shooting accuracy test, undergo drug and mental health screenings, show proof of safe gun storage, and pass a background check. These rules aim to increase safety and responsibility for gun ownership.

2. A3875: This bill sets up a test program to have certain correction officers wear body cameras while on duty, to monitor their interactions and improve safety and accountability in correctional facilities.

3. A3880: This bill bans corrections employees from engaging in disrespectful or degrading behavior towards inmates or other employees. Anyone caught doing this will face disciplinary action and could lose their job for this behavior.

4. A3890: This bill prevents police from stopping drivers for minor issues like expired registration, faulty equipment, or missed vehicle inspections if they aren't breaking other traffic laws.

5. A8838: This bill says that certain electric bicycles and electric scooters must have license plates. It also requires that anyone who wants to operate or buy these vehicles must be at least 18 years old.

6. A9224: This bill makes it illegal to sell tobacco and vaping products within 500 feet of any public or private school.

7. A9318: This bill prevents police officers from pulling over drivers for certain minor traffic violations. If a stop happens for these reasons, any evidence found during that stop cannot be used in court.

AM Jackson's quality of life bills:

1. A3980A: This bill requires health insurance to cover the services of certified lactation consultants. These professionals help new parents with breastfeeding and feeding issues, offering support to prevent or address any problems.

2. A3981: This bill requires that when someone is getting counseling about breast surgery options—like mastectomy, lymph node dissection, or lumpectomy—they must also receive information about the choice to go without breasts or to have a flat chest afterward.

3. A4017A: This bill is about the Chisholm Chance Act and aims to set up centers in Kings County and Bronx County that provide maternal and childcare services. These centers will work with community organizations and health workers to help address and improve issues related to maternal health.

4. A9140B: This bill sets up boards to review cases of fetal and infant deaths and health issues. Their job is to analyze why these deaths happen and suggest policies and strategies to help lower the rates of fetal and infant mortality and improve overall health for babies.

5. A9274: This bill bans the making, selling, and using of wire grill brushes as the wires on wire bristle grill brushes can fall off and attach to food which can cause them to be ingested. The ingestion of these wires can cause internal injuries to the throat, abdomen, mouth and tonsils.

6. A9293: Starting January 1, 2026, this bill makes it illegal to use red dye 3 in food or sell food products that contain it. Scientific evidence has shown that red dye 3 may lead to increased hyper-activity, health issues and affect memory and learning.

7. A9715: This bill makes it illegal to sell foods and drinks that contain chlormequat, a highly toxic chemical found in oat-based products. Extensive studies show that chlormequat can cause damage to the reproductive system and disrupt fetal growth.

8. A9951: This bill requires that food products that contain major allergens must be clearly labeled to indicate this. Food sellers need to inform stores when new allergens are included in a product, and those products must be labeled until they have proper packaging that shows the allergens. This will enhance consumer safety and prevent any accidental sale or consumption resulting in death.

9. A9982: This bill requires nightlife spots, sports arenas, theaters, concert venues, and amusement parks to keep a stock of opioid overdose antidotes on hand. This mandate will enhance accessibility to life-saving care in diverse locations to prevent overdose deaths by ensuring prompt intervention and administration of nasal spray medication to reverse the effects of an overdose.

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AM Jackson affordable housing bills:

1. A9823: This bill prohibits single-agent dual agency (where an agent represents a buyer and a seller in a real estate transaction), requires clearly written representation agreements, and prohibits mandatory broker's fees in residential real property transactions.
2. A10006: This bill gives tenants more time to respond if their landlord applies for a rent increase due to major building improvements. Tenants have 120 days to respond after getting the notice. The state housing office must also explain to tenants why they approved or denied the rent increase request.
3. A10214A: This bill extends the rules that apply to buildings in urban development projects that get fixed up using city loans. It helps these projects continue to follow specific guidelines or receive benefits for a longer period.

For the 2024-25 legislative session, AM Jackson allocated funding to the following:

1. Partnership with Children: \$50,000 to provide comprehensive mental health programming and trauma-informed counseling at Urban Scholars Community School x463 in Assembly District 79.
2. The Door, A Center of Alternatives Inc.: \$25,000 to support the expansion of The Door's Bronx Youth Center to ensure that hundreds of young people have access to free nutritious meals, alongside trauma informed arts programming, through which they can express themselves and build community.
3. Crotona Park Running Club Incorporated: \$10,000 to support New York Unity Race, Yoga, & Wellness program.
4. Capitol District Management Association: \$20,000 for street beautification.
5. Roads to Success: \$115,000 to provide financial literacy/economic empowerment to youth and young adults.
6. Bard High School Early College Bronx: \$27,500 for STEM books, materials, and Science lab equipment.
7. IS 318 School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology through Arts: \$27,500 to support technology programming.
8. WHEDco: \$50,000 to support the local economic development, social services, and arts programs at the Melrose CAST Center and Bronx Music Hall spaces within Bronx Commons.
9. The Dreamyard Project: \$25,000 to provide free after school programming to Bronx youth.
10. Justice Innovation, Inc: \$35,000 to support gun violence intervention program at their Bronx Community Justice Center
11. Chashama Inc.: \$30,000 to fuel current operations at three locations in District 79, and to transform an additional 2-5 vacant locations into creative spaces for Women and Minority-owned small businesses and art activations.
12. Callen Lorde: \$25,000 to undertake necessary renovations and improvements to expand behavioral and medical services to patients in the Bronx.
13. The Bronx Foundation, Inc: \$60,000 for small business support, financial management, and innovation initiatives. Additionally, funds will be used to host a Back-to-School Block Party and Christmas event.
14. Sanctuary for Families: \$500,000 to perform necessary repairs and energy efficiency upgrades at its Tier II Domestic Violence Shelter in the South Bronx.
15. Cary Leeds: \$125,000 for tennis court renovations at the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning.
16. Concourse Village: \$125,000 for repaving the area around Concourse Village, including the Maurice Avenue sidewalk.

Governor Kathy Hochul announced on October 17th that \$35 million in State funding was distributed by the New York City Housing Authority to help address COVID-related rental arrears for NYCHA residents. This funding was secured by the Governor and State Legislature to provide up to 12 months of unpaid rent for NYCHA tenants and ensure these families maintain stable, affordable housing during recovery from the pandemic. For the 2025-26 legislative session, our new "Fair Pricing Act" bill, our broker fee bill, our Community Housing Improvement Program bill, and our Right of Publicity bill will be a priority for us. We can expect AM Jackson to introduce over 63 bills next session, as she will have bills addressing issues relating to housing, health, mental health, undisposed cases, fetal infant mortality, youthful offender status, and more. Additionally, AM Jackson will

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be cosponsoring new bills that will align with her priorities, health, mental health, women and children, education, entrepreneurship, and anything relating to the Bronx.

Capital Grant Projects Interest Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4qH2biSgGQ1mTlly8nBi5wkoL04II_rApKhku4-73zmMtg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Discretionary Funding Interest Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNtzVzJ0CadVJRcYI8Ocd4zbUPoHMD7T2VHoFm_AbgQmu-0A/viewform?usp=sf_link

OFFICE UPDATES

Our district office offers free notary services Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 11:00am to 5:00 p.m.

Sign-up Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScX-SJA7K0i1wRGZ681Pw18XKUncr3feJwO-G7eEd6k1o6sdw/viewform?usp=sf_link

RESOURCES/INITIATIVES

- We are looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers to help our team. If you or anyone you know is interested, please email diazc@nyassembly.gov and district79@nyassembly.gov
- We are also offering people a chance to submit opinion pieces, poems, or short stories to be featured in our newsletter
 - Submit your writing as Word doc by emailing johnsons@nyassembly.gov
- Our community feedback survey is live!
 - On AM Jackson's assembly page, community members can share ways to improve the district.
 - You can find the website by googling Assembly Member Chantel Jackson; the survey is on her main page.

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
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718-538-3829

Constituent matters: District79@nyassembly.gov
Scheduling requests: schedulingbx79@gmail.com

AM JACKSON STAFF

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Sade Johnson
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Crystal Diaz
Constituent Services Director
diazc@nyassembly.gov

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347-234-5597

Dorcia Williams
Legislative Director
williamsd@nyassembly.gov

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

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

- Join our office for a free event to raise awareness and Prevent Domestic Violence.
- 7th Annual Bronx District Attorney's Office 5K Run, Walk, and Roll Against Domestic Violence Event
Date: Saturday October 26, 2024
Event begins and ends on E.161 Street between Grand Concourse and Walton Ave
9:30am-12:30pm
Rain or shine !

Congressman Ritchie Torres' Report

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

As of September 25, 2024, Rep. Ritchie Torres Leads NY Congressional Delegation in Bipartisan Letter Advocating Preservation of Access to Home Health Care. Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) led New York's Congressional Delegation in a letter to President Joe Biden, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Shalanda Young, and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to express disapproval of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) CY'2025 proposed payment rule. Home health care is the safest, most preferred choice for seniors and Americans with disabilities. These proposed changes threaten home healthcare providers' ability to continue to care for the nation's seniors and people with disabilities, will exacerbate an existing labor shortage within the healthcare industry, and will disproportionately impact vulnerable and minority communities. The letter was signed by all rank-and-file members of the New York Congressional Delegation. More information about this issue is available at Congressman Torres official website.

The Department of State has announced that U.S. citizens can now renew their passports online! This new option makes the renewal process easier and more convenient. You may visit <https://travel.state.gov>

If you would like to know if your Social Security was breached, you may visit <https://npd.pentester.com>.

Congressman Torres' office is open for Constituent Services, and can assist with any federal issue, i.e., Social Security, Immigration, Passports, and the IRS.

Contact the office at 718-503-9610 to schedule an appointment.

Mayor Eric Adams' Report

Mr. Leonardo Coello, Bronx Borough Director, Mayor's Office did not provide a written report.

Mr. Coello made the following announcements:

- As of September 2024, there have been nine straight months of crime reduction.
- Mayor Adams is working on installing more cameras in NYC communities to aid in public safety.
- Beginning November 12, 2024, all properties with 1-9 residential units will be required to use bins (55 gallons or less), with secure lids to set out trash.

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report

Mr. Tyreke Israel, Deputy Chief of Staff, Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office, shared time sensitive information.

Ms. Lisne Bautista, Scheduler, Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office, provided the following written report:

Legislative Updates

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No legislative updates.

Upcoming Events

1. Advisory Board (dates on flyers attached)
 - a. Youth Advisory Board nominations - next meeting is 10/15/24

Community Updates

1. Senior Support Squad - Seniors who are members of Council Member Stevens Senior Advisory Board volunteer to support D16 office events and are looking for seniors to join their squad.
2. Newly established Public Safety Advisory Board. This new advisory board is looking for new members.
3. Health Bucks for D16 residents can be picked up from the office weekly while they are still available. Constituents will receive 3 bucks each.
4. Community Outreach Survey
5. Chicken requests are open: organizations (church's, nonprofits, and schools) can put the request in for chickens/pernil
6. Participatory Budgeting: Have a say in how \$1,000,000 in capital funds is spent within NYC Council District 16! Submit capital project ideas through this link. The ideas must range from \$50,000-\$1,000,000 in cost, have to have at least a 5-year lifespan, must be accessible to the public and CAPITAL (not for programs - usually physical infrastructure)
 - a. Examples: school auditorium upgrades, public library technology, park upgrades, HVAC for a school cafeteria, etc.
 - b. Specific overlap of CB3 and NYC Council District 16 is from Webster to Third Ave & 163rd St to Claremont Parkway. This includes P.S. 55, P.S. 110, Morrisania Educational Campus, Estella Diggs Park, Gouverneur Playground, Drew Playground

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

Join our District 16 Advisory Councils

Council	Health & Wellness	Youth	Tenant Block & Neighborhood	Seniors	Multicultural
Date:	October 10th	October 15th	October 21st	October 24th	November 7th
Time:	5:30pm	4:30pm	6:00pm	2:00pm	5:30pm

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

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

How to make an appointment:

How to make an appointment:

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

Make sure to include:

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

NYC Comptroller Brad Stevens' Report

Mr. Greer Mayhew, Bronx Borough Director, NYC Comptroller Brad Stevens' Office, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Mayhew shared time sensitive information.

State Senator Luis Sepulveda's Report – 32nd Senate District

Mr. Christian Cardus, Community Affairs Director for Senator Luis Sepulveda, provided the following written report:

Over the summer, our team has been actively engaged in the district, hosting various events and championing legislation to strengthen our community. We're delighted to announce that Senator Sepulveda has recently seen two important bills signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul:

Bill S9132: This bill amends a 2022 law to allow New York City to use additional parkland for the Penn Station Access Project. This project will enable direct Metro-North Railroad service to Penn Station from the northern suburbs and Connecticut, streamlining travel by minimizing transfers at Grand Central Terminal and improving access to Manhattan's West Side. The four new stations coming to the Bronx are Parkchester/Van Nest, Morris Park, Hunts Point, and Co-op City.

Bill S9736: This bill extends the provisions of a 1982 law that provides reduced water rates for hospitals and charitable organizations in New York City. The extension, which prolongs the law's expiration date to September 1, 2026, will ensure these crucial institutions continue to benefit from lower water costs.

Beyond these legislative successes, our office has been busy with community support initiatives:

- **First Annual Health and Wellness Event Plus Food Pantry:** We partnered with over 12 organizations to connect constituents with vital healthcare services. We provided essential food items, including fresh fruits and vegetables, to over 150 families, thanks to Montefiore's Project Bravo and the Food Bank of NYC.
- **Workforce Development Fair:** More than 10 organizations joined us to offer employment support to 100 families.
- **Father's Day Event:** We organized a special event with six organizations, offering free haircuts and support from Montefiore, ACS, DSS, counseling services, Bronx Works, and child support assistance. We served 80 fathers and their children.
- **Community leaders' appreciation brunch:** In July, we hosted a brunch to build and strengthen relationships with Bronx community leaders and to also express our appreciation for the work that they do
- **Additional Food Pantries:** We distributed fresh food to 150 families across two more food pantries held in our office, thanks to Hunts Point Produce Market
- **Backpack Giveaways:** We've provided over 1,500 families with school supplies and backpacks, with more giveaways planned this month for September 22nd (Flyer and details to be provided).

Stay updated on our latest events and initiatives by following us on all social media platforms using the handle @NYSSenSepulveda.

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Our office continues to offer a range of services, including assistance with public benefits, eviction prevention, unemployment benefits, landlord-tenant issues, housing assistance (including HAF, SCRIE/DRIE rent freeze programs), and more. We also collaborate with legal service providers such as New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), NAICA (Housing/Eviction Prevention) Legal Services, and NMIC for Legal Services for Immigration, who have monthly appointments at our office.

This month, NAICA and NYLAG were in our district office on Tuesday, October 8th, and NMIC will be in our office on Monday October 21st.

For questions, assistance, or to schedule an appointment, please contact our district office at (718) 991-3161. We are located at 975 Kelly Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 203, near the 2/5 Train Intervale Station. We are open Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm, but office hours are from 10 AM to 3 PM. On Fridays, we work remotely.

If you would like to request turkeys for the Thanksgiving season, please start sending in requests ASAP, as November is a month that has several holidays like Election and Veteran’s Days. Sending requests now will give ample time for your requests to be evaluated.

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams’ Office Report

Ms. Gina Costello-Williams, Bronx Borough Representative, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams Office did not provide written report.

Ms. Costello-Williams shared time sensitive information.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson’s Report

Mr. Kenny Agosto, Community Board Liaison, Bronx Borough President’s Office provided a written report electronically.

Mr. Agosto shared time sensitive information.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Keziah Norman-Sullivan, 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
Paul Navarro
Laredo Regular
Arona Testamark

MOTION

It was motioned by Ms. Kathy Morris and seconded by Mr. Victor Latimer to excuse the following member(s):

Gloria Alston
Paul Navarro
Laredo Regular
Arona Testamark

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2026 Capital Expense Budget Request and Statement of Community District Needs

At this time, Ms. Ritter requested any testimony or comment from the public on new capital or expense budget recommendations for FY’ 2026, for board consideration. Ms. Ritter stated that there can be up to 40 capital budget requests and 25 expense budget requests submitted as part of the budget submission process.

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It was mentioned that only 59 District Needs surveys were completed. Ms. Ritter expressed that it was important to complete these surveys to help determine the needs of the community district.

Ms. Ritter stated the following budget requests for consideration as part of Bronx Community Board Three's budget submissions:

- MTA installation of elevator at 174th 2/5 train station. (New Request)
- New York Public Library at Morrisania - extend the library hours to 6 days instead of 5 and continue to support to expand programming and improve the facility's infrastructure.
- Protection of the Bronx's Butterflies and Bees ecosystem. (New Request)
- Request Retractable covering for Amphitheater to include heating, air and lighting for all year round use
- Request that garbage bins be made affordable for seniors and one-family homeowners
- Request for the renovation of Drew playground comfort station
- Request enhanced lighting in the basketball court at Drew Playground
- Planting of native plants to preserve the existence of butterflies

Board members agreed to the renumbering of capital and expense budget requests

MOTION

It was motioned by Mr. Victor Latimer and seconded by Mr. Randy Dillard to approve the budget as proposed.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
33	0	0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION

It was motioned by Mr. Victor Latimer and seconded by Ms. Beautiful Winston to extend the general board meeting by 20 minutes.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
33	0	0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes

It was motioned by Mr. Victor Latimer and seconded by Ms. Dawn Carter to approve the minutes dated September 10, 2024, with any necessary corrections.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
33	0	0

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ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Ms. Joetta Brown appointed Ms. D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas as chairperson of the Parks & Recreation / Youth Services and Historical Committee, following Ms. Rita Jones's resignation from the board due to her relocation out of state. Ms. Van-Heusen Thomas accepted the appointment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation/Youth Services & Historical Outreach Committee

Renaming of Clinton Playground #9 to Jerry Lee King Playground

Ms. Joetta Brown stated that this item will be tabled until the November 12, 2024, General Board Meeting, as no representative from the Jerry Lee King organization was in attendance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bronx Sunshine Garden Solar Powered Resiliency Hub

Ms. Joetta Brown informed those in attendance that representatives from Nos Quedamos came and made a formal presentation before the Executive Committee to request Bronx Community Board Three's support to construct the Bronx Sunshine Garden Solar-Powered Resiliency Hub at East 174th Street and the Cross Bronx Expressway.

The Executive Committee members recommend approval of the construction of the Bronx Sunshine Garden Resiliency Hub to be located at 1768 Bryant Avenue within Community District Three.

Synopsis of the Presentation

- **Background:** The hubs were initiated by Nos Quedamos in collaboration with a coalition of gardens (Huerta Y Cultura) in response to Hurricane Sandy, recognizing that historical disinvestment has heightened the vulnerability of the South Bronx.
- **Funding:** A \$600,000 capital grant from the State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), awarded during the Cuomo administration, funds the construction of the hubs. This amount is equally divided across three locations: La Finca Del Sur, Bronx Sunshine Garden, and Nos Quedamos.
- **Hub Features:** Each hub includes solar energy and battery storage, rainwater harvesting, broadband connectivity, and community gathering spaces. They also provide full-time employment opportunities in gardens typically run by volunteers.
- **Programming:** Planned programs include emergency preparedness, green jobs training, and other site-specific programming. Nos Quedamos will serve as the main resiliency hub, while the other two locations will function as satellite hubs.
- **Community Workshops:** A series of workshops began in October 2023, involving garden stewards to envision the operational plans for the resiliency hubs.
- **Infrastructure:** Each hub features a PVC-fabric structure with walls that can be raised or lowered. The layout and placement of pavilions at each garden have been carefully planned.

Q & A Highlights

a. Security Measures

- Each hub is equipped with a floodlight that can be operated manually or set to motion sensor mode. Additionally, each site will develop a community security plan covering internal safety, relationship-building, and coordination with local police precincts through regular precinct council meetings.

b. Wi-Fi Accessibility

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1st Vice-Chairperson

Kathy Morris
2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman
Secretary

D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
Treasurer

Rita Jones
Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

- Wi-Fi coverage will primarily be within the garden area near the hubs. To ensure data security on this public network, access will be limited to the garden's vicinity.

c. Seasonal Accessibility

- The hubs aim to increase garden accessibility by providing nine full-time compensated positions. Seasonal hours will be posted online and at the gardens. Winter operations may shift to remote programming, utilizing nearby indoor spaces like libraries, places of worship, or the Nos Quedamos office.
- Coordination with local community leaders, such as Wali Abdun Noor from CB3 (who specializes in emergency radio communications and attended the first resiliency workshop), will support ongoing community engagement.

d. Rainwater Collection System

- The rain barrels, designed by Pvilion, are elevated slightly above ground and have spouts for easy water access. This design has been well-received in other gardening projects.

e. Hub Capacity

- With the walls down, each hub can accommodate about 15 people. During warmer months, when the walls are up, capacity will depend on the garden's size and available space.

f. Emergency Preparedness Collaboration

- Nos Quedamos co-hosted an emergency communications workshop with OEM on June 3rd and presented at the NYCEM 11th Annual Community Preparedness Symposium on March 7, 2023. Additionally, they worked with Professor Chuck Frank at MCNY and CB3 members to organize the first resiliency workshop on emergency preparedness, including emergency go-bucket preparation and communications training.

g. Letter of Support Deadline

- The deadline for a letter of support is October 7, 2024. A conditional letter from the executive board recommending full board support will be accepted on October 8th, when another presentation on the hubs will be held. This timing aligns with the final NYC Parks Planning Design Commission review deadline, marking the final stage of the approval process. The review steps include:
 - NYC Parks Capital Review
 - NYC Parks Sustainability Unit Review
 - NYC Parks Bronx Borough Office Review
 - Planning Design Commission (PDC) Final Review (Current Stage)

It is anticipated that construction will begin in late fall or early winter 2024.

Motion

It was motioned by Mr. Victor Latimer and seconded by Ms. Beverly Emers to accept the recommendation of the Executive and approve the proposal to construct of the Bronx Sunshine Garden Solar Powered Resiliency Hub located at East 174th Street and the Cross Bronx Expressway.

YES	ABSTAIN	NO
33	0	0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Kolaco Acqui 1 st Vice-Chairperson	Kathy Morris 2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Keziah Sullivan-Norman Secretary	D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas Treasurer	Rita Jones Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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Mr. Basil Alsubee of Nos Quedamos thanked Bronx Community Board Three for their unanimous approval.

By-Laws and Membership Committee

Ms. Wanda Ellis announced that an election will be held for the Sgt. At Arms/Parliamentarian at the November 12, 2024, General Board meeting and nominations will be taken from the floor. It was noted that interested candidates have to have completed a full two year term as a board member.

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

All those born in the month of September and October 2024 were wished a Happy Birthday

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Ms. Joetta Brown requested that we keep Ms. Gloria Alston and Mr. Abraham Jones in our thoughts and prayers.

BENEDICTION

Deacon Edgardo Cedeno led us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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