



## Jose Francisco Avila Appointed as a Member of Bronx Community Board 6

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**New York** – The Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization is happy to announce that Executive Director Jose Francisco Avila, has been appointed by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr to serve as a member of Bronx Community Board 6 for a period of two years.

“I am honored to be appointed by the Borough President to serve as a member of Community Board 6 to serve my community and look forward to being able to help him continue to strengthen the 61 neighborhoods of the Bronx,” Said Mr. Avila.

The Community boards play a vital role in the governance of New York City. Board members help to make decisions concerning land use, allocation of the city’s budget, and delivery of city services as they relate to their districts. The community board is also responsible for monitoring city services and responding to citizen complaints.

Since moving to the Bronx in 2006, Mr. Avila has been actively involved in grassroots community organizing efforts for the empowerment of the Bronx’s Garifuna Community. Over the past two years he has been an active member of the Happy Land 87 Committee organized by Ms. Ivine Galarza, Community Board 6’s District Manager to involve as many family members as well as community organizations as possible in the planning of the Annual Mass in Memory of the 87 people who died in the fatal Happy Land Social Club fire on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1990. The Committee is currently planning the Twentieth Anniversary Memorial Activities on March 25, 2010. He’s also the founding member of the New Horizon Investment Club, an organization that promotes the financial empowerment and economic development of the Garifuna Community.

Community boards bring government directly to the people and members play a vital role in ensuring that our neighborhoods receive the services they need to continue to thrive. Members consult with government agencies and elected officials regarding matters that directly impact the welfare of the district. Members also advise the City about the district’s budgetary and capital needs, and help prepare the Community District Needs Statement.

*Garinagu Wagia – We Are Garifunas – Somos Garifunas*

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