

NEWS FROM BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10

Contact K. Kearns at 718-892-1161

Bronx Community Board #10 recently heard a presentation from the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) concerning new regulations for radio-based livery cabs. Basically, it is illegal for any livery cab to accept street hails. These cars can only accept passengers who are assigned to them from their radio based offices. The TLC established these new regulations for the safety of the passengers. The cars are inspected by TLC for mechanical and safety purposes. The cars must contain decals showing the name of the company, the base phone number and the license number on the exterior doors and the trunk areas and on the rear fly windows of the car. The interior of the car must have the driver's TLC license and the Livery Cab Passenger's Bill of Rights displayed prominently. The TLC also maintains a complaint and adjudication system that assists riders when they have complaints about livery cabs. Passengers with complaints can contact 311.

The TLC would like riders to know that many of the gypsy cabs seen on the streets may not be inspected, the drivers may not be licensed or insured, and that by taking one of these cars, you are accepting a considerable amount of risk. The TLC recommends that passengers call a base to have a cab pick them up and that the cab should be dispatched by a base. If you hail a cab from the street, the base will not have a record of the call, which compromises your safety. Passengers should ask the dispatcher the price of the ride when requesting a livery car. Therefore, it is in the passenger's best interest to use TLC licensed livery cabs.

Recently, the Board held a public hearing the Capital and Expense budget needs of the various communities served by Bronx Community Board #10. Representatives from the community associations and citizens visited the Board and informed us of their neighborhood's needs under the Capital Budget. This is the portion of the City's budget that is used to build things, such as sewers and the Expense Budget, is used to pay for programs or facility operations, staff, etc. The Board assembled an impressive list of needs and will be forwarding them to the City's Office of Management and Budget for consideration.

The Board also attended a Commissioner's Hearing from the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) concerning the establishment of a group home for the developmentally disabled at 1623 Glover Street, in the Westchester Square section. The Board had opposed the establishment of this group home, not because of the clientele served, but because there are twenty-two establishments operated by contract agencies to the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Services, Office of Mental Health and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services operating in Westchester Square. Given the number of group homes and day programs within Westchester Square, one could never accuse this community of insensitivity toward those in need. However, how many facilities can one community absorb, without the character of the community being

altered forever? That is why Bronx Community Board #10 opposed this particular facility, and it is hoped that the Commissioner of OMRDD agrees with the Board's assessment.

On November 18, 2009, Bronx Borough President Rueben Diaz, Jr. will be sponsoring Economic Summit: a Blueprint for Success at the Botanical Gardens. This day long event will feature discussions and the development of strategies designed to create an economic plan for our Borough. This is an unprecedented opportunity to assist in the creation of public policy. The Board recommends that all attend. Additional information can be obtained by contacting 718-590-3500.

The City's Departments of Education and Health and Mental Hygiene are urging all parents of school age children to return the consent forms for immunization against the H1N1 virus. The forms which are available in ten languages can be downloaded from nyc.gov/flu or by calling 311. The vaccinations will be available to schools in phases: immunizations will be available in schools with less than 400 students on October 28th. On November 4th, Phase 2 of the vaccinations will begin in schools with enrollments of more than 600. Phase 3 begins on November 9th in remaining schools. Non-public schools choosing to participate in the program will receive the vaccines on November 9th. Weekend and vacation vaccinations will be held for middle and high school students during November and December. The City's 311 Call Center will now be able to handle education related calls. By accessing the education desk, parents and guardians can now speak with an education specialist on a variety of topics.

The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, through the Jacobi Medical Center-Women's Health has announced the availability of workshops geared towards women's health issues such as GYN-Breast Health, Abstinence, STD's Emergency contraception, HPV and birth control. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Tiffany.Young@nbhn.net or calling 311.

The New York City Police Department is looking for a few good people to serve as School Crossing Guards. These are City jobs with competitive salaries and benefits. Interested parties can contact PO Rhonda Morris-Davern at 718-822-5422.

One of the many treasures that we have within the confines of Bronx Community Board #10, is the campus of the SUNY Maritime College at Ft. Schuyler. This beautiful campus features a world-class training college for prospective ship's officers and transportation professionals, housed in an 18th century fort, overlooking Long Island Sound and the East River. It contains a wonderful nautical museum and features a whole host of community oriented programs such as boating, defensive driving, swimming, dancing, kickboxing, cake decoration, water aerobics to name a few. Additional information of this fascinating community resource can be obtained by contacting www.sunymaritime.edu/communityprograms.

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The Citizens Committee for New York is sponsoring a new initiative known as the “Love Your Block Grants.” The grants will assist fifty resident led block beautification projects and will include a \$500.00 cash reward and support from City agencies such as Departments of Transportation, Parks and Recreation and Sanitation for projects on your block. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Scott Codey at 212-822-9563 or scodey@citizensnyc.org and Alicia Rouault at 212-822-9558 or at arouault@citizensnyc.org.

Bronx Community Board #10 is available to assist you with your concerns, please feel free to contact us at 718-892-1161 or BX10@cb.nyc.gov. Please feel free to visit our office at 3165 E. Tremont Avenue. We are open five days a week between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.