



**Ruben Diaz, Jr.**  
*Borough President*

## **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10**

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**Joseph Russo**  
*Chairperson*

**Matthew Cruz**  
*District Manager*

### **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES January 21, 2020**

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10 AM with agency introductions. He welcomed all and reminded all of Community Board #10's bi-monthly District Service Cabinet meeting schedule. The next meeting will be held in March.

#### **TRANSIT POLICE - Captain G. Mackie, Sgt. S. Buffit**

Captain Mackie introduced himself as newly assigned to Transit District 12 as of January 6, 2020. He reported that for the 28-day period crime was down. There were three crimes this year versus eight during the same period last year. There was one robbery, the same as last year; assaults are down 100%, none this year versus two last year; there were two grand larcenies versus four last year, down 50%.

Captain Mackie discussed the victimizing of sleeping passengers known as "lush jobs". Officers wake sleeping passengers and warn that by sleeping they become easy targets for theft of personal valuables, particularly electronics. Passengers seated near the doors are particularly at risk.

There was a grand larceny on Middletown Road on December 28<sup>th</sup> and another on January 8<sup>th</sup> around 7 PM on a southbound train. In both cases the victims were sleeping.

There was an incident of physical force on January 1<sup>st</sup> at Pelham Bay station as a northbound train was pulling into the station. The victim was sprayed in the face with soda and his cell phone was stolen.

The only surveillance cameras posted at Pelham Bay Station are at the elevators. Temporary cameras are sometimes employed at high crime stations.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT - EMT (FDNY – EMT) – Battalion Chief T. Reilly**

Battalion Chief Reilly reported that there were fires on Saturday night in Co-op City and in Throggs Neck. Last night there was a fire on a balcony in Co-op City which was quickly extinguished. For December and January, the number of fires was average. Most calls are for medical emergencies and suspected gas leaks. In the month of December there were 277 medical emergency calls and almost all were suspected gas leaks. Almost 4,000 gas leak calls were received for 2019.

#### **NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – S. Ramadhin**

Mr. Ramadhin reported that the agency has already deployed to Puerto Rico to assist with the aftermath of recent earthquakes. In February 2020 CERT training will begin at Aerospace High School, 800 East Gunhill Road. On January 27<sup>th</sup> the agency is partnering with the Department of Homeless Services for the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate.

## **NYC TRANSPORTATION DEPT. (DOT) – M. Arancio, H. Molloy**

Mr. Arancio introduced his associate, Holly Molloy, who will be working on bike lane installations in the Bronx.

NYCDOT lighting study of Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue was approved. Mr. Arancio will inform the Board when work is scheduled.

Mr. Arancio will follow up on the request for a capital reconstruction of Revere Avenue from Dewey Avenue to Sampson Avenue, DOT-426667-M4S1.

A response has not yet been received for the request for streetlight repair on I-95 between Wilkinson Avenue and the Pelham Parkway exits, north and south bound, DOT-411210-X2C0.

No response has been received for the Board's appeal of the denial of resurfacing Wissman Avenue between Reynolds Avenue & Prentiss Avenue, DOT-431058-Y1P9.

The request for an All-Way Stop Study at the intersection of Schley Avenue and Logan Avenue - DOT-431231-S9P4 was denied. The Board will receive a letter shortly.

The request for a lighting study on East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner to Miles Avenue was approved and was identified as a priority. When installation is scheduled Mr. Arancio will notify the Board.

Mr. Cruz also inquired about the installation date for the traffic light at Coddington and Crosby Avenues. It will be installed by March.

Mr. Arancio indicated that he had trouble locating the complaint number provided concerning the request for the restoration of two streetlight posts which were removed near 100 Alcott Place which had been reported as being loose. The Board will check the number: 311- 2101714.

Mr. Arancio will provide a DOT case number later today for the request for removal of the "No Standing Anytime" sign in front of 1910 Pelham Parkway South.

Mr. Arancio also asked to discuss upcoming safety improvement projects for the area after the meeting or by phone. Mr. Cruz agreed and noted that he would try to have his transportation Chair included in the discussion.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he would contact State DOT for an update later in the day.

## **TRANSPORTATION DEPT. – BRIDGES –A. Zhou**

Westchester Avenue Overpass Project - Ms. Zhou reported that on Thursday the contractor will tie in the water main, but no water turn-off will be necessary. Local residents will not be affected.

Beginning tomorrow, the contractor will be closing two lanes of traffic from midnight to 4 AM for maintenance work until the end of February. Closing will only occur when necessary and not on weekends.

Unionport Bridge Project - Amanda Bayer reported that both temporary lift bridges are opened and will be operational through the duration of the bridge replacement. The old bridge will be demolished, and a single leaf vascular span will replace the old double leaf vascular span.

Mr. Cruz noted that in February, MTA will hold a final public hearing on the bus re-design. Few changes will affect Board #10 but the BX40 and BX42 will be rerouted in areas. Express bus modifications are on hold.

**DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, DEPT. OF (DDC) – Maria Caminero, Daniel Aviles**

A representative of the Burr Ave Sewer Project # SEX20047 was not present.

Ms. Caminero reported that City Island Project HED564, installation of subaqueous water main, is underway and will be ongoing on City Island until March. Thereafter work will be moving to Pelham Bay Park. Ms. Caminero provided flyers.

Mr. Aviles reported that Project HWPR18X, Rehabilitation of Pedestrian Ramps, is halted due to the cold weather. Work will resume in the spring.

Representatives from the Throggs Neck Expressway Water Main Project QED1047 and the upcoming Burr Avenue Sewer Project were not present.

Project HWS2016XM, Sidewalk Repair, was completed.

**BUILDINGS, DEPT. OF (DOB) – E. Jarratt**

Mr. Jarratt announced that the Agency is conducting outreach to business corridors concerning legalizing business signs.

Mr. Jarratt reported that a partial stop work order was in effect at the wind turbine at 500 Baychester Avenue. The landlord is permanently removing the wind turbine that fell and is taking down the two smaller advertising signs voluntarily. The middle sign is staying in place.

Mr. Jarratt will provide details concerning 2115 Burr Avenue and 2943 Baisley Avenue which were both inspected on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

3109 Buhre Avenue was inspected on January 13<sup>th</sup> and ECB violations were issued. This is a stalled site per Mr. Cruz. Mr. Jarratt reported that there are no deadlines for projects to be completed provided they have an active permit when work is done.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he is concerned about the properties at 2317, 2319, and 2321 Glebe Avenue. Squatters are reported at these properties and Mr. Cruz is concerned about balconies that are rusted and leaning.

Mr. Infante of Consolidated Edison interjected with information. He indicated that none of the properties has gas service, but 2317 Glebe Avenue has electricity on all 3 floors. 2319 Edison has no electricity. 2321 has electricity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Squatters have rights and can sign up for services but have not done so, at these properties. Con Edison has not been able to gain access and would have to cut services for this property from the street which is expensive. Squatters snapped the lock to gain access and the property is now closed with a chain.

Mr. Infante indicated that this is an enforcement issue. Minimal electric is being used by the occupant.

Mr. Cruz requested the owner's name and will contact them concerning the property.

### **CON EDISON – R. Infante; T. Santos; M. Penta**

Mr. Infante reported that the City is conducting a massive gas main replacement project citywide. Pennyfield Avenue will receive a mini bundle of gas main replacement work. Bundling allows one or two contractors to streamline work and accomplish it faster. Mr. Santos and Mr. Penta discussed the project as a 1,700 square foot gas main replacement from Chaffee to Bevy Place. The project is expected to take six to nine months or longer and will commence in early February. Con Ed is verifying the start date and will generate an electronic notification of impending work. SUNY Maritime will be contacted by Con Edison as Pennyfield Avenue is the school's main access road. Silver Beach access will also be affected. Work will be conducted six days a week, including Saturdays. Pennyfield Avenue is also a bus route. Mr. Cruz invited Mr. Infante to attend the February 12<sup>th</sup> Municipal Services Committee meeting. Con Edison will keep work to a three-block radius and the entire block will not be disrupted all at once.

### **DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) - E. Ardizzone**

Ms. Ardizzone reported that sink holes on Revere Avenue between Dewey and Sampson Avenues and at 2910 Wilkinson Avenue were filled.

DEP inspectors visited the site of a barking dog noise complaint at 3252 Waterbury Avenue. The dog was present but not barking. A letter was sent to the homeowner concerning the noise complaints received.

Ms. Ardizzone reported that the noise complaint at 3555 Bruckner Boulevard Apt. 9C – 311-0157747 was not routed to DEP. It may be a NYPD item if it concerned tenant to tenant issues.

Ms. Ardizzone provided flyers with helpful tips to prevent water lines from freezing during cold winter weather.

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) – D. Murphy**

Ms. Murphy, Family Support Coordinator - School District 8 reported that there is a pencil drive underway with a goal of providing the school population of 30,000 children with fifty pencils each. This effort symbolizes that our children are prepared to meet the challenges of their education. Ms. Murphy provided flyers for the pencil drive.

Ms. Murphy announced that District 8 is conducting a district wide science fair. All 37 schools will be participating. District 8 schools are located from Throggs Neck to Hunts Point in Soundview.

A Community Expo will be held from 4 PM to 5 PM on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Mentors for Medicine, a bio-bus and other attractions will be featured in this expo that demonstrates applied learning. The District is looking for judges for the event. DEP is participating. Ms. Murphy added that under Superintendent Dr. Erika Tobia schools are focused on leadership, participation and collaboration.

### **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION (DSNY) and ENFORCEMENT (DSNY-E) – D. Mason**

Superintendent Mason reported that Givan Avenue and Westchester Avenue from Continental Avenue to Pelham Bay Station are also cleaned daily.

Mr. Cruz indicated that Parker Street has become a problem for dumping. Superintendent Mason indicated that it is cleaned on Thursdays and Saturdays. Mr. Cruz suggested that he will ask Councilman Gjonaj to post no dumping signs.

DSNY did a major five-day cleaning last week at St. Peters Church. Cars were towed. A large container was removed, and the area looks much better.

Superintendent Mason indicated that DSNY cleaned many areas assigned to DOT under the Leventhal Agreement. The fence line along the Cross Bronx Expressway from Dewey Avenue to Hollywood Avenue and the Hutch Service Road from East Tremont to Westchester Avenue and from Westchester to Wilkinson Avenues were cleaned. DSNY did major cleaning every day last week, including Sunday.

Mr. Cruz thanked Superintendent Mason for his diligence.

Ms. Rubin of Councilman Gjonaj's office indicated that the Department of Transportation does not claim responsibility for fence lines. Mr. Cruz offered to provide a copy of the Leventhal Agreement to Ms. Rubin. Superintendent Mason indicated that during the summer months DOT sometimes cleans along fence lines, but not on a regular basis and maintenance is necessary. These areas are the Department of Transportation's responsibility.

Sanitation also responded to a call from the NYPD to clean up a trailer that caught on fire on Saturday at Balcom and Randall Avenues near St. Raymond's cemetery. DSNY cleaned the area and removed the trailer.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN HYGIENE (DOHMH) – E. Peralta-Downing**

Ms. Peralta-Downing indicated that a representative from the Agency will attend the February 4<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Committee meeting to discuss Hookah regulations.

Mr. Cruz inquired if sweeps are done in specific areas. Mr. Cruz would like to ensure that some local mobile food vendors are following proper procedure in food preparation. Ms. Peralta-Downing indicated that enforcement initiatives can target specific areas, but coordination takes time. Inspectors will respond in a couple of days to a 311 complaint. Multiple complaints expedite response time.

#### **DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING – J. Melendez**

Mr. Melendez had nothing new to report. Voluntary opportunities are always welcome including the Foster a Grandparent Program. Anyone interested can reach out to the Agency.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

##### **HOMELESS SERVICES – N. Jordan**

The Journey Home is a new initiative aimed at tackling homelessness in a better way. \$100,000,000 has been dedicated to this initiative and one thousand new safe-haven beds. Ms. Jordan distributed flyers for the upcoming Hope Count on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Agencies may offer comp time for workers who are participating. The street count will take place from 10 PM – 4 AM. Teams of 3 or 4 will be assigned areas to canvass for homeless individuals between 12 AM and 4 AM. Meeting locations include Lehman College and IS194.

#### ST. PETER'S RESIDENCE – J. Violet

Ms. Violet had no announcements to relay. Ms. Violet will contact the Board when the next Community Advisory Board meeting is scheduled.

#### PELHAM GRAND – K. Mann

Ms. Mann had no updates other than that residents from the neighborhood requested a meeting site for their Alcoholics Anonymous group. Pelham Grand agreed to provide them use of their conference room for meetings.

#### CRYSTAL'S PLACE – J. Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez indicated that he will inform the Board when the upcoming Community Advisory Board meeting date is set. It should be at the end of next month.

#### NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (CCHR) – B. Simmons

Ms. Simmons reported that as of January 11, 2020 free-lance workers and independent workers are covered under harassment and discrimination laws.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION – C. Acosta

Mr. Acosta had nothing new to report.

Mr. Cruz noted that Pearly Gates Park has not been an issue lately.

Mr. Cruz asked to speak with Ms. Anderson after the meeting.

#### NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY– T. McCree (City Island Branch)

Ms. McCree announced that the New York Public Library is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a limited-edition library card. Cards cost \$1.00 but are free for first time library card applicants. The Book Box initiative provides free books for people to take. It is in place at 74 locations currently.

Mr. Cruz requested an Intergovernmental Affairs contact at Adult Protective Services for assistance with a hoarder at 274 Balcom Avenue.

#### BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY D. CLARK'S OFFICE - M. Santana-Tavarez

Mr. Cruz noted that DA Clark attended the Board's January Full Board Meeting and was wonderful. DA Clark is hosting a Town Hall meeting at the Rotunda at 851 Grand Concourse between 6 PM and 8 PM this evening. There will be a question and answer period and an in-depth discussion of the new bail and discovery reforms.

#### NEW YORK STATE SENATOR A. BIAGGI 's OFFICE – M. Joyce

Mr. Cruz noted that the Board will have a public hearing on the Harding Avenue entrance issue in the spring. He requested assistance from the Senator's Office in advertising the event when it is scheduled.

Ms. Joyce announced that on January 30<sup>th</sup> at Lehman College, a Bronx Delegation Budget Forum will be held. Four senators from the Bronx delegation will be present. Written and in person testimony is welcome concerning next year's New York State Budget.

**NEW YORK STATE SENATOR J. BAILEY'S OFFICE – S. Morello**

Mr. Morello had no updates to report.

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER M. GJONAJ'S Office – F. Rubin**

Ms. Rubin reported that the Councilman has social services outreach representatives at his office.

The Councilman will host a job fair on January 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM - 8 PM at Bronx House.

On Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Metro Card Mobile Van will be at the Morris Park Library between 10 AM and Noon, and at the JASA Throggs Neck Senior Center from 1 PM to 3 PM.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER M. BENEDETTO'S OFFICE – M. McKay**

Mr. McKay indicated that the Assemblyman held a press conference at the Harding Avenue entrance to the Throggs Neck Bridge. He assisted Locust Point residents who received tickets for driving around traffic stalled at the Harding Avenue entrance.

Mr. Cruz requested assistance in publicizing the public hearing on the entrance when it is scheduled.

**Office of Bronx Borough President R. Diaz, Jr. – I. Gonzalez**

Mr. Gonzalez announced that New York State Attorney General, Letitia James, and Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr., will be hosting a workshop concerning Non-profits, Incorporation and Tax Exemption, at Hostos Community College on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> between 9 AM and 12PM.

The Homeowners Report was released. This report highlights the benefits of homeownership in New York City and is available on the Borough President's website.

Mr. Cruz adjourned the meeting at 10:47 AM.