



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

3165 East Tremont Avenue • Bronx, New York 10461

Tel: (718) 892-1161 • Fax: (718) 863-6860

E-mail: bx10@cb.nyc.gov

Facebook.com/BronxCommunityBoard10

Website: www.nyc.gov/bronxcb10



Peter J. Sullivan
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES May 21, 2019

Mr. Cruz opened the meeting with Agency introductions at 10:09 AM.

Mr. Cruz indicated that the Police Department will not be present today. He will follow up with them concerning an incident that took place yesterday in a park at Carver Loop in Co-op City in which up to three individuals were shot.

DSNY – V. Baranello

DSNY inspected 3263 Giegerich Place and found no litter and that the grass was cut by a neighbor. They will continue to monitor this address.

DSNY Lots Division has approved the cleaning of the lot behind 3296 Griswold Avenue, between Outlook and Bayview.

Bruckner Blvd. between Randall and Dewey has no litter, but does have high grass. This area was forwarded to DOT for grass cutting. Mr. Cruz indicated that he can forward this area for cleaning to FEDCAP. He also indicated that he will have FEDCAP clean the area along the Hutchinson River Parkway Service Road between E. Tremont and Wilkinson Avenues.

Dumping on Vreeland Avenue is an easement. There is only a jet ski there at present. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will contact the owner and request that it be removed.

The litter basket on Westchester Avenue & Continental Avenue was moved but residents continue to abuse it. Mr. Cruz inquired if the Agency would be opposed to him writing a letter requesting its removal. Residents use it relentlessly for household waste. Mr. Baranello indicated that they would not be opposed.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz

The request for removal of No Parking Anytime signage in front of 3176 East Tremont Avenue, DOT -406494-P9V5 is due 5/22/19.

The request for an All Way stop sign study on LaSalle Avenue from Crosby to Edison Avenues is due at the end of June.

The request for pedestrian ramps at Keane Square Park DOT-407680-P2P5 was added to the pedestrian ramp schedule but a date of completion was not provided.

Speed Hump study requests for LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues DOT 406830-K0G5 and Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues, DOT-406830-M9C8, are due in March of 2021.

The request for a traffic signal at Coddington Avenue and Crosby Avenue did not receive a response and is overdue. Ms. Cruz will try to have this request addressed.

Excessive dumping at the DOT owned lot at Stillwell Avenue and DeReimer Avenue was forwarded to land use. Mr. Cruz offered to have FEDCAP clean this area.

The request for sidewalk repaving at 2890 Zulette Avenue is on the 2019 repaving contract.

The Board's inquiry concerning whether or not private schools are eligible to receive additional traffic cameras promised by the Governor's Office is being considered by the Policy Division. School Traffic Cameras will turn off at 10 PM.

The Board's request for traffic studies at the corner of Glebe Avenue and Glover Street, DOT-415706-T7R2, and Parker Street and Lyon Avenue, DOT-415707-M4V5 are due in September.

State Transportation Dept. (State DOT)

Mr. Cruz discussed a project which would create a new ramp to Co-op City from the Hutchinson River Parkway.

DOT BRIDGES – R. Fernandez, A. Bayer

Mr. Fernandez reported that the Westchester Avenue Overpass is progressing well. New concrete was poured on the deck. The project will be moving to stage 2 in the next couple of months.

The Unionport Bridge Project is progressing well and they are working on two temporary bridges. South bridge will open before the North Bridge. No other updates.

Mr. Cruz indicated that we have not received complaints.

Mayor's Office (CAU) – F. Konneh

The Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs is scheduling a meeting with the Neighborhood Support Team. Mr. Cruz will provide available dates. He requested a walk through and Mr. Bieder, Chair of the Youth and Education Committee, would like to attend.

NHC Care is the Mayor's initiative to provide healthcare regardless of immigration status. The program kicks off in the Bronx in August and NYC Care cards will be available. Primary care is more health and cost effective than emergency room care. The program is expected to be available citywide in 2020. Details should be available in July. It is a brand new organization and they are currently contracting with community based organizations to help reach the target population.

Ms. Garland of Town and Country, described her experience in assisting an undocumented client with obtaining an NYC ID card. The cards require a form of identification which is difficult for certain populations to provide and is very problematic.

Mr. Cruz noted that Covenant House has not yet moved into 1550 St. Peter's Avenue and requested that Mr. Konneh look into the reason for the delay.

DOB – E. Jarratt

Mr. Jarratt indicated that there were no updates on the development of 3250 Westchester Avenue and the alteration application and objections at 3273 Westchester Avenue.

Mr. Cruz indicated that 2115 Burr Avenue was approved with 8 parking spaces.

Mr. Jarratt indicated that 1820 Edison Avenue, a proposed 6 story building with over ten units, has no proposed parking.

1525 Research Avenue was inspected on December 28, 2018 and received several violations including an order to vacate and was deemed an unsafe building. This is an active case.

1141 Crosby Avenue, complaint 2272610 – inspectors were denied access.

Update on 3109 Buhre Avenue – Mr. Jarratt indicated that DOB reached out to the owner and is awaiting a response. This project has been stalled for 2-3 years.

3531 Bruckner Boulevard – remains in disapproved status.

1256 Edison Ave - 1-1-1712675701 – Upon inspection, inspectors found no violations or evidence of construction.

1938 Edison Ave - a brick house with walls removed on all three floors without permits.
1-1-1705681161 – Mr. Jarratt indicate that there were no 311 calls for this request. Inspectors visited the site, but were unable to gain access on 5/8/19.

Status of repairs to 1580 Edison Avenue. Mr. Jarratt reported that nothing has been filed as yet to repair this property, which experienced a fire a few weeks ago. Mr. Cruz requested that the owner be contacted concerning when the owner intends to file for repair.

Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta, K. Zagorski, R. Combet

Mr. Acosta reported that areas needing removal of overgrowth at Bi-Centennial Veterans Memorial Park in Edgewater are scheduled for next week.

Mr. Acosta will reach out to the nursery to request flowers for the entrance to Edgewater Park.

The American Flags have been restored at Bufano Park.

Inquiry as to when grassy Parks property along Burr Avenue and Bruckner Blvd. in Pelham Bay will be cut

Mr. Acosta explained that due to the excessive rain recently, mowers cannot access certain areas because they are getting stuck in the mud so some work has been postponed.

Mr. Acosta reported that he has received a request to close Pearly Gates Park at 9 PM rather than 9:30 PM and will do so.

The illegal fruit vendor at Amendola Plaza has returned. This vendor is arrogant and either abandons his cart when questioned or refuses to provide identification, which is needed in order to issue a violation.

Mr. Combest reported that the renovations underway at Owen Dolen Recreation Center will take twelve to eighteen months for completion.

Mr. Acosta reported that the grass at Veteran's Memorial Park was mowed last week.

Mr. Cruz indicated that the homeless family living at the Pelham Bay Subway Station remains on the street despite being offered an apartment. They insist on an apartment in the Pelham Bay vicinity.

Ms. Zagorski announced that the Agency is preparing for the Memorial Day weekend and that official opening of Orchard Beach will be celebrated tomorrow at 11:30 AM. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will be in attendance.

Ms. Joyce of Senator Biaggi's office indicated that she had received a complaint from a constituent concerning the lack of green space within Colucci Park Playground. This park received an upgrade in 2017, and currently adult fitness equipment is being installed. The constituent reports that flooding occurs because there are not enough trees and foliage to absorb runoff. Sprinklers turn on when the temperature is over 80 degrees. Water fountains are on currently functioning.

MTA – is not present today, however Mr. Cruz indicated that there will be a Public Hearing at PS 71 in the coming weeks to introduce 6 to 8 new routes. This will be the first round of the Agency's draft plan.

Pelham Grand – K. Mann

Ms. Mann indicated that the Pelham Grand conducts two types of CAB meetings. One with the public which has not been scheduled as yet, and one that takes place on a monthly basis for staff and residents. That CAB meeting will be held on May 28th at 4 pm.

A cleanup of the parkway area near the Pelham Grand is scheduled for June 7th between 11 AM and 1 PM.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – E. Peralta-Downing

Ms. Peralta-Downing reported that rodents were not observed at 3263 Giegerich Place C1-1-17111901373 – C1-1-17111933122 during a recent inspection. A Commissioner's Order was issued on April 30th to correct a light harborage condition. The property owners will receive notification and must correct the condition by removing high grass and anything that would serve to promote rodents. The Agency will re-inspect the property for compliance within the next 2 weeks and will provide a follow up.

Ms. Peralta-Downing also announced that on May 29th at Hostos College there will be Food Safety Workshop between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. Restaurateurs should register for this event as they will receive an inspection history report for their establishment

NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) – S. Lygum

Mr. Lygum provided a handout concerning NYCEM mobile outreach, and Notify NYC enrollment. Teams are available to attend street fairs and events with info concerning READY New York.

DEP – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone reported that on May 30th a rate hearing will be held at Hostos Community College at 7 PM. A 2.3 percent increase in water rates is proposed.

Ms. Ardizzone provided a flyer concerning backflow prevention devices and explained that the requirement for these devices has been in place since 1982, however the agency will now be inspecting one to three family homes as well as commercial buildings since homeowners with a built-in pool or sprinkler system are also required to have them installed.

City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) – S. Miranda

Ms. Miranda had nothing new to report.

DHS – Nicole Jordan

Ms. Jordan referred to her e-mail concerning street homelessness meeting. She is inviting BIDs and district managers to discuss preventative measures that can help curb homelessness, which rises during the summer months.

Donating food and money to homeless people is a hindrance to them seeking assistance.

Crystal's Place – R. Vazquez

Mr. Vazquez reported that the next CAB meeting will be held on July 31 10 AM. Mr. Cruz reminded Mr. Vazquez to direct their young adults to the Summer Youth Programs.

Town and Country – Z Garland

Ms. Garland had nothing new to report.

Department of Consumer Protection – T. Rahman

Ms. Rahman had their shred event last weekend. They had trucks in all 5 boroughs. Over 700 people were serviced.

Tackling student loan debt crisis with a series of events which have been taking place since January. The Bronx ranks highest in default and deferment of student loans. Older adults struggle with Parent Plus Loans and recent graduates struggle with repayment of their loans. An event will take place this evening at the Borough President's Office, 851 Grand Concourse, 4-8 PM. Documentation is required. Financial councilors will be on hand to assist borrowers.

The Agency continues to work on licensing mobile car washes. Mr. Cruz discussed one off the Hutchinson River Service Road near Middletown Road. Photos and exact addresses are helpful. Mr. Cruz provided an address of his last siting. 2815 Westchester Avenue.

Mobile car washes are a new category. If they are permitted they are stationed in a particular area. They also need additional permits.

A brief discussion took place on the difficulties of accomplishing the task of licensing mobile car washes.

New York Public Library – T. McRay

Ms. McRay from the City Island Branch reported that the New York Public Library is in full advocacy mode.

On June 8th the City Island Branch will host an pet adoption event from 12 Noon to 4:00 PM.

The Summer Reading Program is commencing. Mr. Cruz indicated that he would like to stop by and read to children.

Ms. McRay announced that her branch also displaying memorabilia celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Office of the Bronx District Attorney, Darcel Clark, – M. Santana-Tavarez

Ms. Santana-Tavarez announced that the District Attorney's office will be hosting another "Another Chance" event in which old summonses can be forgiven. She further reported that a town hall meeting is being planned by the Bronx, District Attorney.

Ms. Garland inquired about the Youth Trial Advocacy Program. This will begin again in the fall for Bronx high school students. Two students were granted a summer internship at their office as a result of their performance at the mock trial this year. It is a wonderful program for young people. Ms. Garland would like to offer it to her younger residents.

NYC Comptroller's Office – A. Ortiz

Economy grew 3% in first quarter of 2019. 18,000 new employees were added to the private sector.

Our district has one of the least playgrounds, 4.8 playgrounds per 10,000 children, in New York City. Comptroller wants to increase the number of parks in the City. Outstanding violations at parks and Comptroller wants to increase the budget for playgrounds.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – M. Joyce

Ms. Joyce reported that the Senator's office will be moving from Waters Place to Lydig Avenue and another office will be in Riverdale. Ms. Joyce will forward the actual addresses.

Ms. Joyce announced a Housing Resource Fair on Friday, June 7th from 4:00 – 8:00 PM, at PS 83, 950 Rheinlander Avenue. Various agencies and organization will be available as well as constituent services. A Housing Justice Town Hall May follow this event, however, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's office is doing something just before this event. Flyers are available.

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – S. Morella

Mr. Morella had nothing new to report.

Office of City Councilman Mark Gjonaj - F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin reported that Councilman Gjonaj is hosting mobile office events throughout the district: May 29th from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Westchester Square subway station and on June 6th from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Pelham Bay subway station.

He is also hosting neighborhood cleanup events and participating in a Participatory Pudge. Ideas will be collected and one project will be selected to receive 1 million dollars to improve a public space. Meetings to discuss ideas will be held in August. A vote takes place next May.

Ms. Rubin also reported that the Councilman's office accepts graffiti removal requests.

Assembly Member Michael Benedetto – M. McKay

Mr. McKay introduced himself as being a new hire at Assemblyman Benedetto's office. He is working on creating a new Facebook page for the office: @AssemblymanBenedetto.

Mr. McKay will bring our request for assistance with resurfacing I-95 between exits 8 and 9 North and South bound due to a serious pothole issue back to his office and follow up with the Board.

Mr. Cruz reported that Dr. Golden, the owner of 3134 East Tremont Avenue, Golden Care Medical Center, has received a proposal to purchase his property from Carnegie Hill, a drug treatment center. Mr. Cruz finds that properties in our district are attracting this type of business. Neighborhoods are opposed, but Board approval is not being considered in this sale.

A similar business is being proposed at 2800 Bruckner Boulevard and the Board has many concerns as to the effect these facilities will have on our district.

The June Full Board meeting will be held on June 20th at 7 PM at Ft. Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway.

Mr. Cruz announced that he will be out of the office on annual leave from Tuesday, May 28th through Thursday, June 6th. Please contact staff with any issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen H. Kilkenny
Bronx Community Board #10