



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 November 19, 2019

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:03 AM with Agency representative introductions.

Mr. Cruz announced that this month's Full Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 7 PM, at the Greek American Institute, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard, Bronx New York 10461. All are welcome to attend. Also, a Municipal Services Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 7 PM, if anyone has matters to address.

NYPD 45th Precinct – Det. J. Souhrada

Detective Souhrada reported that the Department analyzes crime on a 28-day basis and compared to the same time last year, murder and rape incidents are flat. Robbery, felony assaults, burglary, grand larceny, and grand larceny auto, are all down.

Detective Souhrada requested that everyone be reminded, and remind their constituents, that crime tends to spike during the Holiday Season. To avoid incidents of grand larceny auto, shopping bags and purses should not be left unattended in automobiles.

Detective Souhrada reported that on Aug. 17th a Business Inspection was done at Acri Café and Bases Loaded. Three criminal court summonses were issued, but there are no further details as to who received the summonses or the offense.

On August 22nd an underage drinking operation was conducted at three locations. Only a deli at 1400 Castle Hill Avenue failed the operation by selling two Coronas to a minor. The precinct not only monitors drinking establishments, but also retail stores that sell liquor.

On September 7th, a Business Inspection was conducted at Tequila Mezcal at 2434 East Tremont Avenue. Eight summonses were issued.

On October 15th Business Inspections were done at Vista Mar, Plush and Legendary and no summonses were issued.

On September 10th an assault occurred at Coconut Palm Bar and Grill; a man was punched in the face but refused medical attention at the scene.

On September 13th a grand larceny was committed at Havana Café. A woman's purse was stolen when she left it at the bar and went to the bathroom.

On September 15th an unknown perpetrator stabbed a patron with an unknown object at Mama Juana.

Lt. Souhrada indicated that the precinct is aware of the issue of late-night gatherings on Penneyfield Avenue, opposite Pennyfield Estates, and summonses are being issued. NCO Officers, Reyes and Santos, are monitoring this area.

Detective Souhrada indicated that he passed by the hydrant at 2735 Gifford Avenue on his way to the meeting and there was no car at the hydrant. The area will be monitored.

Campers parked on Whittemore Avenue have received summonses, but the Department's towing capability is limited. Mr. Cruz inquired when a boot can be issued. Officer Souhrada will get the specifics on issuing a boot. He added that illegally parked cars are pursued more aggressively in more populated areas than those in desolate areas.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – M. Arancio

Mr. Arancio provided the following updates:

NYCDOT lighting study of Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue was issued tracking number: DOT 437506H9W3. A response is due in Jan. 2020.

The request for a speed hump study for Parkview Avenue between Willow Lane and Buhre Avenue was issued tracking number: 436562Y9P0. A response is due in April 2021.

The request for a capital reconstruction of Revere Avenue from Dewey Avenue to Sampson Avenue, DOT-426667-M4S1, was added as a new need and the Board will receive an update shortly.

A Corrective Action Request (CAR) was issued in August to DEP for the sinkhole condition at 2910 Wilkinson Avenue, DEP 20194820355.

Street Light repair requested on I-95 between Wilkinson Avenue and the Pelham Parkway exits, north and south bound. DOT-411210-X2C0. A response is due but has not been received.

Mr. Arancio requested updated 311 numbers for the following two items as they can no longer be tracked with the existing numbers since the system was revised over the summer:

Street Name Signage on corners of Quincy and Sampson Aves. are transposed and need to be reversed so that the correct name corresponds with the correct street. C1-1-1730135480.

Request for repaving of a small stretch of Maclay Avenue between Parker and Zerega Avenues c1-1-1734009798.

The request for resurfacing of Wissman Avenue between Reynolds and Prentiss Avenues, DOT-431058-Y1P9, was denied on 10/21/19. Mr. Cruz reported that the street is in poor condition and inquired about the criteria necessary in order to repave. Mr. Arancio indicated that it is dependent on the degree of repair required, not just spot repairs, but underlying conditions. The response can be appealed. Mr. Arancio also noted that excessive spot repairs can lead to other serious road conditions.

The response for the All-Way Stop Study at the intersection of Schley and Logan Avenues, DOT-431231-S9P4, is due at the end of November and should be received at the beginning of December.

The missing street light pole near 2857 E. 194th Street, DOT work order 2100442, was repaired.

The similar request for replacement of a missing street light pole in front of 2886 Wilkinson Avenue, DOT work order # 2100528, was marked as a duplicate of the previous request.

DOT inhouse repair complaints – Mr. Arancio noted that residents who are dissatisfied or received damage from sidewalk or pedestrian ramp work can file a claim with the Comptroller's Office. Mr. Cruz indicated that he is working directly with "Peter", a DOT project liaison, for follow up with complaints. Mr. Arancio asked to be kept apprised of any repairs.

Mr. Cruz inquired of the status of a past request for a lighting study on East Tremont Avenue, from Bruckner Boulevard to Schurz Avenue. Mr. Arancio will follow up for the status on this request.

Mr. Cruz indicated that DOT is interested in utilizing the Transportation Tool Kit to obtain community input in managing traffic around the Pelham Bay/Burr Avenue/ Wilkinson Avenue area in Spring of 2020. It is difficult for buses and vehicles to navigate this area. It was mentioned that this area is one of the top 20 complaint areas from surveys.

DOT BRIDGES

Westchester Avenue Overpass – Amy Zhou

Ms. Zhou reported that on Saturday, November 2nd and Sunday 3rd, a steel girder was installed for the west side of the Bridge. The project is currently in phase II working on the westbound side of the Bridge. A water main installation will take place shortly and be tied into the south side. This will require a temporary water shut off to local communities. Ms. Zhou hopes to have the date of the shut off by Thursday. Mr. Cruz requested the shut off date before the end of business on Thursday to make an announcement at the General Board Meeting in Pelham Bay that evening. The project is moving along well, and Ms. Zhou has requested that no additional work be done during the holiday season.

Unionport Bridge Project - A. Bayer

Ms. Bayer reported that in late October the northbound temporary bridge for westbound traffic was opened. The southside, for eastbound traffic, will be done in two stages: First stage, Zerega Avenue, second stage, the two merging lanes on the bridge which require a flyover over the bridge.

The same number of traffic lanes will be available. Both stages should be done by the end of the year, weather permitting. The existing bridge will then be replaced, and the project completed.

Ms. Ardizzone inquired about private work being done around the former Whitestone Cinema area. Mr. Cruz confirmed that a private contractor is constructing an e-commerce facility at 2505 Bruckner Blvd. Ms. Bayer reported that the contractors broke a water main last week which resulted in a water shut off to the Unionport Bridge project. Ms. Ardizzone noted that the morning traffic buildup is horrendous. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will make a site visit.

DEPT. OF HEALTH and MENTAL HYGIENE (DOHMH) – E. Peralta-Downing

Ms. Peralta-Downing reported that rodent complaints have spiked in Community Board #10 and she encouraged residents to lodge as much detailed information as possible when filing a 311 complaint. Vague location information makes follow up difficult.

Mr. Cruz requested a presentation concerning hookah at the Jan 7th Economic Development Meeting at 7:30 PM at the Board Office. Ms. Peralta-Downing agreed to coordinate a presentation and asked that he email his request.

DSNY and Enforcement – D. Mason

Superintendent Mason reported for DSNY and Enforcement since Enforcement were not present.

Tree pits on the East Tremont Avenue and Westchester Avenue commercial corridors are being monitored and summonses are being issued.

Superintendent Mason complained about dumping at Givan Avenue. The two businesses at this site, Gabriel Mack and Empire Scaffold, are not providing any maintenance. Superintendent Mason sends a truck up there twice a week.

Superintendent Mason asked that we pursue DOT to issue summonses for the two businesses for not having a sidewalk. He feels that dumping would lessen if sidewalks and street lighting was installed.

Superintendent Mason suggested having a leaf clean up similar to one done a few years ago on City Island Avenue. He requests that on one day there be “no parking” on one side of City Island Avenue and on the other side on a day the following week. This would allow the mechanical broom to access the curbs and remove the build-up of leaves before they get matted and become permanent for the winter. Ms. Ardizzone of DEP also noted that such work helps alleviate ponding issues, since leaves block catch basins.

Ms. Rubin of Councilmember Gjonaj’s office inquired about cleaning a lot on Parcifal Place. Superintendent Mason submitted the location to the Lots Department for cleanup, but it is a lengthy process. The Lots Department is a separate division that services the entire City and Superintendent Mason has no information on when it might be done. He will work on getting additional information.

Mr. Cruz inquired how often Westchester Avenue from Continental Avenue to Bruckner Boulevard is cleaned. Litter baskets are serviced 7 days a week, and twice on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Mechanical broom services this area every day. Workers are in that area today with leaf blowers.

Superintendent Mason indicated that the area around CVS is problematic. CVS staff usually clean, and when they don’t DSNY issues violations. The high volume of foot traffic causes the litter issues, but there is no excuse for storeowners not to clean.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS – A. Roldan

Mr. Cruz suggested planning events to spread the word that if restaurants have an online menu, they are required to be ADA compliant.

DEP – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone will get back to the Board on Wilkinson Avenue and the sinkhole issues. Mr. Cruz and Ms. Bayer thanked Ms. Ardizzone for her efforts during the water shutdown last week.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION – C. Acosta, K. Zagorski, R. Combest

Mr. Acosta directed Mr. Cruz to an emailed response to an earlier issue.

There were no additional announcements.

MTA reported that Bronx Community Board #10 was pleased with the results of the recent Bus Redesign and Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Carter and the Agency for their efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Throggs Neck Water Main Project – A. Raman

Mr. Cruz indicated that the project is progressing well. He thanked DDC and DEP for their efforts.

Mr. Cruz noted that a sidewalk repair project is ongoing in Throggs Neck.

Pedestrian Ramps – D. Aviles

Mr. Aviles noted that the project will not be working in the Board #10 area until January 2020.

Mr. Cruz asked that representatives from Pelham Grand, Town and Country, St. Peters Residence and Crystal's Place to remain after the meeting for a moment to discuss upcoming toy giveaways. There is a need for gift wrappers, etc.

St. Peters – C. Rivera

Ms. Rivera had no new announcements and reported that operations are progressing well.

Pelham Grand – K. Mann

Ms. Mann announced that Pelham Grand participated in a fire safety program with the FDNY. Ms. Mann requested contact info for community members wishing to attend CAB meetings.

Crystals Place – Richard Vazquez

Crystals Place is planning to hold their CAB meeting after the holidays. There are nine (9) scheduled events for December; four (4) are toy giveaways. Last night residents enjoyed an event: "Dinner with the Rangers"

Mr. Cruz reported that the community has been very enthusiastic about receiving Emergency Preparedness Go-Bags distributed by Bronx Community Board #10. The bags were purchased by Board #10 from NYC Emergency Management to promote emergency preparedness in our communities. They were purchased with extra funding received by all Community Boards. NYC Emergency Preparedness has provided outstanding support throughout our distribution process and we thank them.

Mr. Cruz inquired if the additional 1,000 police officers promised by Governor Cuomo were in place yet, however, they have not yet been deployed.

DHS – N. Jordan

Ms. Jordan reported that the Mayor Office and the Agency strongly encourage the public to report the homeless they encounter so that teams can be dispatched and encouraged to enter shelters and not brave the elements.

Mr. Cruz noted that a homeless man was frequenting the area around Sampson and East Tremont Avenues, however since the removal of a bench he had used, he has not been in the area. Mr. Cruz will make a special effort to check the area for him and report if he is located.

HRA – J. Williams

Mr. Cruz thanked representative Williams for his kind assistance with the recertification of SNAP benefits for an Edgewater Park resident.

NYPL – L. Marin – Westchester Square Branch

Ms. Marin provided flyers and promoted the many programs available at the Westchester Square Branch of the New York Public Library including: citizenship classes, English classes, jewelry making for adults, teens after school environment “Brain Power Hour”, creative writing classes, bingo night, open Lego Lab, and more.

The Baychester Avenue Branch manager extended her thanks to the Board for conducting the Emergency Preparedness Go Bag event at their branch on Wednesday, November 13th.

Mr. Cruz noted that he would like to have a similar event at the Westchester Square Branch in the near future. Ms. Marin welcomed the idea.

NYC COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE – Maria De La Cruz

Ms. De La Cruz discussed a recently released report on minority women owned businesses. The City received a C rating, which is an improvement. The City’s goal is an A rating for all businesses. The Agency’s request for a Diversity Officer at each City Agency was not granted but improvements have been made.

Mr. Cruz announced that at Full Board meetings, the Board has decided to introduce elected official reports after voting rather than earlier in the agenda. This practice will be implemented and evaluated this Thursday.

OFFICE OF SENATOR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI – M. Joyce

Ms. Joyce announced that the Senator’s main office is located at 3190 Riverdale Avenue, however, constituent services outreach will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at this office, and every Wednesday at Bronx House. The senator plans to open a second office on this side of the Bronx in the near future.

On November 25th an Opioid Crises Town Hall will be held at the City Island Library, 320 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464, from 6 to 8 PM. Several agencies will be present.

The Senator will host turkey giveaways. Information to be announced.

OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMAAL BAILEY – A. Meza

Ms. Mesa announced that Senator Bailey will host a turkey giveaway on Monday, November 25th, at North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kossoth Avenue, 4 to 6 PM.

A full Thanksgiving Dinner will also be served on Monday, November 25th, from 6 to 9 PM, at Lexa Bar and Garden, on 347 East 204th Street. Flyers are available.

OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN MARK GJONAJ - F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin provided several flyers and announced that the Councilman will distribute 450 turkeys in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. Residents are asked to register by calling the office 718 931 1721.

The office is also organizing toy giveaways for local school children aged 5 to 10 years old. Donations welcomed.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, there will be a Grant Information Session at the Allerton Library Branch which is opened to community-based organizations to assist them with applying for grants.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL BENEDETTO – M. McKay

Mr. McKay announced that Assemblyman Benedetto will host a Christmas Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 8th at 5 PM at O'Boyle Triangle at the corner of Dewey and E. Tremont Avenues.

OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ, JR. – I. Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez announced that tomorrow, November 20th, from 9 to 10:30 AM, the Borough President will be hosting a forum on the Small Business Survival Act at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard.

Dept of Aging – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez introduced himself as the new Department of the Aging representative. He announced that \$1.7 million dollars has been allocated from the budget toward mental health services for 23 senior centers throughout the city in addition to \$4 million for maintenance at NYCHA Senior Centers. The Elder Abuse Campaign will be relaunched next month. Mr. Melendez indicated that he will attend the General Board meeting on Thursday and provide additional updates.

Mr. Cruz concluded the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen H. Kilkenny
Bronx Community Board #10