



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



Joseph Russo
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2019

Mr. Cruz opened the meeting at 10:06 AM by welcoming Agency representatives and introducing the new Chairperson of Bronx Community Board #10, Joseph Russo. Agency representative introductions followed.

NYPD 45th Precinct – Det. J. Souhrada

Detective Souhrada reported that unfortunately crime statistics rose in most categories. A perpetrator is in custody for a recent murder in Co-op City. Rape numbers have increased by 5 since this time last year, robberies by 9, felony assaults by 5, and grand larcenies by 7. Burglaries fell by 26%. Overall crime is down in this Board by 7.7%, however the significant fall in burglaries has skewed the results.

Detective Souhrada reported that there were no recent March Orders, however two Business Inspections occurred on June 8th and June 28th.

On June 8th the Wicked Wolf and Made In Puerto Rico were inspected and received no violations. Parq Sports Bar and Grill had a few building related violations which were addressed by the landlord.

On June 28th, Bridges and Shangai Red were inspected and received no violations. Acri Café was also inspected and had a few building code violations. Mr. Cruz noted that Acri Café is under new management; Jimmy Rodriguez, the new manager, endeavors to create a family environment at this location. Det. Souhrada indicated that Mr. Rodriguez had already met with him on numerous occasions to discuss operations.

Detective Souhrada did mention one incident of a stabbing during a fist fight outside of MamaJuana Café, which occurred last Saturday to Sunday Morning. The case is ongoing; the victim's wounds were not life threatening.

Detective Souhrada noted that the 45th Precinct is aware of issues at Pennyfield Avenue and have received many complaints. They are monitoring the location and issuing summonses. Unfortunately, resources are insufficient to post an officer at this location at all times and residents are encouraged to call 311 when warranted.

Detective Souhrada agreed to inform the NCO officers about the Audi parked at the hydrant on Gifford Avenue. Commercial vehicles on Whitmore are being ticketed and Mr. Mason of the Department of Sanitation reported that they are towing an abandoned boat near Whitmore Avenue later today. Several other boats are being removed from the area including two along Bruckner Boulevard outside of Pelham Bay Park along I95. Mr. Mason commented that there has been an increase in abandoned cars and boats in the neighborhood.

Mr. Cruz also indicated that the Board office has received complaints of illegally parked cars which have posted police identification.

Det. Souhrada noted that if placards are misused, the car owner gets a courtesy warning and then the matter is referred to the placard unit for follow-up.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz

Ms. Cruz provided the following updates:

Repaving of Ellsworth Avenue between Fairmount and Layton Avenues, DOT 400580, is on the 2020 schedule and should be completed next spring.

The response to our request for the reconstruction of Revere Avenue from Dewey to Sampson Avenues, DOT- 426667-M4S1, is due at the end of October.

A Corrective Action Report (CAR) was issued to DEP for correction of a recurring sinkhole at 2910 Wilkinson Avenue, DOT- 430290-K2K5.

The request for the repaving of the Bruckner Expressway overpass on East Tremont Avenue DOT – 400573-P7P4 – is a matter for State DOT. Mr. Cruz requested that representatives from the Senator's Office and the Assemblyman's Office assist with follow up on this request.

The request for a traffic signal at Balcom and Schley Avenues, DOT- 5384420-B5K3, was denied for the 2nd time. This issue cannot be reopened until 2021 (3 years).

The requests for a traffic light at Dreiser Loop and DeKruif Place was denied for a traffic light but will be resubmitted for an enhanced crosswalk. There is an existing stop sign on one side.

The request to refurbish street markings at the corner of Dreiser Loop and DeKruif Place was approved and may have been already done.

Request for pedestrian ramps at Keane Square Park DOT-407680-P2P5 have been added for consideration for fiscal year 2020.

Speed hump studies for LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues, Dot 406830-K0G5, and Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues, DOT-406830-M9C8 will take two years to complete. A response will be available in 2021.

The Resurfacing of Barkley Avenue between Wilcox and Clarence Avenues is on the 2020 schedule.

The request for street light repair on I-95 from Wilkinson Avenue and the Pelham Parkway exits, north and south bound, DOT 411210-X2C0, needs more work. A response will follow.

Correction of the street signage at the corner of Quincy and Sampson Avenues which is transposed, has a 311 number which became invalid since the system update. Ms. Cruz is following up internally to track this item.

The request for repaving of Maclay Avenue between Parker and Zerega Avenues, has a 311 number which became invalid since the system update. Ms. Cruz is following up internally to track this item.

Mr. Cruz commented that the revised 311 system is less user friendly than the original site and he is disappointed that Community Boards were not consulted concerning the changes.

The response to the request for the resurfacing of Wissman Avenue between Reynolds and Prentiss Avenues DOT-431058-Y1P9 is due in November.

The response for the request for an All Way Stop study at the intersection of Schley and Logan Avenue is due in November.

The recurring cave-in at 1314 Mayflower Avenue has a 311 number which became invalid since the system update. Ms. Cruz is following up internally to track this item.

The request to replace missing street light poles near 2857 E. 194th Street, DOT 2100442, and 2886 Wilkinson Avenue, DOT 2100528, requires more follow up. A response will be forthcoming shortly.

Ms. Cruz distributed 2019 Bike Maps and announced that speed camera legislation went into effect in July. Cameras should be in place on Baychester Avenue by the end of September.

Ms. Cruz reported that her associates, Keith Kalb, the Deputy Borough Commissioner, and Matthew Arancio, will be covering her duties during her upcoming maternity leave. She requested that they be copied on all emails.

Ms. Rubin of Councilman Gjonaj's Office inquired about the recent announcement concerning the Trees and Sidewalks Program. Mr. Kalb clarified that only tree related violations will be assumed by the City. Property owners will be subject to violations for all non-tree related infractions. Ms. Ardizzone of DEP also mentioned that sewer line damage responsibility has not been clarified. Mr. Cruz noted that the Board Office receives many tree related complaints concerning sidewalks and can keep a database of properties with this concern.

Mr. Cruz invited representatives from DOT Bridges to attend the October Municipal Services Committee at the Board office on October 7th at 7:30 PM. Mr. Russo, Chairperson of Board #10, noted the importance of having good coordination between projects that are happening simultaneously in the Board service area.

Ms. Bayer confirmed that a representative will be in attendance.

DOT BRIDGES – A. Bayer

Ms. Bayer reported that the project has been focused on constructing the approaches to the temporary bridge. There were difficulties but it is hoped that westbound traffic on the North bridge will be operable in mid-October/early November. Both bridges should be up and operable by the end of the year.

The temporary bridge will be able to accommodate the same weight limits.

The new Community Liaison appointed to the Westchester Avenue Overpass Project is Hugh Smith. He was not in attendance but should be available for subsequent meetings.

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

Ms. Peralta-Downing requested that those submitting rodent complaints be very specific in detailing where they were seen.

Mr. Cruz noted that the vendor at 3775 E. Tremont Avenue (CVS Pharmacy) has benches and rugs, etc., and is turning his cart into a curbside restaurant. Ms. Peralta-Downing will follow up.

DSNY Enforcement – SEA Edwards/ DSNY – D. Mason

SEA Edwards had to leave the meeting early and the report was provided by DSNY Superintendent D. Mason.

Superintendent Mason reported that enforcement and his officers have been cleaning tree pits and asking homeowners and storefronts to keep their areas clean.

Superintendent Mason reported that Givan Avenue is an ongoing problem and suggested that installing sidewalks may help keep the area clean, especially since alternate side parking regulations are now in effect in this area. There are two businesses at this site. DOT can issue violations for no sidewalk. Mr. Kalb indicated that a notice of violation on a commercial property can result in a cancellation of insurance and may result with them getting sidewalks.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he may not have FEDCAP resources this year. Councilmember Gjonaj's office will continue to assist with FEDCAP matters.

Superintendent Mason indicated that snow season is beginning early this year, on Oct. 28th, rather than in November. Routes will be going out at night and there will be 24-hour coverage when needed during snow storms. New Brine trucks have been added this year for pre-treating highways and hilly areas.

DOB – E. Jarratt, V. Seabrook

Ms. Seabrook reported that 2115 Burr Avenue received one violation for failure of safeguard. No stop work orders were issued.

3273 Westchester Avenue – 1 alt 1, removal of a commercial kitchen has been approved.

2018 Continental Avenue – The roof has already been repaired. No other complaints.

1820 Edison was disapproved due to lack of parking. Mr. Cruz indicated that this project warranted 9 parking spaces.

3551 E. Tremont, a former bakery, which is in poor condition with a leaning chimney received a chimney violation last year. No new applications for renovation have been issued.

1141 Cosby Avenue – 2 attempts were made to gain access in 2018 but were unsuccessful.

3109 Buhre Avenue – Mr. Cruz indicated that this address is a stalled site. They have a fence violation for not maintaining their construction fence. There is a stop work order in place and nothing has been done to remove it.

372 Balcom Avenue – received a violation for an illegal business on 2/27/19.

3531 Bruckner Blvd. – plans for a new building were disapproved on July 23rd.

2242 Lyvere Avenue - Mr. Cruz expressed concern about too few parking spaces at this site and asks that the agency be aware. Approximately 32 apartments have only 8 parking spaces.

Mr. Jarratt announced that Local 196 will be implementing safety training. By December 1, 2019 workers must have 30 hours safety training, supervisors 40 hours. By Sept. 2020 supervisors must have 62 hours of safety training and workers 40 hours. The construction industry has seen recent injuries due to safety issues, which is unacceptable.

Mr. Jarratt asked that residents be encouraged to avail themselves of the Homeowners' Night at the Dept. of Buildings at 1932 Arthur Avenue, on Tuesdays from 4 pm – 7 pm. It is a walk-in service for small businesses and home owners. Professionals are available to review projects and alleviate confusion. Mr. Jarratt agreed to drop off flyers to Councilman Gjonaj's office at 1478 Williamsbridge Road.

Mr. Cruz indicated that Tanjila of the Department of Consumer Affairs is unavailable today but is an active presence in our district.

DEP – E. Ardizzone

Mr. Cruz asked if DEP could please vacate 2722 East Tremont Avenue.

Ms. Ardizzone noted that the property owner was advised to hire a plumber and review his internal plumbing. He is the only resident making complaints. Hollywood Avenue had a whole host of homeowners complaining and it resulted in vacating the sewer.

The hydrant at 1069 Calhoun was repaired, but there is a small leak that requires a shutdown at this site. It is connected to a 20" watermain in this area.

Edgewater Park – residents have water pressure concerns. A DDC Project which just began should alleviate pressure issues. Existing mains are being upgraded. Requests for valve surveys are being reviewed.

Today the catch basins recently reported on Meagher Avenue are being repaired. Ms. Ardizzone indicated that no one complained about these basins in the past. Mr. Cruz relayed that it is very difficult to lodge a 311 complaint because of the location.

Ms. Ardizzone reported that hydrants are inspected by FDNY during the spring and fall, but DEP services them.

The Parks Department was not present. Mr. Cruz relayed that he is having difficulty reaching Zev Reuter and Abigail Bentley in the Forestry Department. They have not responded to his emails.

MTA was not present. The recent announcement concerning bus routes not changing was apparently premature and the final plan will be available in Mid-October.

State DOT Bridges and Tunnels was not present but responded to the Board's letter requesting that the Harding Avenue entrance be closed during certain times. They indicated that it is an all or nothing situation. The entrance must either be fully closed or opened. Mr. Cruz indicated that the decision should be made by the community during a Public Hearing.

DDC City Island Sub-Aqueous Water Main Installation – M. Caminero

Ms. Caminero reported that the agency is installing two new underground water mains from Pelham Bay Park to City Island. The Project should take slightly more than 2 years. Currently, work is being done on City Island Avenue.

DDC Throggs Neck Water Main Project – A. Raman

Mr. Cruz discussed the upcoming Veterans Day Parade and offered to send the route to Ms. Raman so that crews can make the route as safe as possible.

Ms. Raman reported that yesterday was the first day of work on this project on Prentiss Avenue. Ms. Ardizzone indicated that DEP has been doing test shut downs in conjunction with the project. Some water discoloration may result.

DDC Pedestrian Ramps in various spots – D. Aviles

Mr. Aviles indicated that DDC will be making sure that pedestrian ramps are ADA compliant in Boards 9, 10, 11 and 12. Repairs are completed in three days.

FDNY – Chief Robinskaglia

Chief Robinskaglia reported that FDNY is in the process of inspecting hydrants.

COVENANT HOUSE

A representative from Covenant House was not present. Mr. Cruz relayed that there are now 20 young men and women at the facility at 1550 St. Peter's Avenue and there are accommodations for 20 more residents. There have been no issues at this location.

DHS – N. Jordan

Ms. Jordan relayed that the agency is working on outreach enhancements with a goal of getting more homeless individuals off the streets and into enter service programs.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he contacts new buildings in the Board area to inquire if he can get them to accept at least one voucher.

PELHAM GRAND – K. Mann

Ms. Mann has a monthly tenant meeting but was unaware of an existing Community Advisory Board (CAB) and therefore has not scheduled meetings. Mr. Cruz will work with Ms. Mann to reestablish CAB meetings at this site.

Ms. Mann provided flyers concerning Apicha Community Health Center's efforts to link the uninsured and underinsured with the New York State Health Marketplace. A representative is available to assist with enrolling individuals in health care plans on Mondays at Pelham Grand.

NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – T. McArdle

Mr. McArdle announced that September is Emergency Preparedness Month and encouraged low lying areas to be aware of evacuation procedures and other emergency plans.

Mr. Cruz relayed that the Board purchased emergency preparedness go bags for the community and that he and Ms. Duffy will be taking an instructional course concerning preparedness. The Board will host distribution events and agencies are welcome to participate. Emergency Management partnered with Board #10 on several go-bag events which were successful and we thank them for their efforts.

HRA – G. Williams

Mr. Williams introduced himself as the Bronx social services liaison.

He announced that this October the “Public Charge” rule comes into effect. Any undocumented residents with questions on how this may affect them can contact ActionNYC at 800 354 0365. All are encouraged to continue using public benefits as needed. Mr. Williams provided flyers.

Mr. Williams next announced that in October the Fair Fares NYC Program metro card 2.5 is rolling out. Low income residents may qualify for half fare metro cards. Those receiving benefits will be notified by Access NYC if they qualify. Others can visit www.nyc.gov/fairfares to check if they qualify.

Mr. Williams distributed NYCFEPS and Source of Income Discrimination flyers.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL CLARK – M. Santana Tavares

On October 5th a 5-k run/walk/roll event will be held to raise awareness and prevent gender-based violence from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at 161st Street and Grand Concourse.

On October 26th from 9 AM – 4 PM the District Attorney’s Office will host Another Chance Event at 951 Rev. James Polite Avenue. This event provides an opportunity for warrant clemency, expungement of minor marijuana convictions and other lesser offences. Other resources will also be available. Flyers will be sent out later today.

OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ, JR. – A. Toledo

Mr. Toledo announced that today from Noon to 3 PM Free Flu Shots will be distributed at Veterans’ Memorial Hall at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451.

OFFICE OF SENATOR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI – M. Joyce

Ms. Joyce announced that the Senator’s office has moved from the Hutch Metro Center on Waters Place to 3190 Riverdale Avenue. Mobile office hours will be held every Wednesday at Bronx House and at Bronx Community Board #10 on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Ms. Joyce also distributed flyers concerning upcoming concerts.

OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMAAL BAILEY – A. Mesa

Ms. Mesa announced that the Senator’s office will be collecting water and canned goods for hurricane relief in the Bahamas on October 10th and 11th at three drop off locations.

A Caribbean Heritage Celebration will take place on September 21st from 11AM to 9 PM and will include a parade and performances.

Ms. Mesa reiterated the Mayor’s recent announcement that homeowners will not be issued violations for tree related sidewalk issues.

OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN MARK GJONAJ - F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin announced that the Councilman will be collecting canned goods for hurricane relief in the Bahamas.

The office of Councilman Gjonaj is partnering with the Bronx Jewish Community Council and will have a representative at their office every Wednesday to provide help with social services including HRA issues, Medicaid and senior issues.

A jobs fair will be held on October 1st. The flyer will be available later today.

Ms. Rubin indicated that the Council member continues to reach out to organizations and constituents concerning participatory spending. Volunteers are needed.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL BENEDETTO – M. McKay

Mr. McKay had no announcements.

Mr. Cruz announced that Bronx Community Board #10 will hold District Service Cabinet meetings every second month going forward. The next District Service Cabinet meeting will be on November 19th. Important matters can be discussed with individual agency representatives as they arise.

Mr. Cruz concluded the meeting at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen H. Kilkenny
Bronx Community Board #10