



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

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

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**Peter J. Sullivan**  
*Chairperson*

**Matthew Cruz**  
*District Manager*

### **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING September 18, 2018**

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:05 AM by having those present introduce themselves.

#### **Police 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct (NYPD) Lt. Hernandez**

Lt. Hernandez reported that violent crimes were down except for Grand Larcenies which increased. Theft of unattended property, items left in cars and scams were the most common types of offenses. There were 42 felonies out of 61 crimes reported. The NYPD is interested in providing a crime prevention seminar for the elderly who are most often targeted by scams. It will probably be held in Co-op City and the Board will be notified when more details are available. Bike thefts are up in the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct and Citywide.

Lt. Hernandez reported that operations have been performed at several area establishments:

Vapor Lounge - 5 summonses

Illusions Hooka and Mixology Lounge - 5 summonses

Casa Restaurant - 5 summonses (no sale to minors)

Lt. Hernandez noted that, overall, area bars are not serving minors and cater to of age patrons.

Tequilla & Mezcal received no summonses (near Castle Hill on East Tremont Avenue)

Summonses issued were not fatal for those establishments who received them.

Graffiti operations have taken place. Another is planned for this Thursday.

Lt. Hernandez reported that an NCO's Build the Block event is planned for Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 at Lehman HS for sector B. Sector C will hold their Build the Block event in November, Sector A in December.

#### **NYC Transportation Dept. (DOT) – D. Alcantara**

Ms. Alcantara reported on the following:

Maintenance of Jersey Barriers at "Killer Curve" in Co-op City is no longer expected as State DOT is planning to redesign the area so that barriers will no longer be necessary.

Requests for "No Littering/Dumping" signage along the Hutchinson River Parkway East, between Westchester and Wilkinson Avenues, and along I-95 North and South in Co-op City, should be submitted directly to DSNY.

Repaving Westchester Ave Middletown to Hobart Avenue requires new 311 complaint numbers as some patch work was done in the area and the existing requests were closed.

Double yellow lines on Westchester Avenue will be done after the Westchester Avenue overpass is completed.

Removal of the No Standing Anytime signage on Brush Avenue will be accomplished by the beginning of October, 2018.

The request for a Crosswalk on Schurz Avenue at Brinsmade Avenue, cannot be accomplished because a study of the area cannot be conducted by DOT until Consolidated Edison completes their work in the area. Mr. White of Consolidated Edison will try to establish when Con Edison's work in the area will be completed.

The Board's request for Alternate Side Parking on Givan Avenue is under review. Inspectors are determining how many signs are needed.

A report on the traffic light timing on Jarvis Avenue is due on Nov. 21, 2018.

Ms. Alcantara will establish if a traffic signal light is actually missing on E. Tremont Avenue at Lafayette Avenue, or if it was just misaligned.

Mr. Cruz added a request, that the *No Parking Anytime* signage on Roberts Avenue near Parkview Avenue, be removed to open up three parking spots to residents. Ms. Alcantara indicated that she will submit the request for a traffic study in the area.

Ms. Alcantara introduced Huscar Robles, of NYC DOT Bridges, and requested that DOT Agency representatives provide consecutive reports.

#### **Transportation Dept. – Bridges – H. Robles, R. Fernandez, A. Bayer**

Mr. Robles reported that the old City Island Bridge is currently being dismantled and the project is going well. The sea wall and Catherine Scott Promenade will be worked on before the Agency finishes in the area. He introduced Amanda Bayer as the new Unionport Bridge Project Liaison, and reported that the project is running on schedule, and thanked Councilman Mark Gjonaj's Office for the traffic agents which were placed at the project last week. Mr. Cruz thanked the Councilman and noted that the agents made a great improvement in moving traffic through the exchange. He also thanked the agency for performing road surface repairs.

Mr. Fernandez reported that the Westchester Avenue Bridge project is running well and is on time. Stage one, on the south side, is almost completed and Stage two, the north side, will begin shortly. A newsletter which details the project was recently distributed.

#### **Buildings, Dept. of (DOB) – S. Nuzzo**

Mr. Nuzzo provided updates on the following:

3250 Westchester Avenue – Plans are still in disapproved status. Only plans for HVAC work and partitions have been submitted.

500 Baychester Avenue Billboards - The Borough Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner and the legal department are evaluating the responses received from the owner and preparing Agency's response.

2115 Burr Avenue – the required 11 parking spaces were posted, however, the schedule A on the BIS website does not yet reflect that information.

3273 Westchester Ave. Alteration Application – Mr. Cruz indicated that this one story building will be going up two stories and in two or three years will need a C of O as a new building with no parking. This property is not an R7 or R6. They were able to get permits because the work was to correct violations. Mr. Nuzzo agreed to investigate further and provide an update to Mr. Cruz.

1218 Puritan Ave. – No plans have been submitted for this property and it can be removed from the Agenda.

2402 St. Raymond Avenue - illegal Auto Body Shop – This property was inspected, however, no evidence of an illegal body shop was observed and the complaint was closed. New 311 complaints should be filed if this issue resurfaces.

Mr. Cruz inquired about the increasing issue of curb cuts being extended illegally. Mr. Nuzzo presumed that the Environmental Control Board offers a zero penalty summons and offenders are given a cure date of approximately 30 or 40 days. He was unsure about the ramifications of not curing the violation. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will follow up with Councilman Gjonaj's Office on this matter.

#### **CAU – Office of the Mayor – F. Konneh**

Mr. Konneh indicated that the Mayor's Office is still moving towards establishing a Bronx animal shelter and has not pulled back the ULURP application for 2040 Bartow Avenue. He noted that the City is mandated to open an animal shelter in every borough and that this location is desirable, though the community's main objection to the shelter stemmed from their request for a community center.

Edwin Diaz of Councilman King's Office, reported that the Co-op City community thoroughly rejected the animal shelter. Their desire for a Community Center stresses the need to put the welfare of area children before the need for an animal facility. They are not opposed to an animal facility in the Bronx, but don't want it in Co-op City.

Mr. Cruz requested the month of December to host an IDNYC pop up site at Community Board #10, and was not opposed to having a mobile unit.

The Property Tax Commission will be holding their Public Hearing on October 13, 2018. Mr. Konneh indicated that he would like to discuss the property tax issues with Mr. Cruz.

#### **Department of Parks and Recreation – V. Davis-O'Neal**

Ms. Davis-O'Neal reported that there are no plans or available funds to execute the Builders Pavement Plan and remove the partition and restore Balcom Avenue. The Parks Department will support the Board's request, should it ask for funding.

Ms. David-O'Neal reported that the Ferry Point Park Development Plan is currently with the Law Department, prior to going out to bid.

### **Department of Sanitation**

Superintendent Mason was not able to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict, however, he visited the office yesterday and submitted a report to the Board.

The request for lot cleaning in the overgrown property behind 3290 to 3296 Griswold Avenue, and at 1531 Outlook Avenue Lot #107, have been resubmitted and will hopefully be executed shortly.

The area outside the fencing adjacent to the Sam Young Post property on Ericson Place at Zulette Avenue was cleaned.

Mr. Cruz discussed his plans to use Board funding to employ FEDCAP for site cleanup within the Board and requested suggestions of sites to target.

Ms. Viera-Delgado also suggested pest control mediation as a possible project.

### **Environmental Protection Dept. (DEP)**

Ms. Ardizzone was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict, however, she submitted responses to Agenda items to the Board via email.

She contacted DOT and requested notification when a CAR is issued concerning the sinkhole on Baychester Avenue.

The water main issue on Erskine Place is being repaired.

DEP is investigating sinkhole conditions at 3042 Harding Avenue; and at Locust Point Drive and Tierney Place.

### **Design & Construction, Dept. of (DDC)**

A representative was not present, however, Mr. Cruz announced that he is interested in obtaining information concerning a large-scale sewer project on Burr Avenue beginning this fall. No details of the project were submitted, as yet. Ms. Alcantara, of DOT, and Mr. White, of Con Edison, indicated that their agencies would be involved if the project is large scale, but they had not received notification.

### **Fire Department - EMT (FDNY – EMT) - A. Lessuck**

Mr. Lessuck reported that the FDNY is eager to work with community groups and the Board to schedule Winter Fire Safety Events to warn local residents of the dangers of extension cords, heaters, candles, etc. In hardware stores cheap extension cords are sold which are often the source of residential fires.

Additional smoke detector distributions are upcoming. FDNY and OEM events provide many opportunities for residents to obtain free smoke detectors. No residence should be without one.

### **Consolidated Edison – B. White; R. Infante**

Mr. White had nothing new to report. The Agency reported a good summer but remains prepared as it is still hurricane season.

### **Citizens Commission on Human Rights NYC (CCHR) – S. Miranda**

Ms. Miranda reported that CCHR will be working in partnership with the Unique People's Services on planning an Emergency Preparedness Clinic to help immigrant families prepare in case of ISIS detention. Assistance will be available for those experiencing housing, employment or other discrimination.

CCHR is planning to work on senior issues in the area, particularly subway accessibility (#6 Line).

### **Homeless Services (DHS) – N. Jordan**

No Update. Will follow up after the meeting concerning the case forwarded by the Board. Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Jordan for her assistance.

### **Crystal's Place – A. Sepulveda**

Ms. Sousa reported that Crystal's place has been meeting and exceeded housing placement goals.

They hosted a successful Back to School event for the children. Over 200 backpacks were distributed.

### **St. Peters Residence – A. Ortiz**

Ms. Ortiz reported that St. Peters met their target for housing placements. Summer Carnival was held for the children. 70-80 backpacks were distributed.

### **HRA – K. Charles**

Mr. Cruz requested that HRA have a SNAP satellite office in Boards 10, 11 or 12 for easier access to residents in this area.

Mr. Charles assured Mr. Cruz that a representative will be returning to Board #10 to facilitate SNAP benefits processing.

### **NYPL – L. Brown Baychester Branch**

Ms. Brown announced that the NYPL is hosting a library card drive aimed at increasing membership by 20 %. September 25<sup>th</sup> is voter registration day and September 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM will be the fall open house at all branches celebrating back to school.

A Jazz program for adults will take place on Friday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2 PM, at the Baychester Branch. It is important that people attend, as attendance dictates program support.

Mr. Cruz requested that libraries submit requests for needed capital projects.

Ms. Brown introduced the new representative from the Westchester Square Branch, Luz Marin.

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – M. Viera-Delgado**

Tomorrow outside the Bronx Courthouse from 10 AM to 3 PM there will be the first ever Bronx County Re-Entry Task Force Resource Fair for individuals reentering the community who are on parole or probation. Healthcare providers and other resources will be available. The Fair is also opened to the public.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a 5 K Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic Violence - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

The DA's Office is partnering with the NYPD for a gun buyback event on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-4 PM at the 40<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> precincts. Those surrendering a functional gun will receive \$200. It is important to note that all precincts accept firearm surrenders year round provided the weapons are properly submitted.

Ms. Viera-Delgado reported that her Agency is seeking 4 new employees at Community Affairs.

Educators are available to visit schools and other venues to provide motivational presentations aimed at young people at risk.

### **Office of State Senator Jamal Bailey – A. Mesa**

Ms. Mesa had the following announcements:

On September 20, 2018, from 6-10 PM, a Creative Quarter Event will take place at 4025 White Plains Road. Painting, photography, open mike, games, etc. will take place. Flyers are available.

On Saturday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Celebration for Unions and Caribbean Culture Event at 3352 Olinville Ave. A parade will take place from 227<sup>th</sup> St and White Plains Road at 11:30 AM.

On Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> the Senior Walk Program will resume in Co-op City on the Section 1 Greenway from 10am to 2 pm.

### **Office of Councilmember Mark Gjonaj – I. Gonzalez**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that Councilman Gjonaj arranged for traffic agents to be placed at the Unionport Bridge Project to provide vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Mr. Gonzales also reported that Councilman Gjonaj's Office is working with residents and the External Affairs Office of SUNY Maritime to resolve parking issues on Pennyfield Avenue. The college has increased parking on campus by 100 parking spots by having access to an additional garage. They intend to expand existing parking lots to accommodate 125 additional cars and are seeking funding to accomplish this.

The Councilman's Office is also working with DOT concerning signage on Pennyfield Avenue.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he would like to discuss access to the Harding Avenue ramp after the meeting.

Lt. Hernandez reported that 20 summonses for illegal parking were issued on Pennyfield Avenue shortly after school opened and that the 45<sup>th</sup> will do its best to patrol the street.

### **Office of Councilmember Andy King - E. Diaz**

Mr. Diaz reported that last Friday a Children's Healthcare Event was held in Coop City. Dietary advice, an obstacle course, archery, trainer exercise, and a nutritious lunch, were all part of the festivities.

A Youth Empowerment Program for ages 8-17 which allows children to develop skills is available. Contact Councilmember King's Office for more information.

### **NYPD School Safety Division – P.O. C. Jackson**

Officer Jackson reported that yesterday there was an altercation at Lehman High School.

School Safety is anticipating a great and safe year. Sufficient personnel has been assigned to the Division. Hotspots have been identified and will be monitored by the mobile unit, such as Dunkin Donuts and Westchester Square. It was also suggested that the new Plaza at Westchester Square be monitored.

Ms. Alcantara reported that DOT will be installing additional lighting at the Westchester Square Plaza.

Officer Jackson discussed Youth Court for young people which is a court system ran by young people. It is fully organized by young people geared to help avoid getting into more serious trouble. For low level offenses. The Center for Court Innovation sponsors this program.

Mr. Cruz reported that he maintains a column in the Bronx Penny Pincher and offered the resource to anyone wishing to carry important information to the public.

Mr. Charles, of the Human Resources Administration, requested that the public be reminded to check that eligible Senior Citizens have filed for Medicaid, Snap and HEAP benefits, so that benefits are in place before the cold weather begins.

**Office of the NYC Comptroller – A. Ortiz**

Mr. Ortiz discussed a recent audit of Parks Department's division of Construction Management. Parks will work on correcting issues.

Yesterday there was a Public Hearing on lead in Harlem. Testimony was heard from many who suffered the effects of Lead. Legislators have been concerned with the issue and additional hearings will be held in other boroughs.

The Comptroller's Office has received complaints about the Department of Finance not issuing property tax refunds. Mr. Cruz thanked the Agency for their assistance and reported that reimbursements have begun to take place.

The Comptroller's Office also received many complaints concerning fallen trees and power outages which are being investigated.

Mr. Ortiz announced a Black History event on September 24, 2018 and a Hispanic Heritage event on September 26, 2018. Both events will be honoring several worthy individuals. Flyers can be obtained by contacting the Comptroller's Office.

Bill White, Con Edison, added that the Energy Share Program for assistance with electric and gas bills started today. He will forward additional information.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Noreen H. Kilkenny  
Bronx Community Board #10