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Borough President

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

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Joseph Russo  
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz  
District Manager

### BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 VIRTUAL DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES May 19, 2020

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; Con Edison: R. Infante; DCWP: A. Roldan; DDC: M. Caminero; D. Aviles; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DHS: N. Jordan; DOB: E. Jarratt; DoHMH: E. Peralta-Downing; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou; A. Bayer; FDNY: R. Velez; MTA: J. Carter; HRA: J. Williams; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Marin, T. McCree; Parks: C. Acosta; V. Davis-O'Neill; Verizon: A. Horton; Assemblyman Benedetto's Office: M. McKay; Assemblyman Gjonaj's Office: F. Ruben; Comptroller Stringer's Office: M. De La Cruz; DA Clark's Office: M. Santana-Tavarez; Sen. Bailey's Office: S. Morello; Sen. Biaggi's Office: M. Joyce; (29)

Mr. Cruz opened the virtual meeting at 9:50 AM by welcoming Cabinet members as they joined. The formal meeting commenced at 10:11 AM. Mr. Cruz instructed participants to email attendance and submit questions for other agency representatives, as there were some technical difficulties.

Mr. Cruz thanked all for participating and expressed hope for the development of an effective vaccine that will protect us and restore normalcy.

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

Ms. Peralta-Downing reported that the agency continues to operate remotely. Inspections are being logged, but not taking place while the City remains on pause.

Ms. Peralta-Downing discussed recent statistics.

Ms. Peralta-Downing reported that she has been assigned to the Emergency Response Unit and due to additional responsibilities, may take a little longer to respond to emails. She reiterated ongoing health guidelines for preventing the spread of the Coronavirus: face coverings, social distancing, staying home when possible. New testing sites have been established and can be found by calling 311 or visiting [NYC.Gov/Covidtest](http://NYC.Gov/Covidtest).

Ms. Peralta-Downing also discussed how some children are being affected by COVID-19 related illnesses and advised caregivers to be alert to symptoms (abdominal pain, fever, rash, etc.) and seek immediate medical attention if detected.

Mr. Cruz invited Ms. Peralta-Downing to attend the Health and Human Services Committee meeting on May 28, 2020 at 7:30 PM to provide an update.

#### **NYPD – 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct – Det. J. Souhrada, Officer H. Rahn-Rivera**

Detective Souhrada reported that COVID-19 negatively affected staffing at the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct, but thankfully officers have recovered and are back to work as we prepare for the Memorial Day Weekend. Warm weather is expected and will pose challenges to maintaining COVID-19 safeguards of face coverings and social distancing.

Crime is down except for burglaries which are up 30% year to date. Grand Larcenies are also up due to car and tire rim theft.

Bars and restaurants are operating as to-go only establishments. A recent issue of patrons ordering to-go drinks and eating and drinking on the sidewalk in front of establishments has arisen. On City Island Avenue there were issues with patrons littering the street with to-go packaging.

Mr. Cruz invited the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct to attend the June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Economic Development meeting at 7:30 PM. Mr. Cruz indicated that the Committee would like to review as many liquor license applications and renewals as possible. Det. Souhrada requested that liquor license information be forwarded to him in advance.

#### **Fire Department of New York (FDNY) – R. Velez**

Mr. Velez reported that 4,000 employees have returned to work after recovering from COVID-19; 217 recently tested positive and are on sick leave.

Emergency call numbers have returned to normal. Calls were as high as 6,000 per day at the peak of the outbreak.

The agency continues with “virtual” fire safety instruction for school personnel and other agencies. To stay connected visit [www.FDNYSmart.org](http://www.FDNYSmart.org)

Mr. Cruz inquired about damaged FDNY call boxes. Mr. Velez requested that locations be forwarded to him for follow up.

#### **Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz**

Ms. Cruz reported that the work schedule is still being developed and will provide information on the following requests when it becomes available:

- lighting installation on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue
- lighting installation on East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner Boulevard to Miles Avenue.
- Installation of pedestrian ramps at Keane Square Park, DOT-407680-P2P5

Ms. Cruz is awaiting a response concerning the request for a capital reconstruction of Revere Avenue from Dewey Avenue to Sampson Avenue, DOT-426667-M4S1.

The request for repaving Ellsworth Avenue between Fairmount and Layton Avenues, DOT-400580-C1N5, and the request for repaving Barkley Avenue, between Wilcox and Clarence Avenues, are on the 2020 repaving schedule which has begun, but is being fulfilled on a week by week basis. The exact date of repaving these streets is not available.

Currently there is a data moratorium, and Ms. Cruz is awaiting responses from the Signals Dept. on the following:

Traffic Signal Request – Tratman and St. Peters Avenues – DOT-443718-F6T4  
Traffic Signal Request – Frisby and St. Peters Avenues – DOT-443719-M7G6  
All Way Stop Sign – Frisby Avenue and Rowland Street – DOT-443721-Q6L5  
All Way Stop Sign – Seddon Street and Maclay Avenue – DOT-443725-G5C9

A response to the request for “No Parking Anytime, 12 AM – 5 AM” signage on Schley Avenue between Brush Avenue and Hutchinson River Parkway – DOT-453560-V8P0 is due by the end of next week.

The right turn signal on Brush Avenue – DOT-453565-79G8, was deemed adequate, however a Leading Pedestrian Interval was added to allow ample time for pedestrians to cross.

The fallen signage at 3431 East Tremont Avenue, 311# 02471481 will be addressed. There is a backup on repairs.

The response to the request for traffic controls at the intersection of Edison Avenue and Harrington Avenue, Case # DOT-449247-X2X0 is due next week.

Ms. Cruz informed Mr. Cruz that the “Open Streets Initiative” is orchestrated by the Mayor’s Office. DOT implements the Mayor’s street designations.

#### **Department of Transportation – Bridges – A. Zhou; A. Bayer;**

Westchester Avenue Overpass – Ms. Zhou reported that the project is ongoing. The steel girders have been completed and concrete is being replaced. Scheduled lane closures went smoothly.

Unionport Bridge Project - Ms. Bayer had no new updates. The project continues moving forward and is running smoothly.

#### **Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) – J. Carter**

Ms. Carter reported that trains are being sanitized between the hours of 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM. She urged all to refer to the MTA website: [www.New.MTA.info](http://www.New.MTA.info). The site is updated regularly and the “Trip Planner” feature has been improved. Express Bus information is now available.

#### **Department of Design and Construction (DDC) – M. Caminero; D. Aviles**

City Island Project HED564 – Ms. Caminero reported that work is ongoing on the City Island and Pelham Bay Park sides of the project.

*Pedestrian Ramp Project: Will update after June DSC.*

#### **Department of Buildings (DOB) – E. Jarratt**

*Will update after June DSC*

#### **Consolidated Edison – R. Infante**

Mr. Infante reported that the agency will continue to work remotely through September.

The agency is preparing for a particularly hot summer and an active hurricane season. Residents should prepare for storm and heat related power outages.

**Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta; V. Davis-O’Neal**

Ms. Davis-O’Neal greeted all and referred to Mr. Acosta for their report.

Mr. Acosta reported that all playgrounds remain closed due to COVID-19. Ferry Point Park and its comfort station are opened, and social distancing is being strictly observed. The agency continues its work with less staff to allow for social distancing

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Acosta for the agency’s speedy response to an overgrown green street.

**Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) – A. Roldan**

Mr. Roldan reported that financial counseling is available remotely through the DCWP Website: [www.NYC.GOV/DCWP](http://www.NYC.GOV/DCWP)

Forms for ceasing debt collection are available on the website.

Renewal dates for sidewalk cafes are extended, and warning and consent fees are being refunded for those businesses that renewed during the crisis.

**Department For The Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez**

Mr. Melendez reported that the agency is currently working on an Elder Abuse Campaign to warn seniors of the rise in scams which target them.

Mr. Melendez discussed the Mayor’s COVID-19 Heat Wave Plan which is aimed at providing air conditioners to low income seniors in New York City to keep them safe at home during warm summer weather. Low income seniors will be notified by their case workers.

Mr. Cruz offered the use of the Community Board Office as a drop off site for air conditioners, and to assist with deliveries, if needed.

Mr. Melendez reported that seniors can connect with others through virtual visits while remaining safely at home through the Aging Connect Program.

**Department of Social Services**

**Homeless Services – N. Jordan**

Ms. Jordan reported she was not authorized to release COVID-19 statistics.

The homeless individual at Pelham Bay Station has an issue with his unlicensed dog. He will not accept services or enter the system without the dog. Officer Melendez is working with him to get the dog licensed.

Mr. Cruz noted that he has received complaints that at 5 AM NYPD officers leave Pelham Bay Park Station and homeless individuals enter and jump the turnstile to enter the train. Ms. Jordan agreed to see if the agency received similar complaints.

#### **Crystal's Place – R. Vazquez**

Mr. Vazquez reported that there have been no incidents of COVID-19 at Crystal's Place. The premises are being sanitized and residents are using masks and social distancing.

Mr. Cruz was delighted to hear that news and indicated that he might had some masks to drop off.

#### **Pelham Grand – K. Mann**

Ms. Mann indicated that of their 91 tenants, none had tested positive for COVID-19 or demonstrated any symptoms.

Staffing is down as those using public transportation to get to work have been staying home.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he would also try to get masks for Pelham Grand.

#### **Human Resources – J. Williams**

Mr. Williams reported that the Commissioner hosts a weekly webinar every Tuesday at 4 PM and encourages all to join. He reported that GET FOOD NYC has assumed the task of food distribution.

Waivers are still pending. Recipients of benefits can indicate identity residency and need online. Individuals can visit ACCESSHRA online concerning cash assistance, SNAP and Medicaid registration.

Pandemic-EBT cards will be issued to all children enrolled in free lunch programs in New York City schools. Families on SNAP will receive two payments which will be automatically added to their EBT card. Families not already receiving benefits will receive the card by mail. This benefit is available to all registered children regardless of family immigration status and totals \$420.

Mr. Williams indicated that the COVID-19 Heat Wave Plan will provide and install 74,000 air conditioners to low income seniors in New York City.

#### **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – E. Ardizzzone**

Ms. Ardizzzone reported that the agency is working with Riverbay Corporation on Flood Protection Measure upgrades in Co-op City. Project details were previously emailed.

#### **New York Public Library (NYPL) – L. Brown, L. Marin, T. McCree**

Ms. Marin, Westchester Square Branch, reported that there were no updates. Virtual programming continues: [www.NYPL.org](http://www.NYPL.org) website.

Ms. Brown, of the Co-op City Branch, and Ms. McCree, of the City Island Branch, also wished everyone well and promoted the NYPL website.

#### **Office of New York State District Attorney Darcel Clark – M. Santana-Tavarez**

Ms. Santana-Tavarez had no updates to report.

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**Office of New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – M. Joyce**

Ms. Joyce reported that the Senator's Office continues to function remotely and has been focusing on unemployment insurance issues and constituent services. She thanked District Manager Cruz for assisting with recent food deliveries sponsored by the Senator along with Senator Bailey and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez. Senator Biaggi has also been distributing hand sanitizer and face masks.

Senator Biaggi will host Virtual Town Hall Events on Mental Health Awareness and Sexual Assault this Thursday. All are welcome to join.

**Office of New York State Senator Jamaal Bailey – S. Morello**

Mr. Morello reported that the Senator's Office continues to operate remotely. Senator Bailey has participated in recent distributions of food, hand sanitizer and face masks. Tomorrow the Senator will host a Healthy Living Healthy Cooking webinar and encourages all to register.

**Office of New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – M. McKay**

Mr. McKay reported that Assemblyman Benedetto's Office is operating remotely and has one staff member in the office per day. Assemblyman Benedetto has been involved in hand sanitizer and food distributions.

**Office of New York City Council Member Mark Gjonaj – F. Ruben**

Ms. Ruben reported that Assemblyman Gjonaj's Office has been distributing food and face masks. He will host a face mask give-away at Pelham Bay Park on Friday at noon. The Assemblyman will host a Virtual Town Hall Event with Westchester Square Bid on Thursday at 5 PM and on Friday at 4 PM on Domestic Violence Resources.

**Office of New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer – M. De La Cruz**

Ms. De La Cruz responded to Mr. Cruz' request for assistance in establishing a food pantry in Bronx Community Board #10. She indicated that she will investigate it and report back.

**Verizon – A. Horton**

Ms. Horton had no issues to report.

Mr. Cruz thanked all for their participation and concluded the virtual meeting at 11:12 AM.

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