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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 January 19, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; ACS: L. Harris; DCWR: A. Roldan; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: M. Caminero, L. Alfred; DEP: E. Ardizzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DHS: N. Jordan; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou; EMS: P. Miano; FDNY: R. Velez; NYCEM: Y. Duarte; Verizon: A. Horton; NYPD: Det. J. Souhrada; NYPL: L. Brown, T. McCrae, L. Velazquez Torres, M. Ramos-Lugo; Parks: K. Zagorski; V. Davis-O'Neill; District Attorney Darcel Clarke's Office: M. Santana; Sen. Bailey's Office: A. Meza; Borough President R. Diaz, Jr.'s Office: I. Gonzalez; Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office: V. Martinez (27)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:06 AM by welcoming Cabinet members and wishing them a Happy New Year. He expressed hope that the Covid-19 vaccine will expedite a return to normalcy and offered the resources of his office to anyone needing assistance.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) - E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone reported that her Agency met with Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives recently concerning the repair of flooding issues on Orchard Beach Road. Several non-DEP catch basins were found to be clogged. DOT is following up on this issue. Technically, this is a Department of Parks & Recreation road, but because it is a busy roadway the matter is complicated.

Ms. Ardizzone also commented on the issue of two catch basins at the base of the entrance to the Hutchinson River Parkway south off Westchester Avenue. This area is not the jurisdiction of the Agency and they have forwarded the request for repair to State DOT.

Ms. Cruz of the Department of Transportation indicated that the issue is still under review.

NYPD 45th Precinct – Det. J. Souhrada

Detective Souhrada wished all a Happy New Year. He reported that crime is down for the 28-day period of 2021. He reported that a temporary site was set up to administer vaccinations to NYPD personnel at the Rodman's Neck Firing Range for two days.

The testing site in Co-op City at 105 Dreiser Loop may be converted to a vaccination site in the future.

The 45th Precinct welcomes Captain Isaac Soberal as their new captain. He was born and raised in the Bronx and the department looks forward to working with him.

Ms. Simmons, Citizens Commission on Human Rights, inquired if the precinct was aware of drag racing on the Hutchinson River Parkway, outside of the Bay Plaza Mall.

Det. Souhrada indicated that the Department is aware of the issue and is partnering with other agencies to perform check points to thwart the racing. The area is being monitored; however, NYPD is not permitted to engage in high-speed chases. Rather, officers communicate with other patrols in an effort to cut them off in a safe way.

Mr. Cruz also mentioned the drag racing problem in the vicinity of Harding and Pennyfield Avenues. Det. Souhrada indicated that a speed camera was erected in this vicinity, which may have caused the racing to move to a different location on Harding Avenue. This area is also being monitored.

FDNY/EMS – R. Velez, P. Miano

Mr. Miano reported that EMS response times are under seven minutes. Members are being vaccinated against Covid-19. He wished all a Happy New Year and provided his email for anyone needing to contact him: EMSPaul.Miano@fdny.nyc.gov

Mr. Velez reported that the Department is sponsoring virtual fire safety presentations. Mr. Cruz invited Mr. Velez to schedule a presentation for the February 10, 2021, Municipal Services Committee meeting.

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) – Y. Duarte

Ms. Duarte announced the John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service, a paid fellowship offered to ten New York City area graduate students: [John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service - NYCEM](#)

The 9th Annual Symposium: *The Rise of Community During Emergencies* will be held on January 28, 2021, at 10 AM. Register at: [2021 Symposium: The Rise of Community During Emergencies Tickets, Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

The following links provide additional helpful information:

[Ready New York - Calendar & Toolkits - NYCEM](#)

[NYC Severe Weather](#)

[Prep Talk - Episode 58: NYC Snow Operations 2020 by NYC Emergency Management | Free Listening on SoundCloud](#)

Department of Transportation – D. Cruz

Ms. Cruz reported that the Board's request for street light repair at 925 Throggs Neck Expressway DOT -486721-H9F9 is due by the beginning of April 2021.

Mr. Cruz requested a site visit to discuss issues raised by Co-op City residents during the Bruckner-Hutch Mobility Improvements Project presentation by State DOT at the January Municipal Services Committee meeting.

Ms. Cruz did not have an update on the approved lighting installation on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue, but indicated that the lighting installation on East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner to Miles Avenue is expected to be completed in 2021.

Ms. Cruz indicated that reconstruction of Revere Avenue from Dewey to Sampson Avenues, DOT-426667-M4S1, was not in the current 10 Year Capital Plan, but will be requested. Spot repairs to this street may have already been done.

The Traffic Signals Department is being slowly reopened. The request for a traffic signal at Balcom and Schley Avenues will be resubmitted.

Responses to Speed Hump study requests at the following locations are due in March 2021:

LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues DOT 406830-K0G5
Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues, DOT-406830-M9C8

The request for a traffic signal at Tratman Avenue and St. Peters Avenue – DOT-443718-F6T4, was denied.

The request for traffic controls at the intersection of Edison Avenue and Harrington Avenue - case # DOT-449247-X2X0, was denied.

The following requests remain under review:

Traffic signal at Frisby and St. Peters Avenue – 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
Request for stop signs on Dean Avenue at Barkley to create a 4-way Stop DOT-481162-C7K8

Removal of No Parking signs in front of 3006 Middletown Road, a former funeral parlor, is due by the end of February.

Removal of No Parking sign at 1524 Parker Street – church request - DOT-474756-X3G, was approved and should be accomplished before the end of February.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the agency responsible for maintaining the property in Co-Op City along the Hutchinson River Parkway East and Bartow Avenue, which runs down to the Hutchinson River, is still being determined.

Mr. Cruz requested assistance in arranging the removal of several illegally parked vehicles on City Island, on DOT property, just off the City Island Bridge. Ms. Cruz agreed to assist.

Westchester Avenue Overpass Rehabilitation – A. Zhou

Ms. Zhou reported that the Westchester Avenue Overpass Project is proceeding well and is in Stage 3. The project has had a traffic shift with one west bound lane closing and another opening. The west bound pedestrian path is fully opened. The project is expected to be completed in approximately a year and a half. Most work is performed at night.

Mr. Cruz indicated that the Unionport Bridge Project is proceeding smoothly and should also be completed in approximately a year and a half.

Department of Design and Construction – Lisa Albert, M. Caminero

Ms. Albert reported that the Burr Avenue Water and Sewer Replacement Project SEX20047 is ahead of schedule and no work operations are scheduled for the next two weeks. Project completion is predicted for Sept/Oct 2021, rather than 2022.

Mr. Cruz was pleased to hear that the project is so far ahead of schedule.

City Island Project HED564 – Ms. Caminero reported that the project is going well. The north tunnel casing pipe has been completed. Workers are preparing to push the south casing pipe into place later this week.

Consolidated Edison – R. Infante

Mr. Infante wished all a Happy New Year.

He reported that gas inspections are going smoothly and without complaints.

The connection with Mr. Infante was not clear. Mr. Cruz indicated that he would call Mr. Infante after the meeting.

Department of Parks and Recreation – K. Zagorski, Valerie Davis-O’Neill

Ms. Zagorski indicated that the agenda item concerning 3714 Ampere Avenue could not be located. Ms. Davis-O’Neill confirmed that the address was incorrect, and that the agency had previously responded to this inquiry. She will forward the email. (Address: 3174)

Ms. Zagorski announced that a meeting is scheduled for Jan. 21st, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, to discuss the construction of a new skate park at Orchard Beach. Mr. Cruz indicated that this conflicts with the January General Board meeting but will try to have a representative attend.

Department of Sanitation (DSNY) – Superintendent M. Barry

Mr. Cruz introduced and welcomed the new Superintendent of District 10, Matthew Barry. He has been a Superintendent in the Bronx for over a year at various locations.

Superintendent Barry indicated that snow preparedness is his top priority. Today, the day after a holiday, (Martin Luther King Day), the agency will focus on regularly scheduled trash and recycling collection, then double back to collect yesterday’s holiday trash. That which is not collected from Monday, will be taken on the next scheduled collection day, which is Thursday.

Mr. Cruz discussed the problem of residents using litter baskets to deposit household trash. Superintendent Barry indicated that if the Department cannot manage the amount of trash being deposited in the litter baskets, paperwork can be submitted to request removal. Baskets on Westchester Avenue in Pelham Bay, between St. Paul Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard, as well as on East Tremont Avenue at Dudley, Harrington and Coddington Avenues, are particularly problematic. Mr. Cruz inquired about getting litter baskets with a restricted opening to only accommodate street litter rather than household trash. Superintendent Barry indicated that high-end baskets are costly and are typically sponsored by elected officials, BIDs or local businesses. These baskets often result in residents depositing their household trash on the floor beside the high-end baskets and additional trash in the street. Superintendent Barry pledged to increase efforts to keep litter baskets clean.

Department for the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez reported that seniors sixty-five and older are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. He encouraged those eligible to access vaccine information: vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or 877-VAX4NYC. He also encouraged anyone experiencing social isolation to reach out for assistance. Friendly Visiting and Friendly Voices programs assist in combating social isolation. The agency is proud to report that it has made wellness calls to 2.7 million seniors throughout the city and has partnered with the community. Mr. Melendez extended best wishes to all for a Happy New Year.

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Melendez and the Agency for helping seniors with meals and more during the pandemic.

DHS – N. Jordan

Ms. Jordan wished all a Happy New Year. She had no new announcements other than that there are still no in-person Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings taking place due to COVID-19, however, virtual meetings/conference calls can be scheduled if needed.

The Blondell Commons facility is scheduled to open in December of 2022.

Jermaine Williams has been reassigned to other duties but will continue to respond to emails when possible. Mr. Kenneth Charles is available to assist but is covering several boroughs. Ms. Jordan advised that emails be sent to both Mr. Williams and Mr. Charles and that she be copied to ensure a timely response. Agency resources are spread very thin.

Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) – B. Simmons

Ms. Simmons thanked Mr. Cruz for helping resolve an issue at Bay Plaza recently.

The Agency will be hosting a virtual presentation on January 28, 2021, 6 – 8 PM. 5-6 panelists will provide information on COVID -19 and available resources. An event flyer will be provided for distribution.

New York Public Library (NYPL) – L. Brown, T. McCrae, L. Velazquez-Torres, M. Ramos

Lugo

Ms. Brown, of the Co-op City Branch, wished all a Happy New Year and announced that the New York Public Library will observe a change in hours. The new hours will be from 11AM – 5 PM for Grab-and-Go Services. A variety of interesting on-line programs are also available.

Ms. Velazquez-Torres wished all a Happy New Year. She announced that the Throggs Neck Branch is conducting two wonderful book discussions on New Year Resolutions – January 20, 2021 at 3:30 PM and, for the adult book club, on January 29, 2021 at 3 PM.

Tiffany McCrae noted that the City Island Branch is now hosting live story time sessions for children in which stories will be read virtually, in real time.

Ms. Marin, of the Westchester Square Branch, also wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged all to take advantage of the many on-line programs available at www.nypl.org.

Mr. Cruz noted that we are fortunate to have a wonderful Library system with such dedicated representatives.

Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Office – M. Rondon

Mr. Rondon reported that the Mayor's Office is focused on promoting and providing the Covid-19 vaccine to New Yorkers. Multiple locations are active and more will be opening. Group 1B is currently eligible, which focuses on healthcare workers, front line workers and seniors. Mr. Rondon reminded all that even with the vaccine, we must continue to practice the core 4: wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, and stay home if not feeling well/get tested.

Mr. Rondon reported that an abandoned boat near the City Island bridge which was reported by Mr. Cruz is scheduled for removal.

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office – M. De La Cruz

Ms. De La Cruz announced that the Comptroller's Office is sponsoring a paid college internship available to undergraduate and graduate students. Participants will have an opportunity to work with different branches of the agency. See link below for more information and to apply:

[Summer Internship Program : Office of the New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer \(nyc.gov\)](http://www.nyc.gov)

Comptroller Stringer and other officials will host a Virtual South Bronx Town Hall meeting regarding COVID-19 issues, concerns, and resources, on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 6:00-7 :00PM. To register, go to: <https://virtualsouthbronxtownhall.eventbrite.com>, or call 212 669 4466.

District Attorney Darcel Clark’s Office – Marilex Santana-Tavares

Ms. Santana-Tavares indicated that she is happy to be back from maternity leave. There were no announcements other than that the office continues to work hard throughout the pandemic.

State Senator Jamaal Bailey’s Office – A. Mesa

Ms. Mesa extended best wishes for the New Year from Senator Bailey.

The Senator as well as Assemblyman Benedetto and Council member Riley are hosting a food give away from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at the Section 1 greenway in Co-op City. A flyer will be distributed.

Senator Bailey will host a Virtual Human Trafficking Prevention Event on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM. For more info: SenatorJBailey@nysenate.gov or call 718 587 8854.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.’s Office – I. Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzales wished all a Happy New Year and indicated that those interested in joining a Bronx Community Board can access the online application at:

<http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2021-New-CB-Membership-Application.pdf>

Consumer Affairs – A. Roldan

Mr. Roldan reported that Consumer Affairs has jurisdiction over general vending and indicated that there is a street vendor link on the Consumer Affairs website. The agency is focused on launching a public education campaign.

Food vendors are still regulated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Verizon – A. Horton

Ms. Horton reported that Verizon is focused on the 5 G roll out and small cell appointments.

Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) – L Harris

Ms. Harris announced the Safe Sleep Initiative aimed at providing safe sleep/suffocation prevention education for parents of children 0 - 12 months old. For information: [ACS - Safe Sleep \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.acs.nyc.gov/safe-sleep)

Mr. Cruz thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 11:09 AM.