



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 VIRTUAL DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES February 16, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; DCWR: A. Roldan; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: M. Caminero, L. Alfred; DEP: E. Ardizzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; Emergency Management (EM) A. Curtin; FDNY: R. Velez; DoHMH: P. Ferrante; NYPD: P.O. H. Rivera; NYPL: L. Brown, T. McCrae, L. Velazquez Torres, M. Ramos-Lugo; Parks: C. Acosta, V. Davis O'Neill; Mayor B. DeBlasio's Office: M. Rondon; District Attorney Darcel Clarke's Office: M. Santana; Sen. J. Bailey's Office: A. Meza; Sen. A. Biaggi's Office: A. Conolly; Assemblyman M. Benedetto's Office: M. McKay; Assemblyman M. Gjonaj's Office: L. Pekic; Borough President R. Diaz, Jr.'s Office: I. Gonzalez; Comptroller S. Stringer's Office: V. Martinez (29)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:08 AM by welcoming Cabinet members.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DoHMH) – P. Ferrante

Ms. Ferrante provided the 7-day positivity rate per zip code Citywide and in the Board Service Area: Citywide 8.59, zip codes: 10461-11.8, 10464 - 4.29, 10465 - 8.34, 10475 - 5.29. An overall slow decrease is occurring citywide. This success is due to adherence to core-4 protocols. However, zip codes 10461 and 10465 in Board #10 are very high.

2nd dose vaccines surpassed 1 million. Vaccine Finder based on zip code also conveys information on the number of vaccinated people.

Gov. Cuomo announced yesterday that those with underlying health conditions are now eligible to receive the vaccine.

Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Ferrante for her informative report.

New York Police Department (NYPD) – P.O. H. Rivera

Officer Rivera reported that overall crime is down 24%, but a few areas saw increases: Robberies 12 this year versus 8 the same period last year, burglary up 9 versus 6 last year, Grand larcenies 11 versus 8 last year.

This past weekend an additional sixteen officers and three supervisors were assigned to the Nightlife detail to oversee the smooth transition to indoor dining at 25% in our Precinct. Nightlife inspections were conducted on Saturday and Sunday on City Island and no violations were issued. Protocols are being properly observed.

Officer Rivera reported that the Traffic Division has been enforcing traffic regulations to alleviate the issue of overnight commercial trucks and extended parking on Balcom and Whittemore Avenues. Also, an upcoming heavy duty tow operation is being scheduled.

There was a fatal traffic accident at Bartow Avenue and Co-op City Boulevard at 11 PM on Saturday, February 13, 2021, involving a vehicle and an MTA bus. A passenger in the vehicle died and the driver is hospitalized. The accident is under investigation. Witnesses reported that the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed.

Last weekend there was a homicide at Pelham Bay Station. The victim was shot several times while sitting in his vehicle. No arrests were made, and the case remains under investigation.

Emergency Management – A. Curtin

Ms. Curtin reported that the John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service just opened. Graduate students selected for the program will participate in a nine-month paid opportunity to work in Emergency Management. Applications are due by March 22, 2021.

She reminded all that during severe winter month it is important to focus on winter preparedness. Go-bags should be winterized by adding a blanket and warmer clothing. Automobiles should also be equipped with a shovel, water, and non-perishable food in case of an emergency. Additional information is available on the website: [Emergency Management \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.nyc.gov/emergency-management)

The Agency is interested in presenting the general steps of preparedness to Community Boards during virtual meetings.

Department of Transportation, NYC – D. Cruz

Ms. Cruz will inform the Board when an update is available for installation of the approved lighting on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue. The lighting installation on East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner to Miles Avenue will take place in 2021, but there is no start date yet.

Ms. Cruz asked that an email requesting the resubmission for a traffic signal at Balcom and Schley Avenues – (DOT-384420-B5K3 originally denied) be sent. Mr. Cruz inquired if a traffic signal is again denied, if another form of traffic mitigation could be applied at this intersection.

Ms. Cruz indicated that she may have an update later today on the clogged catch basins causing ponding/icing issue on Orchard Beach Road, C7K8 X3G1

The removal of No Parking signs in front 3006 Middletown Road, a former funeral parlor, and 1524 Parker Street – a church - DOT-474756-X3G1 – should be accomplished by the end of February.

The signals department is slowly resuming traffic studies. The request for stop signs on Dean Avenue at Barkley to create a 4-way Stop DOT-481162 – should be updated shortly.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the next Agenda Item is not under the jurisdiction of New York City Department of Transportation: Maintenance inquiry – *The Board requests assistance in cleaning a piece of land in Co-op City along the Hutchinson River Parkway East and Bartow Avenue which runs alongside the Hutchinson River. A fence separates the roadway from the river. Piles of trash have collected on this narrow strip and cleaning is required.* Lt. Tirrado of DSNY Enforcement indicated that she will submit the site to the Lot Unit. This area is between Killer Curve and the shoreline in Co-op City.

Ms. Cruz requested that the following item be submitted in an email from the Board: *Request for site visit for Palmer Avenue exit ramp in Section 5 area.* Mr. Cruz agreed and indicated that this area has been the subject of many complaints. A speed camera or traffic signal would reduce dangerous activity at this intersection.

Ms. Cruz requested that the following request be submitted via email from the Board: *Street resurfacing request - Hutchinson River Parkway East from Westchester Avenue to Wilkinson Avenue*. Resurfacing work will commence at the end of March in the Throggs Neck area, Revere Avenue, Ellsworth Avenue and sites in Co-op City as well. Ms. Cruz will provide a case number once an email is received.

New York State Thruway Authority

A representative was not available, however, Ms. Cruz of NYC DOT agreed to email the Thruway Authority to request *Maintenance of two catch basins, on either side of the base of the Southbound entrance ramp to the Hutchinson River Parkway at Westchester Avenue*.

Department of Transportation – Bridges – A. Zho, A. Bayer

Ms. Zho reported that the Westchester Avenue Overpass Project is proceeding well. There were no further updates.

Ms. Bayer of the Bruckner Interchange project reported that the work underneath the bridge is done. The project is proceeding well.

Department of Design and Construction (DDC) – L. Albert; M. Caminero

Burr Avenue Project – Ms. Albert reported that due to inclement weather, the project was at a standstill. When the temperature falls below a certain temperature, water cannot be turned off. The project is gearing up to work on Westchester Avenue, Bruckner Boulevard and Burr Avenue. The Agency is surveying businesses in order to cause a little disruption as possible. Work may be conducted on weekends to minimize disruption. The Agency is very sensitive to the needs of the community and is striving to take everything into consideration while conducting the work.

Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Albert for her updates and good work.

City Island Project – Ms. Caminero reported that the 20” watermain placement was completed on one of the mains and they are now working on the second. Work will be starting on City Island Avenue between Bridge and Kilroe streets to continue the project.

Fire Department - FDNY – R. Velez

Mr. Velez reported that in Community Board 10 there were 22 structural fires in January. Two were suspicious. There were half as many fires this January than last January. There were 637 incidents in all. 376 EMS runs, which is about the same as last year.

The Department continues to offer virtual fire safety and CPR Classes. Virtual CPR classes are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 4 pm. Anyone can join. Groups also can receive instruction.

In May, the Fire Academy will graduate a class of 150 new firefighters.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone had no specific updates other than that the Agency is responding to an increased number of watermain and service line breaks up due to the cold weather. This is an ongoing issue during the winter months.

Parks – C. Acosta; K. Zagorski; Valerie Davis-O’Neal

Ms. Zagorski reported that the comment period for the January meeting concerning the proposed City Council project for a new Skate Park at Orchard Beach ends on February 19th. Parks is in the process of evaluating comments received. People are divided about installing a skate park. Some

wanted something larger and more advanced, others don't want the change. One volleyball court would be converted into the skate park.

Chris Acosta reported that his staff has been working hard in bitter temperatures to clear snow from overpasses and pathways. The Agency only has access to one plow and two pickup trucks to transport workers. Snow is cleared by hand and it is a difficult task.

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

Mr. Roldan announced that income tax filing season began on February 12, 2021. Assistance can be provided through scheduled in-person sessions, virtual assisted sessions, drop off and online information. For additional information visit: [Nyc.gov/tax prep](https://nyc.gov/tax-prep).

Mr. Roldan announced that on March 4th he will be transitioning to NYCHA.

Mr. Cruz thanked him for his efforts at DCWP and wished him success at his new position.

Department of Sanitation Enforcement (DSNY) – LT. Tirrado

Lt. Tirrado reported that in December, 238 summonses were issued in Bronx Community Board 10 for dirty sidewalks. 21 violations for snow and ice conditions were issued and 29 for shoveling snow into the street.

When snow falls during the overnight hours, homeowners have four hours after the snowfall has ended to clear the sidewalk. Tickets can be issued if no attempt is made.

Mr. Cruz conveyed an ongoing problem of household trash being deposited in corner litter baskets. Three-four location in Pelham Bay along Westchester Avenue between Continental and Pelham Bay Station and in the Waterbury LaSalle area on East Tremont Avenue from Dudley to Bruckner Boulevard. Basket removal may be necessary.

Lt. Tirrado indicated that 15 summonses had been issued in December for improper disposal of trash in other peoples' receptacles.

Department For the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez indicated that seniors can go online to Aging Connect for assistance in finding a vaccination command center.

Homebound seniors will be vaccinated after the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is approved as it is a one-time vaccine and requires only basic refrigeration. For now the focus is on vaccinating home health aides and those around homebound seniors in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus.

St. Peters Residence – E. Lici

Mr. Lici reported that there were no Covid-19 incidents at the facility.

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

Ms. Simmons announced the following events:

February 17th at 3 pm – Harmonious Relations, in collaboration with the Garden of Hope, will discuss Covid19 discrimination and other concerns.

February 18th at 6 pm - Black History Month Celebration of the 2nd Anniversary of the adoption of rules against Race Discrimination on the Basis of Hair

February 25th at 6 pm - Dominican Republic Independence Day and History Month Celebration will honor the achievements of Dominicans in New York City.

For additional information or to join contact Ms. Simmons: BSimmons@cchr.nyc.gov.

New York Public Library (NYPL) – T. McCrae; L. Marin; L. Velazquez

Ms. McCrae reported that due to Covid-19 restrictions the New York Public Library will not be offering in person tax services this year. Virtual assistance can be found on [NYPL.org/taxhelp](https://www.nypl.org/taxhelp). NYPL branches continue to assist their communities and offer a variety of online programming: [WWW.NYPL.org](https://www.nypl.org)

Office of Mayor Bill DeBlasio - Community Affairs Unit – M. Rondon

Mr. Rondon reported that City Island is the most vaccinated zip code per adult in the city. 25% of that community has been vaccinated. The area's low density, number of residents qualifying for vaccinations and resident first responders have contributed to this success.

Mr. Rondon reported that the City has the capacity to vaccinate 500,000 people a week. The highest amount of vaccinations has been 55,339 in one day. There is an insufficient amount of available vaccine to maximize the process. 10% of adults in New York City have been vaccinated. If the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is approved, vaccination of homebound residents can be administered at their door. This is a one dose vaccine and only requires standard refrigeration. Community Partners continue to help folks register for their vaccinations. vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or 877-VAX4NYC

Office of Congressman Jamaal Bowman – N. Vasquez

Mr. Vazquez introduced himself as the Operations Coordinator of Congressman Jamaal Bowman's Office. District offices are currently closed due to Covid-19, but staff are working remotely and will respond to calls and messages. Offices are located at 177 Dreiser Loop in Co-op City and a new location is being finalized in Yonkers. Congressman Bowman is invested in the community and is interested in matters concerning the Community Board. Mr. Vazquez indicated that anyone in need of assistance can contact the office at 718 530 7710 and leave a message. A staff member will respond.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – A. Connolly

Ms. Connolly reported that the office continues to work remotely. The focus is on vaccine distribution and helping seniors register.

Mr. Cruz offered use of the Board office as a food distribution site.

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – A. Mesa

Ms. Mesa announced that as part of Black History Month celebrations the Senator is featuring black authors in a virtual event this evening from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM. It will be live streamed on Facebook.

Senator Bailey is working with NYC Health & Hospitals to provide information sessions on the vaccine to constituents who have requested more information.

The office staff continues to work remotely and is happy to assist with any issues.

Mr. Cruz requested assistance from the Senator's office in getting the portion of the New England Thruway from exit 9 to 13 resurfaced. Ms. Mesa agreed to bring the request back to her office.

Office of Councilmember Mark Gjonaj – L. Pekic

Ms. Pekic announced that weekly food distribution and rapid testing efforts continue throughout the district. Councilmember Gjonaj is hosting a Rapid Testing Event on Friday, February 19th, at 3036 Westchester Avenue from 9 AM to 2 PM and on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 3397 E. Tremont Avenue from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Food distribution events take place every Friday. 2, 700 boxes of food were delivered last week. This week similar amounts will be distributed from 2:30 – 5 PM at the Greek American Institute, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard.

Tax Prep Services will be provided to those with an income of \$68,000 or less, on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1824 Bronxdale Avenue, and on February 25, 2021 on City Island, at 190 Fordham Street.

The Council member worked with the Waterfront Division of the New York City Parks Department and the Parks Commissioner to fund the removal of three abandoned boats in Pelham Bay Park. He is also working to remove one boat which is leaning against the City Island Bridge.

Ms. Pekic announced that the Councilman's office continues to work remotely and can be reached at 718 931 1721.

Mr. Cruz thanked the Councilman and his office for their tireless effort in assisting the community, particularly since the pandemic.

Office of Assembly Member Michael Benedetto – M. McKay

Mr. McKay reported that the Assemblyman's office has been open throughout the pandemic and that staff member alternately work remotely and in-person to ensure safety while serving the community.

Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark – Marilex Santana-Tavares

Ms. Santana-Tavares reported that the District Attorney's Office offers many online Concept Educational Programs which provide life skills for healthy relationships with peers and authority figures, problem solving, cyber bullying, substance abuse, gang awareness, etc. The programs target fifth graders through high school. There is also an adult/parent component for the program.

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

Ms. De La Cruz indicated that the Comptrollers' Office will be honoring Black History Month tomorrow, from 6 – 7 PM, with Congressman Jamaal Bowman in an event entitled "Trailblazers" and will highlight the fight for educational equity. Principal Joyce Coleman and others will be honored.

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

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the Borough President's Office is available for anyone needing assistance.

Mr. Cruz provided his work cell number 917 340-1440 and requested that anyone who had not already texted him, to please do so that they may be added to his contact list.

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