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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 March 16, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; DCWR: T. Rahman; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: M. Caminero, L. Alfred; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: V. Seabrook; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; Emergency Management (EM) A. Pennolino; FDNY: R. Velez; DoHMH: E. Peralta-Downing; HRA: J. Williams; NYPD: Det. Souhrada; P.O. H. Rivera; NYPD-Traffic: J. Melendez; NYPL: L. Brown, T. McCrae, L. Velazquez Torres, M. Ramos-Lugo; Parks: C. Acosta, K. Zagorski; Pelham Grand: K. Mann; School Safety: D. Cruz; Mayor B. DeBlasio's Office: M. Rondon; District Attorney Darcel Clarke's Office: M. Santana; Sen. J. Bailey's Office: S. Morello; Sen. A. Biaggi's Office: A. Conley; Assemblyman M. Benedetto's Office: M. McKay; Assemblyman M. Gjonaj's Office: F. Rubin; (33)

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

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DoHMH) – E. Peralta-Downing

Ms. Peralta-Downing offered to follow up on any outstanding issues. She reviewed the eligibility criteria for Covid-19 vaccinations and provided a list of pertinent websites/phone numbers (see below), which can be shared with the public. A state issued photo ID, such as a driver's license can be used as proof of residency and/or age. Appointments are necessary to receive a vaccine.

The vaccine help line: 877 VAX-4NYC/877 829 4692.

Fully homebound individuals can receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Homebound New Yorker interest form: <https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/homebound>

Covid-19 information by zip code is available on the DOHMH vaccine data page: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page>

Agency inspectors are returning to work;

however, issues are being dealt with on a case by case basis. All reported issues are logged and will be addressed.

Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Peralta-Downing for her report and looks forward to receiving his vaccine now that he is eligible.

DOHMH vaccine website: nyc.gov/covidvaccine

Vaccine site locations for eligible New Yorkers: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>

For groups eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine: nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution

Eligibility Flyer: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-1b-flyer.pdf>

- State eligibility guidelines: [Phased Distribution of the Vaccine | COVID-19 Vaccine \(ny.gov\)](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-1b-flyer.pdf)

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

Officer Rivera reported that overall crime is down for the 28-day period by 31%. Felonies, burglaries, and grand larcenies are all down. The department is working on removing overnight commercial trucks parked on Bruckner Boulevard and along St. Raymond Cemetery. A tow operation is being scheduled. Some ticketing has taken place.

On Sunday, March 21, 2021, from Noon to 2:00 PM the 45th Precinct will participate in a children's' Easter Egg Hunt at the Throgs Neck Little League field, 150 Throgs Neck Boulevard. Activities will be arranged by age: 0-4 at 12:30 PM, 5-12 at 1:00 PM.

All are welcome. No registration is required.

On Thursday, March 16, 2021 at 7:30 PM a Sector B - Build a Block event will be held at the First Lutheran Church, 3075 Baisley Avenue, Bronx, New York 10461, in conjunction with the Waterbury LaSalle Community Association.

Detective Souhrada announced that on March 31, 2021 at 7:30 PM a Nightlife Establishment outreach event will take place at the Greek Church, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard. Law Enforcement will meet with local establishment representatives to discuss re-opening procedures as we recover from Covid-19. Captain Soberal, District Manager Cruz and Community Council President, Mr. Bieder, will be in attendance.

Det. Souhrada reported that the Traffic Department has been issuing summonses. Ongoing tractor trailer issues and abandoned vehicles are citywide problems. A multi-agency tow operation is being planned.

Det. Souhrada indicated that delinquent cars in the Butler Place vicinity will be addressed in upcoming traffic activities.

Transit Police – Officer J. Melendez

Officer Melendez indicated that a Build the Block event for Transit is being planned. Information will follow when finalized.

Officer Melendez reported that there was one robbery in the 28-day period and that additional officers have been assigned to Transit during the morning and evening rush-hour periods.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) - Chief Miano, R. Velez

Chief Miano reported that emergency response times improved from 7 minutes 58 seconds to 6 minutes, 40 seconds during the period January 1, 2020 – March 15, 2020 and the same period in 2021.

March 16, 2021 is the 4th anniversary of the death of EMT, Yadira Arroyo, killed in the line of duty. A 6:00 PM vigil will be held in her honor and a moment of silence observed at 7:08 PM. Chief Miano thanked all for helping EMS keep her memory alive.

In February, there were 24 structural fires. None were suspicious. There were 333 medical calls and 709 total calls. There were 1,264 calls for the year.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Continued

FDNY Community Affairs continues to conduct CPR and Fire Safety classes.

Registration is open for free fire alarms and installation. For additional information and forms contact: Richard.Velez@fdny.nyc.gov

New York City - Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz

Ms. Cruz had no update on the approved lighting on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue. The lighting installation on East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner to Miles Avenue is expected to be done this year.

The agency continues to work with DEP on the clogged catch basins causing ponding/icing issues on Orchard Beach Road.

The requested 4-way stop at Dean and Barkley Avenues (DOT – 481162-CZK8) will be considered shortly. The traffic signals division is backlogged due to Covid-19 delays. An update will be provided when available.

Inspections will take place to access the requests for repaving Wenner Place, Rohr Place and Jay Place. Ms. Cruz noted that inspectors evaluate all aspects of a street submitted for inspection which may result in violations being issued.

Pothole patching is ongoing and Bruckner Boulevard between Westchester Avenue and the entrance ramp to I-95N/Bruckner Expressway will be patched.

Speed hump study requests have been delayed due to Covid-19. LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues, DOT 406830-K0G5 and Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues, DOT-406830-M9C8 will receive a response in approximately six months.

The issue of traffic congestion on Wilkinson Avenue from Hobart to Westchester Avenues – DOT-493294-R0B8, will receive a response by the end of May.

Mr. Cruz added the following recent requests which Ms. Cruz will follow up on:

Cleaning of the grassy hill at Fairfax and Baisley Avenues, which extends to the Throggs Neck Expressway.

4-way stop sign at Mayflower and Zulette Avenues (site of recent accident) DOT-494456-G9K8

Repave Radio Drive from Griswold to Lucerne – DOT-494509-Q4H0

New York State – Department of Transportation (State DOT) – T. Bayer

Mr. Bayer indicated that the agenda item concerning clogged catch basins at the base of an on ramp on the Hutchinson River Parkway is under the jurisdiction of NYCDOT

A request for cleaning debris along the Throggs Neck Expressway southbound between Lafayette and Philip Avenue, opposite 835 Throggs Neck Expressway, was also directed to the arterial maintenance department of NYCDOT.

New York State – Department of Transportation (State DOT) continued

A request from Senator Baily's Office for repaving of the New England Thruway north and south bound between exits 13 and 9 was forwarded to the New York Thruway Authority.

Ms. Cruz of NYCDOT indicated that the clogged catch basins on the Hutch would be cleaned next month.

Department of Transportation - Bridges

Westchester Avenue Overpass – A. Zhou

Ms. Zhou indicated that the project is going well. From March 15th to April 9th nightwork will take place with lane closures. One lane will be maintained in each direction. One lane will be closed to traffic on Westchester Avenue.

Unionport Bridge – A. Bayer

Ms. Bayer indicated that the project is progressing smoothly. On-ramp potholes were filled.

Burr Avenue Project – L. Alfred

Ms. Alfred indicated that the project was 38% completed. Installation of sewer piping on St. Paul Avenue, Continental Avenue and East 196th Street is underway.

Ms. Alfred thanked Mr. Cruz for helping with garbage collection and constituent issues.

City Island Bridge – M. Caminero

Ms. Caminero reported that new sub-aqueous water mains were inserted into newly drilled tunnels under the Eastchester Bay, from Pelham Bay Park to City Island. Currently, some water mains on City Island Avenue between Bridge and Kilroe Streets are being replaced. When the new main is ready, all mains will be connected to the new main and the older piping will be removed.

Department of Buildings (DOB) – V. Seabrook

Mr. Cruz requested certification that OCEA safety guidelines are being followed at 3531 Bruckner Boulevard. Ms. Seabrook agreed to check on this site and report back.

Ms. Seabrook also agreed to check on ECB violation corrections at 245 Throggs Neck Boulevard and provide an update.

Mr. Cruz will send an email regarding 1820 Edison Avenue - concrete issues.

The deadline for Local law 152 gas line inspections was extended until June, 2021.

The sign at 2925 East Tremont Avenue was issued a violation. No further updates required.

Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta; K. Zagorski

Ms. Zagorski indicated that the agency is preparing for the opening of Orchard Beach. The Orchard Beach parking lot will close at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Acosta reported that the agency is excited about the shoreline project behind Trump Links Golf Course on the east side of Ferry Point Park which will provide waterfront access to the community.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) - E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone had nothing specific to report. The agency is repairing the two leaking hydrants in Co-op City and will update the Board office when completed.

Department of Consumer and Workers Protection (DCWP) – T. Raman

Ms. Raman indicated that Ms. Veliz is the new agency contact for Board #10. Unlawful business practices can be submitted to the agency and will be inspected. Inspections were suspended due to the pandemic but have resumed.

The car wash on Westchester Avenue at the hydrant near the southwest corner of Mayflower Avenue is only present during warmer weather.

The agenda item concerning auto repair on Lawton Avenue between Quincy and Swinton Avenues can be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles, as they oversee autobody establishments.

Ms. Raman reported that NYC Free Tax Prep is available for those earning less than \$68,000. Tax preparation is available in-person (with IRS volunteers following Covid-19 guidelines), drop off and virtually. Visit [nyc.gov/taxprep](https://www1.nyc.gov/taxprep) for more information. Assistance in many languages is available.

General and street vendors should be in compliance before mid-May, 2021. Compliance enforcement will begin in June, 2021. Plans are underway to form a street vendor advisory board to access laws governing street vendors. NYPD will enforce unlawful vending. Multi-agency cooperation will be necessary.

Ms. Rahman provided the following resources:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page>
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/businesses/street-vendors.page>
<https://www1.nyc.gov/taxprep> or call 311 to request tax assistance.

Department of Sanitation – New York (DSNY) – Superintendent M. Barry

Litter basket monitoring is ongoing, and violations are being issued when possible. A slight improvement has been experienced in litter basket dumping.

The lot cleaning division is working on the request for cleaning in Co-op City, under the Hutchinson River Bridge at Killer Curve. Mr. Cruz realizes that this is a difficult area and may require DCAS to assist.

Mr. Cruz inquired about the condition of Givan Avenue behind Peartree Mall. Superintendent Barry indicated that this area was cleaned before the snow season and will continue to be monitored.

Department For the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez reported that Homebound seniors can receive the Covid-19 vaccine at home. He also urged seniors to take advantage of the Aging Connect website:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/about/contact-aging-connect.page> 212 244 6469.

Department of Human Services (DHS) – J. Williams

Mr. Williams announced that the agency continues to reassign staff to best serve Agency needs. Nicole Jordan is leaving the agency and will be missed. Eric Polito will be assisting Mr. Williams and can be contacted at: paulinoe@dhs.nyc.gov. Please continue to copy Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams will try to get an update on 1400 Blondell Avenue, the proposed 200 bed men's shelter.

If a constituent's HRA re-certification was due in 2020 to the present, constituents qualify for the extension waiver. If they already used the recertification tool, this time they must recertify. If they received benefits in February and recertification is due in March, they should call the recertification number: 718 557 1399. The extension waiver will trigger automatically. Mr. Williams requested that anyone who loses services be referred to him.

New recipients who haven't gotten their card yet can visit 1910 Monterey Avenue or 300 Canal Place, Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM to receive a Vault Card, a 30-day temporary card until their card arrives in the mail. EBT line: 888 328 6399 or Access.NYC.Gov.

The child support, Pay It Off Program, assists non-custodial parents with child support arrears. The agency will match payments made by the non-custodial parent. Visit nyc.gov/payitoff from March 1-31, 2021, for more information.

Pelham Grand – K. Mann

Ms. Mann had to leave the meeting before it was her turn to speak but provided an update via email.

The Pelham Grand remains Covid-19 free. To date approximately 25% of residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Alliance is now a vaccine partner, and it is expected that all residents will have access to on-site vaccinations shortly.

One resident has been acting out and required intervention from NYPD and DoHMH. He is receiving services and the situation will hopefully be resolved shortly. Ms. Mann believes that a Pelham Grand neighbor made a complaint to the Community Board concerning this resident.

New York Public Library (NYPL) – T. McCrae, L. Velazquez; M. Lugo; L. Marin; L. Brown

Ms. McCrae of the City Island Branch indicated that they are anxious to re-open.

Mr. Cruz inquired about a district needs statement request for a second story on the facility. He asked if the request was made formally to the City Council and Mayor. Ms. McCrae indicated that a formal request was not made since the building is not City-owned. Mr. Cruz indicated that the request must be submitted in writing to be considered.

Ms. Velazquez of the Throggs Neck Branch promoted online programming and offered assistance to anyone in need of program access.

New York Public Library (NYPL) continued

Ms. Lugo of the Pelham Bay Branch and Ms. Marin of the Westchester Square Branch also promoted online virtual programming and book pick-up services.

Ms. Brown of the Co-op City Branch thanked everyone for supporting the many available online programs and announced that on Saturday, March 20, 2021, outside the library on Ashe Loop, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto was sponsoring the mammogram van from 10AM to 4PM. Ms. Brown thanked Assemblyman Benedetto for his support.

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

Mr. Rondon promoted the Vaccine For All Corps. and encouraged anyone looking for a vaccination site to visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder.

Mr. Rondon indicated that Mayor DeBlasio's office can assist the Parks Department in alleviating flooding issues on Orchard Beach Road. Filling and leveling the road may be an effective short-term measure which the Mayor's office can fund.

School Safety – D. Cruz

Mr. Cruz was in attendance, but unfortunately, had to leave the meeting before his opportunity to speak. We look forward to Mr. Cruz' report at a later meeting.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – A. Conley

Ms. Connolly reported that office staff is alternating between in person and working remotely. The office is focused on vaccine distribution and helping seniors register. Ms. Conley suggested that Senator Biaggi's office may also offer assistance in procuring improvements to the condition of Orchard Beach Road.

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – S. Morello

Mr. Morello announced that Senator Bailey and Assembly member Fernandez will conduct a food give-away today at 2700 Bronx Park East from 3-5 PM.

Tomorrow, Senator Bailey will host a food give away with Butler Memorial United Methodist Church at 3921 Paulding Avenue from 11 AM to 3 PM.

On March 18 Senator Bailey will be joined by Speaker Heastie and Council Member Riley for a PPE Giveaway at 3444 White Plains Road from 2-4 PM.

Also, on March 18th, from 2-4 PM, Senator Bailey will distribute food at Tracey Towers, 40 W. Moshulu Parkway South.

On March 19th, from 2-4 PM, Senator Bailey, Speaker Heastie and Council Member Riley will host a PPE Giveaway at 229th Street and Broxwood Avenue.

Senator Bailey will celebrate Women's History Month on March 25, 2021 at 6 PM.

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Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – continued

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Office of City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj – F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin announced that as of March 19th, 50 % indoor dining will be permitted. Public high schools will open on March 22nd.

Councilmember Gjonaj is also participating in the 45 Precinct Easter Egg Hunt event on March 21, 2021.

Councilmember Gjonaj continues to distribute food on Fridays at the Greek Church, 3575 Buckner Boulevard, from 3-6 pm.

Ms. Rubin invited all to review the Councilmember's Weekly Newsletter or call 718 931 1721.

Free tax preparation for those earning \$68,000 or less is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, by appointment.

Additional events will be announced shortly, including a spay and neuter event and food giveaways.

Office of City Councilmember Kevin Riley – J. Yapp

Mr. Yapp indicated that Councilman Riley and his staff are looking forward to working with the community.

Councilman Riley is co-hosting a PPE giveaway with Speaker Heastie and Senator Bailey at 3444 White Plains Road on Thursday March 18th, and at 229th Street and Bronxwood Avenue on Friday March 19th, from 2-4 PM.

Additional events are being planned and flyers will be circulated, when available.

Mr. Yapp offered his contact information: 718 684 5509 jyapp@council.nyc.gov

Office of State Assembly Member Michael Benedetto – M. McKay

Mr. McKay reported that Assemblyman Benedetto's office is opened and ready to assist constituents.

Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark – Marilex Santana-Tavares

Ms. Santana-Tavarez reported that District Attorney Darcel Clark's office is open and ready to assist. The office is working with the 40th Precinct to schedule a gun buy-back event. Information will be circulated when finalized. Ms. Santana-Tavares can be reached at Santanama@bronxda.nyc.gov or 929 259 1042.

Citizens Commission on Human Rights – B. Simmons

Ms. Simmons reported that the Commission has been celebrating Women's History Month with several virtual events. On Tuesday, March 30th, from 6-8 PM a Women and Employment event with a panel of three community-based organizations will provide information and economic support for women looking for employment. A flyer will be sent shortly. Contact bsimmons@cchr.nyc.gov 718 306 3318.

Mr. Cruz announced that although post-Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted, District Service Cabinet meeting will continue to be held virtually. In time, some may attend physically, but virtual access will continue as it facilitates and improves attendance.

Mr. Cruz thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 11:42 AM.