



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
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 April 20, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; DCWR: M. Veliz; CCHR: O. Torres; DDC: F. Younus; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: V. Seabrook; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; NYCEM: L. Kitron ; DSNY: Sup. Barry; FDNY: R. Velez; DoHMH: E. Peralta-Downing; HRA: J. Williams; NYPD: P.O. H. Rivera, P.O. Sanchez; Parks: C. Acosta, K. Zagorski, V. Davis-O'Neill; Pelham Grand: K. Mann; St. Peter's Residence: J. Violet; Mayor B. DeBlasio's Office: M. Rondon; District Attorney Darcel Clarke's Office: M. Santana; : Comptroller S. Stringer's Office: M. De La Cruz; Congressman J. Bowman's Office: N. Vasquez; Sen. J. Bailey's Office: A. Meza; Sen. A. Biaggi's Office: A. Conley; Assemblyman M. Gjonaj's Office: F. Rubin; Council Member K. Riley: J. Antonetty; Borough President R. Diaz, Jr.'s Office: I. Gonzalez (32)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:07 AM by welcoming Cabinet members and informing them that the meeting was being recorded.

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

Ms. Peralta-Downing provided important resource information:

NYC DOHMH Website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/index.page>

NYC DOHMH Zip codes Data: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-neighborhoods.page>

NYC Vaccine Command Center: nyc.gov/vcc

DOHMH vaccine website: nyc.gov/covidvaccine

DOHMH vaccine data page: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page>

Vaccine site locations for eligible New Yorkers: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/> Vaccine appointment phone number: 877-VAX-4NYC Homebound New Yorker interest form:

<https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/homebound>

Ms. Peralta-Downing indicated that the homebound vaccination effort has resumed, using the Moderna vaccine. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is under investigation and use remains on pause.

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

Officer Rivera introduced Officer Sanchez who will be assisting while Detective Souhrada is on a brief leave.

Crime statistics for the 28-day period indicated that murder is up by one, rape remains at zero, robbery has increased to 8 this year to 4 the same period last year. Overall, there was an increase of 37 crimes for the 28-day period, however, crime for the year to date is down 19. Grand larceny was the area of greatest increase with 40 incidents this year as opposed to 16 last year. Many of these

New York Police Department (NYPD) continued

incidents involve unattended property left in vehicles, and vehicles left running or with key fobs inside the vehicle.

There were no food or drink establishment complaints.

The overnight traffic team is issuing tickets.

There are no scheduled protests planned for the Community Board #10 service area.

Mr. Cruz requested a meeting concerning traffic enforcement issues. Illegally parked commercial trucks and abandoned vehicles are becoming a significant issue in the community. Officer Rivera agreed to set up a meeting with Traffic Sergeant Offin.

Ms. Rubin, of Councilman Gjonaj's Office inquired when a burned car at the corner of Colonial and St. Paul Avenues would be removed. Officer Rivera indicated that she would follow up with the NCO officers and update Ms. Rubin.

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

Mr. Velez provided the March statistics. There were 26 structural fires. There were 72 fires for the year to date, which is less than half of the fires which occurred by this date last year. There were 392 medical runs and 715 total incidents.

Mr. Velez reminded all that the agency continues to provide virtual CPR Training and Fire Safety to those interested.

The agency is engaged in a "Close the Door" campaign to reinforce the importance of closing doors to contain fires and avoid spread. Doors should be closed, but not locked.

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) L. Kirtron

Ms. Kirtron reported that coastal storm evacuation locations will be changing. The agency is focused on safety during storms and other incidents such as water main breaks and sewer backups. Residents are encouraged to move to higher ground if outside or higher floors if inside, not to drive through large puddles and to be prepared by having a Go Bag ready for each member of the household.

Virtual Ready NY Events are a great way to prepare individuals and families for emergency events. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/ready-new-york-inquiries.page>

April is National Volunteer Month. Those eighteen and over are encouraged to join a Community Emergency Response Team. CERT training is available virtually on the CERT website: <http://www.CERTvolunteer.nyc>

April 16th was Stress Awareness Day. Covid 19 has contributed to an increased in stress and stress related diseases. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene offers a virtual stress management presentation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOCf0UrKVgM>

Mr. Cruz requested that NYCEM follow Bronx Community Board #10 on Twitter.

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

Ms. Cruz reported that the lighting installation on East Tremont from Bruckner Boulevard to Miles Avenue will begin next month. There was no update on the start date for the approved lighting on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue. Mr. Cruz was very happy to hear that the East Tremont project will soon begin.

The agency continues to work with DEP on a solution to 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.

Repaving of Wenner Place will be included in this year's schedule. Rohr Place and Jay Place will most likely be done next year.

Pothole patching is ongoing.

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.

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

The agency inspected Radio Drive and discovered a cave in issue. A CAR was opened and referred to DEP.

Miguel Rondon of the Mayor's Office inquired about the progress on resolving "Lake Orchard". His office continues to receive complains from City Islanders about dangerous flooding at One Orchard Beach Road and is anxious to see it resolved.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the Borough Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are working on the issue and hope for a resolution soon.

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Rondon for his diligence.

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Bayer of the New York State Department of Transportation for removal of a construction pylon/cone from the Randall Avenue overpass.

Department of Transportation - Bridges

Westchester Avenue Overpass – A. Zhou

Ms. Zhou indicated that work is planned on Ericson Place on Saturday, May 1st and 2nd. Full closures of westbound lanes on Westchester Avenue will be required and detours will be in place. Flyers will be provided.

Unionport Bridge – A. Bayer

Ms. Bayer indicated that the project is progressing smoothly. No work that influences traffic is taking place currently.

Mr. Cruz complemented Ms. Bayer on her agency's handling of the significant construction project underway in the immediate vicinity.

Mr. Cruz noted that the Westchester Avenue Overpass project and the Unionport Bridge project were both going well.

Department of Design and Construction (DDC)

City Island Bridge HED564 – F. Younis

Mr. Younis introduced himself as the new Community Liaison for the City Island Bridge Project. Ms. Caminero is on family leave. The contact email and phone numbers will remain unchanged.

Mr. Younis indicated that water main work is occurring on the City Island side of the bridge and the Pelham Bay side. Bike paths and sidewalks will be restored shortly. The bus stop in front of St. Mary's church will be temporarily moved from this Thursday, April 18th through next Thursday, April 22nd.

Mr. Cruz offered condolences to all concerning the recent gruesome killing of a Department of Design and Construction worker.

Department of Buildings (DOB) – V. Seabrook

Ms. Seabrook reported that inspectors visited 3531 Bruckner Boulevard and found no violations.

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

Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) – R. Infante

Mr. Infante reported that the agency made a presentation at the April 14, 2021, Municipal Services Committee concerning the City Island Gas Line Project scheduled to begin in the fall of 2021. The agency is awaiting permits and the fall start date will avoid interference with the summer busy season.

Mr. Infante also referenced a press release regarding the battery storage unit facility on City Island. Agency representatives met with Civic Associations regarding safety concerns, insulation, etc. The unit will help offset usage issues.

A Locust Point Gas Line Project will begin next month and continue until the end of the year. The project is similar to the Pennyfield Avenue Project which progressed without issue.

Mr. Cruz reminded Mr. Infante that the agency is also presenting the Locust Point Gas Line Project to the Throggs Neck Homeowners Association on April 27th at 7:30 PM, virtually.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Ms. Ardizzone requested the specifics of the Radio Drive CAR issued by DOT.

Seasonal positions are available for green infrastructure maintenance, \$16.00 per hour.

Ms. Ardizzone of DEP indicated that Orchard Beach Road flooding is a DOT/Parks Department issue. It is Parks Department property and the infrastructure in question does not belong to DEP. Catch basins at this site are not being maintained. She noted that the issue is also included in a letter from City Island Rising which was sent to all three agencies, the Community Board, and elected officials.

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

Ms. Zagorski reported that the agency presented the Orchard Beach Pavilion Design to Community Board #10 on April 18, 2021. The design phase of the project is approximately 50% completed. Construction should begin in late 2022.

No further updates are available on the Orchard Beach Skate Park. Collected comments are still being reviewed.

The agency is preparing for Orchard Beach opening day on Memorial Day Weekend. The parking lot will close at 7 PM.

Ms. Zagorski was unsure if any of the usual opening day events will be held due to Covid-19 concerns.

Earth Day will be celebrated at Pelham Bay Park on Sunday, April 25th at 10 AM.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he and his partner intend to be volunteers for the Earth Day festivities. He also noted that the pavilion plans look beautiful.

Department of Consumer and Workers Protection (DCWP) – M. Veliz

Ms. Veliz reported that the agency has assumed general vendor enforcement from the NYPD. Outreach is currently underway. Street vendors without permits are receiving warnings and information concerning permit requirements.

NYC Free Tax Prep Services are extended to May 17, 2021 for returns reflecting earnings of \$68,000 or less, or \$48,000 per individual.

The agency is offering financial counselling via 311.

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

Superintendent Barry agreed to accompany Mr. Cruz in a drive around the district to inspect problem areas.

Superintendent Barry indicated that the district will be receiving access to a truck for Sunday basket collections.

Department of Sanitation – New York (DSNY) continued

Miguel Rondon of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs inquired if the added Sunday pickup would service baskets on Crosby Avenue.

Superintendent Barry indicated that he hasn't designated the route yet, but will target all the problem areas, including Crosby Avenue.

Department for the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez reported that the agency launched Ageless New York, a program to combat agism. Many older adults continue normal activities. The program encourages rethinking our approach to aging.

The Mayor announced the Community Cares Program which expands services for older adults to facilitate their ability to age in place rather than entering care facilities. Services to NORCs would also be expanded.

Mr. Melendez indicated that he emailed information and is available to discuss these programs further.

Department of Human Services (DHS) – J. Williams

Mr. Williams announced that the 2021 HEAP Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) opens on May 3rd for those qualifying for up to \$800 for a new air conditioner or fan, or repairs to an existing unit. The program runs through August 31, 2021, on a first come, first served basis to eligible applicants until funding is exhausted.

Mr. Williams reported that lack of response to the Cash Assistance Six-Month Mailer due between January 1 and June 30, 2021 will not trigger a suspension of benefits.

Medicaid cases with authorization ending July 2020 through June 2021 will be automatically extended for 12 months. The agency is striving to facilitate procedures for clients and staff.

For assistance call: 718 557 1399. AccessHRA provides updates and is an effective resource.

St Peter's Residence – J. Violet

Ms. Violet indicated that there are no announcements other than that things are going smoothly at St. Peter's Residence.

Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) – O. Torres

April is fair housing month.

On May 24th the agency is offering an Employment and Housing Protection Workshop at the Pelham Bay Branch library.

The agency is working with City Island Rising and will provide a Bystander Intervention virtual program. Other programs will be provided in the future.

Mr. Torres reported that the office will be reopening in a limited capacity on May 3rd and encouraged all to continue to call or email the office before visiting. ortorres@cchr.nyc.gov

Pelham Grand – K. Mann

Ms. Mann reported that of the 90 residents at Pelham Grand, 70 % are over the age of fifty. All are encouraged to get the vaccine. There have been no cases of Covid-19 to date at Pelham Grand.

Ms. Mann reported that the one resident who had been causing disturbances has been relocated. DoHMH assisted with the relocation.

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

Mr. Rondon reported that it has never been easier to get vaccinated. Anyone over 16 years of age is eligible and can call 877 VAX-4NYC to find a location. Walk ups are available for those 60 years of age and older. See the NYC.gov website for sites offering walk up vaccines.

Mr. Rondon reported that registration for the Summer Rising Program for children in Kindergarten through 8th grades opens on April 26 and can be accessed on the DYCD website.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/index.page>

Mr. Rondon was happy to report that in this year's budget, New York City schools are fully funded by the State and Federal Government.

Mr. Infante of Consolidated Edison inquired if Mr. Rondon was aware of Vietnamese American and Asian American associations in the Jerome Avenue vicinity of the Bronx. The agency is interested in doing outreach to the community and seeks assistance.

Mr. Rondon provided website information for MEKONG, an active association in the Fordham Road area, and LAAL, a citywide group: <https://mekongnyc.org> <https://www.laalnyc.org>

Mariel De La Cruz from the Comptroller's Office provided the Sapna NYC organization website: <http://www.sapnanyc.org>. Sapna NYC services low-income South Asian Immigrant women.

Office of Congressman Jamaal Bowman – N. Vasquez

Mr. Vasquez indicated that the office continues to function remotely and has been focused on immigration and stimulus check issues.

The US Botanical Gardens is offering \$10,000 - \$20,000 grants for Urban Agricultural Resilience programs. https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NcZX8Y5ncgcYMm

Mr. Cruz indicated that he and the Board Chair, Joseph Russo, would like to virtually meet with Representative Bowman. Mr. Vasquez will arrange a meeting and indicated that the Congressman is also interested in attending a General Board meeting.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – A. Conley

Ms. Conley was present but had to leave the meeting prior to having an opportunity to speak. Anyone in need of assistance should contact her at: angela@senatorbiaggi.com or (718) 822-2049

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – A. Meza

Ms. Meza reported that Senator Bailey remains active with multiple PPE and food giveaways. His office is open to location suggestions for future distributions.

The State Budget was passed, and as discussed schools have been fully funded. There were some budget cuts which Ms. Meza is available to discuss.

Meza@nysenate.gov General: 718-547-8854 Senatorjbailey@nysenate.gov

Office of City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj – F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin reported that Councilman Gjonaj's Office continues to distribute food on Fridays at the Greek American Church in Pelham Bay from 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM.

Covid-19 vaccines are available on Wednesdays and Sundays in the vicinity of White Plains Road. Call the office for an appointment 718 931 1721.

Free Tax Prep is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays and this Saturday, by appointment only, through May 16th.

A pet food giveaway was held on City Island last weekend. It was a successful, well-attended event.

Details will follow concerning future town hall events in May and June.

Office of City Council Member Kevin Riley – J. Antonetty

Mr Antonetty was present but had to leave the meeting before having an opportunity to speak. Anyone seeking assistance can contact Mr. Antonetty: (718) 684-5509/JAntonetty@council.nyc.gov

Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark – M. Tavarez-Santana

Ms. Tavarez-Santana was present but had to leave the meeting before having an opportunity to speak.

Office of New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer – Mariel de la Cruz

Ms. Cruz provided the LGBTQ Resource Guide: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/lgbtq-guide/overview/>

Anyone seeking assistance can contact the Comptroller's Office for assistance: mdelacr@comptroller.nyc.gov / 212-920-9501.

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

Mr. Gonzalez was present but had to leave the meeting prior to having an opportunity to speak. He indicated that anyone in need of assistance should contact him at 347-259-8073; lgonzalez@bronxbp.nyc.gov

Mr. Cruz thanked representatives for their participation and concluded the meeting at 11:25 AM.