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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 May 18, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; DCWR: M. Veliz; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: M. Pierre-Louis; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: V. Seabrook; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; NYCEM: Y. Duarte, M. Eberle; DSNY: Sup. Barry; DSNY Enforcement: Sgt. McKenzie; DOF: M. Sharp; FDNY – R. Velez; DoHMH: E. Peralta-Downing; HRA: J. Williams; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Marin, T. McCrae, M. Ramos-Lugo, Velazquez Torres; Parks: C. Acosta, K. Zagorski, V. Davis-O'Neill; 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 (34)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:06 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 reported that the agency encourages all to continue testing and get vaccinated. Testing/Vaccination sites are available in all five boroughs; some offer walk-in services. Homebound residents should complete the Homebound Vaccination Form to schedule accommodations for receiving their vaccines.

Ms. Peralta-Downing indicated that the agency is still transitioning, and all inspectors have not yet returned to work. She requested that complaints be forwarded to her and they will be inspected as soon as possible. She indicated that many factors affect the turnaround time for inspections, including location and number of infractions.

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>
- ☐ Making an appointment:
- ☐ 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>

New York City Fire Department - Richard Velez

Mr. Velez reported that the agency offers virtual fire safety and CPR classes and has resumed tabling events in person. The smoke house display vehicle is back in service for large events. Applications for free in-home smoke alarm installations are available upon request: richard.velez@fdny.nyc.gov

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) Y. Duarte; M. Eberle

Though the Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins on June 1st, May 9 – 15, 2021 is Hurricane awareness week. The agency encourages all to consult the [NYC.gov/knowyourzone](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/share-your-space-survey.page) website for Coastal Storm Evacuation Zone changes which are coming soon.

Ms. Eberle discussed the Notify NYC Program and encouraged all to enroll: <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/Home/EnrollmentInfo>. The Agency offered to provide a brief presentation of the Notify NYC Program at an upcoming Committee or Board meeting.

The Agency is preparing for the warm weather and provided the following link for any agency willing

to provide space for a cooling center: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/share-your-space-survey.page>

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 may have already started. There was no update on the start date for the lighting installation on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue.

The Borough Commissioner is working on the clogged catch basins causing ponding/icing issues on Orchard Beach Road. Ms. Cruz indicated that an update should be available next month.

The requested 4-way stop at Dean and Barkley Avenues (DOT – 481162-CZK8) is still under review. An update will be provided when available.

Responses to the following requests are due in June:

- Removal of the city bench at 3607 E. Tremont Avenue DOT497036-R5P6

- Speed Camera on Layton Avenue DOT-50169-T2P6

- Speed camera on Harding Avenue DOT-501693-J1T4

The Shore Road Capital Project is still in the design phase. When completed it will be presented to the Board.

The Right Turn Only request for the entrance of Home Depot on Brush Avenue was approved and should be installed in June.

Resurfacing of the Hutchinson River Parkway East from Westchester Avenue to Wilkinson Avenue is scheduled for the summer of 2021.

Repaving of Wenner Place, Rohr Place and Jay Place will be done next year.

Repaving of Edison Avenue from Haskin Street to Bruckner Boulevard, Southbound DOT 498445-F4N7 is schedule for FY 2023.

New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) continued

Repaving of Revere Avenue between Philip and Lafayette Avenues, DOT-498623-M8Z2 is scheduled for FY 2023.

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 be updated when possible.

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.

Maintenance of two catch basins on either side of the base of the southbound entrance ramp to the Hutchinson River Parkway at Westchester Avenue is being addressed and an update should be available next month.

Potholes near the sewer at 3064 Otis Avenue (DX20211111018) and at the Throggs Neck Expressway and Otis Avenue should have already been fixed. Mr. Cruz will check.

Department of Transportation - Bridges

Westchester Avenue Overpass – A. Zhou

Ms. Zhou indicated that next Monday through Friday steel removal will be performed. Full closure of the Hutchinson River Parkway north and south will be necessary from 12:30 AM to 4:00 AM. Traffic agents will be on site to assist with the detour.

Unionport Bridge – A. Bayer

Ms. Bayer indicated that the project is progressing smoothly. No new potholes have been reported. Mr. Cruz indicated that the Board is seeking more oversight of the new e-commerce site being built at the former Whitestone Theater. This facility will be operational by the end of this year.

Department of Design and Construction (DDC)

City Island Bridge HED564 – M. Pierre-Louis

Ms. Pierre-Louis reported that the watermain work on the Pelham Bay Park side of the project was completed. Bike paths have been reopened since last Friday. The City Island side is scheduled to have ongoing work until May 28th. Afterward that work is completed, the land buildout will begin.

The shrine for the slain DDC worker should be removed this week, per Mr. Cruz.

Burr Avenue Project SEX 20047 – L. Alfred

Ms. Alfred reported that the Burr Avenue Project is 47.4% complete and that the Resident Engineer has confirmed that all water shut offs are complete.

The revised project completion date is Summer 2022.

Work operation for this week is installation of a 15" sewer pipe.

Department of Finance (DOF – M. Sharp)

Mr. Sharp commended Board #10 for assisting residents with Property Tax discounts.

He reported that 150 individuals receiving rent assistance had not reapplied for their SCRIE and DRIE benefits. Extensions have been granted, but reapplications are required.

Department of Buildings (DOB) – V. Seabrook

Ms. Seabrook reported that inspectors were unsuccessful in gaining access to 3821 East Tremont Avenue. Ms. Seabrook will reinstate the request for further inspection attempts.

Ms. Seabrook agreed to check on Mr. Cruz' inquiry if storefront properties are allowed to have fully blackened out windows or if this is a violation.

Mr. Cruz indicated that the property at 3569 East Tremont Avenue was gutted without permits. Ms. Seabrook will request an inspection.

Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) – R. Infante

Mr. Infante reported that the Locust Point Gas Line Project is progressing smoothly.

The agency is preparing for the summer season and the increased demands experienced during the warm weather months.

Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta; K. Zagorski; V. Davis-O'Neal

Mr. Acosta reported that his workers may have already addressed the agenda item requesting the maintenance of high weeds and litter on the Buttrick Avenue and Schley Avenue portions of Ferry Point Park. This area is the responsibility of Trump Links Golf Course, however, Mr. Acosta agreed to take care of it. He asked that Mr. Cruz contact him if any portion was not fully maintained.

Mr. Acosta further reported that the agency is gearing up for summer and grass cutting is ongoing throughout the Board.

Ms. Zagorski reported that there is a licensed food truck at the Middletown Road parking lot and at the Playground for All Children which only sell ice cream. Unauthorized vendors should be reported to the Park Central Office: 646 6131200. If unauthorized vendors are observed after business hours, the police can be called. There are no official food permits on Middletown Road.

The Orchard Beach Reopening Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 25th. Invitations will be forthcoming.

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

Ms. Veliz agreed to request that an inspector visit 2711 Bruckner Boulevard for a mobile car wash operation.

General vending inspections will begin on June 1st. Prior to then the agency will continue to conduct outreach, only.

Legislation prohibiting retailers and food sellers from refusing to accept cash payment, the Cashless Ban, went into effect on May 15, 2021.

The agency's free tax preparation program concluded with the close of tax season.

Department of Sanitation – New York (DSNY) – Superintendent M. Barry; Sgt. S. McKenzie

Superintendent Barry reported that the litter basket issue is improving. For the past two or three weeks the department has had Sunday pick up and by increasing service at problem areas and adjusting routes, it has helped alleviate much of the issue.

Mr. Cruz thanked Superintendent Barry for cleaning the Hutchinson River Parkway Service Road, and overall work in the area.

There were no enforcement locations to report.

Department for the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez reported that last Monday the agency began grab and go service as a first step toward reopening senior centers. The agency is excited to reopen, but the process will be gradual.

Department of Human Services (DHS) – J. Williams

Mr. Williams reported that the HEAP Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) season runs from May 3, 2021 to August 31, 2021 on a first-come/first-served basis, until funding is depleted. To request a digital application email williamsje@dss.nyc.gov or call 212-331-3126. Applications can be emailed to SerranoL@hra.nyc.gov. To be eligible for a CAC benefit, the HEAP eligible households must contain at least one individual with a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by extreme heat.

Regular and Emergency HEAP deadlines have been extended to August 31, 2021, or until funds are depleted.

Beginning on April 1, 2021, names will appear on One- shot Deal checks. This will facilitate linking checks to dwelling locations by housings partners.

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

Ms. Simmons announced two upcoming events:

Thursday, May 20 at 5:30 PM Bengali Communities Fair Housing Resources and Panel Presentations. Join the Commission, MOPT, MOIA, HRA, Indian Homes, CHHAYA, Community Development Corporation, LAAL, as they all provide resources and tools on fair housing. Please note this event will be conducted completely in Bengali.

Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islands Leadership in New York City – Join the Commissioner of Human Rights, Carmelyn Malalis, and Health Commissioner, Dr. Dave Chokshi, and others for a virtual celebration – May 25, 2021 at 12:30 PM

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

Representatives of the New York Public Library System announced that on May 24th most branches will enter phase 2 of reopening. Visitors can browse books for 20 minutes and use computers for 45 minutes, by appointment.

Ms. Velazquez-Torres reported that the Throggs Neck Branch should enter Phase 2 in July, 2021.

Office of Congressman Jamaal Bowman – N. Vasquez

Mr. Vasquez was present but had to leave before his opportunity to speak. He indicated that anyone needing assistance should call Congressman Bowman's office at 718 530-7710 or email Nikolas.vasquez@mail.house.gov.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – A. Conley

Ms. Conley reported that The Eviction and Foreclosure Act was resigned and passed. It extends protections through 8/31/21 for those who qualify.

New York State opened its Section 8 waiting list on May 17, 2021 and is again issuing housing vouchers. The Program was last opened in 2006 to provide rental assistance for lower income and seniors in affordable housing. 15,000 households will be chosen from the waitlist.

The Covid-19 Emergency Rental Program is still being rolled out. Applications are not yet opened.

Senator Biaggi is hopeful that in person events will be possible this summer and events are being scheduled.

Ms. Conley responded to Mr. Cruz' inquiry if liquor stores will be permitted to sell marijuana when in-store sales begin. She will check and provide a response later in the day.

For assistance call (718) 822-2049 or email: constituentservices@senatorbiaggi.com or angela@senatorbiaggi.com.

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – A. Meza

Ms. Meza responded to Mr. Cruz inquiry regarding marijuana sales at liquor stores. She indicated that a cannabis management center is in the process of being established. It is estimated that it will take at least a year until it is functional.

Co-op City residents can be assisted with Covid-19 issues and rental assistance. PPE and food giveaways continue.

Test and trace teams will be at 3929 Paulding Avenue tomorrow. The Senator is hoping to schedule a test and trace event in Co-op City in the near future.

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

Office of City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj – F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin reported that Councilman Gjonaj will host a homeowners' resources/town hall this evening. HPD, Finance, and other agencies will participate.

On Saturday, May 22, 2021 a Pet Food Giveaway will be held from noon to 4:00 PM Edgewater Park Volunteer Fire Department, 1 Adeo Drive, Bronx, NY 10465.

Councilmember Gjonaj was pleased that a bill banning the use of harmful chemicals for snow removal was passed in honor of pet month.

Councilmember Gjonaj is hosting a paper shredding Event at 475 Swinton Avenue/Throggs Neck Houses from 1P-M – 2 PM.

Office of State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – M. McKay

Mr. McKay reported that Assemblyman Benedetto's offices have been open and are available to assist. Call 718 892 2235, or email: mckaym@nyassembly.gov

Office of City Council Member Kevin Riley – J. Antonetty

Mr. Antonetty reported that assistance is available during office hours 9 AM – 5 PM. The Co-op City office remains closed, but a grand re-opening will be scheduled within the coming months.

May 12th was a District Day of Service. A cleanup was held on Boston Road, followed by a Co-op City workout and distribution of 225 boxes of produce.

For assistance: (718) 684-5509/JAntonetty@council.nyc.gov

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

Ms. Tavaréz-Santana announced upcoming events:

Friday, May 21, 2021, Anti-Hate/Crime Rally at Lou Gherig Plaza, 161st Street, Bronx, NY 10451, between the Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue, from 11 AM to 3 PM

Saturday, May 22, 11 AM – 3 PM 4th Annual Child Safety Fair at Concourse Plaza Parking Lot – 200 East 161st Street.

A rally against gun violence is being scheduled for June 4th, 11 AM – 8 PM, location to follow.

A Gun Buy-Back Event is scheduled for June 26, 2021, at Christ Church, 860 Forest Avenue in conjunction with the 40th Precinct.

For assistance: Santanama@bronxda.nyc.gov or 929-259-1042

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

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 reported that Bronx Week concluded last Saturday. It was a very successful event and he thanked agencies and individuals who participated.

For assistance; 347-259-8073, Igonzalez@bronxbp.nyc.gov

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