



**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 September 21, 2021**

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; ConEd: R. Infante; DCWP: M. Veliz; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: M. Caminero. L. Alfred; DFTA: J. Melendez; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT (State): T. Bayer; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; NYCEM: Y. Duarte; DSNY: Sup. Barry; FDNY – R. Velez; DoHMH: E. Peralta; HRA: J. Williams; NYPL: L. Marin, T. McCrae, M. Ramos-Lugo; Pelham Grand: K. Mann; St. Peter's Residence: R. Bryce; District Attorney Darcel Clark's Office: M. Santana-Tavares; Congressman J. Bowman's Office: N. Vasquez; Sen. J. Bailey's Office: A. Meza; Assemblyman M. Benedetto's Office: M. McKay; NYC Councilman M. Gjonaj's Office: F. Rubin; NYC Comptroller S. Stringer's Office: Mariel de la Cruz (29)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:08 AM by welcoming Cabinet members and informing them that meetings will continue to be conducted virtually using the same log-on credentials.

#### **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DoHMH) – E. Peralta**

Ms. Peralta reported that the agency encourages all to continue following safety protocols, testing, and getting vaccinated. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to get a third, booster vaccine.

2617 Harding Avenue was inspected on September 3, 2021 and failed due to harborage. It will be re-inspected and if not corrected monetary penalties will be incurred.

#### **New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) - Y. Duarte**

Ms. Duarte reported that September is National Preparedness Month. All are encouraged to update emergency plans and supplies.

Anyone affected by Hurricane Ida can still apply for assistance. Transportation to FEMA outreach centers can be scheduled on 311. Hostos Community College at 500 Grand Concourse, is hosting an outreach center. State, local, and federal agencies and resources are available at the site.

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

Ms. Cruz reported that the agency will be presenting at the October Municipal Services Committee regarding the Pelham Bay Bridge.

Three lighting installations remain to be done on East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner Boulevard to Miles Avenue and will soon be completed.

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

Ms. Cruz indicated that the agency was deferring to the Parks Department and DEP concerning the clogged catch basins causing ponding/icing issues on Orchard Beach Road. Ms. Ardizzone of DEP reported that her agency cleaned the catch basin as a curtesy, but with no sidewalks or curbs in the area, excessive rainfall causes mud from parkland to flow into the basin and reclog it. DEP suggests that sidewalks would create a barrier. Mr. Cruz agreed to request sidewalks and curbs for the area in his District Needs Statement.

Mr. Cruz requested that the area at least be repaved to remove water collection areas. Ms. Cruz indicated that unless the cause is addressed, the issue would simply recur.

Ms. Cruz reported that the requests for speed cameras on Layton Avenue between Throgmorton and Dean Avenues (DOT-501696-T26P) and on Harding Avenue between Hosmer and Balcom Avenues (DOT-501693-J1T4) will not be granted since existing cameras are located close to the requested areas. Mr. Cruz agreed to drop the requests but stressed that Layton Avenue needs traffic controls to thwart drag racing and speeding in the area. Ms. Cruz agreed to discuss this issue further and review the DOT traffic calming tool kit for other possible solutions.

The Right Turn On Red signal requested at the entrance of Home Depot on Brush Avenue was approved and may have already been installed.

The request for a traffic control study on Robinson Avenue and Miles Avenue was assigned a work order number: DOT-514198Q3J9 and a response is due in December 2021.

Ms. Cruz is awaiting a response on the following Speed Hump study requests:

- LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues DOT 406830-K0G5
- Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues, DOT-406830-M9C8.
- Robinson Avenue, between Miles and Harding Avenues, DOT-514199-L9F7

Ms. Cruz did not have an update on the requested “No Standing Midnight to 6 AM” signage for the following locations:

- DOT-504510-C1L2 - Bruckner Boulevard Service Road from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue
- DOT-504513-V2F9 - Underpass at Randall Avenue at Cross Bronx Expressway Service Rd.
- DOT-504517-T6G0 - Cross Bronx Expressway Service Road between Lafayette Avenue and Harding Avenue (St. Raymond Cemetery side)

Mr. Cruz stressed the importance of getting this signage for the Board. It was very helpful when installed in other problem areas.

The request to paint double yellow lines on Westchester Avenue from Waters Place to Overing Street – DOT-514784-P1S2, and from Buhre Avenue to Wilkinson Avenue (Pelham Bay Station) DOT-514786-X0P0 was approved and should be completed by the end of October.

The request for a traffic control study for the corner of Robinson Avenue and Miles Avenue should be completed in November and if approved would be done in the spring.

The request for traffic controls at the corner of Givan and Rombouts Avenues, DOT-478041-D9T0, was denied. The agency determined that the location did not meet the necessary criteria.

Mr. Cruz noted that the bus lane on Burr Avenue was not installed. Ms. Cruz indicated that installation was delayed but should be installed within the next week or so.

There was no available update for the request for replacement of street signs at Waterbury Avenue and Westchester Avenue, near 2273 Westchester Avenue. 311-07416728

The request for repainting the crosswalk on Doris Street near the intersection with Westchester Avenue was approved.

The request for paving Doris Street between Westchester Avenue and Starling Avenue, was provided work number DOT-518794-G0D2 and a response is due in December.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the agency removed their equipment from the damaged light pole at the corner of Clarence and Philip Avenues.

Responses to the requests for an All-Way Stop at the intersection of Harding and Longstreet: DOT-516307-S2R2 and a Right Turn Lane at the intersection of Harding and Longstreet Avenues: DOT-516311-Z6T8, are due in December.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the agency would defer to DEP concerning the request to coordinate catch basin cleaning on a DOT lot at Lafayette Avenue and Shore Drive 311-07695846, however, Ms. Ardizzone of DEP indicated that her agency does not enter fenced areas. Mr. Cruz also noted that the area needs weed trimming. Ms. Cruz will consult with her agency further on this issue.

The Street lighting study - Harding Avenue and Huntington Avenue DOT-516990-X2S6 is due in early December.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the request for fencing at Emerson Avenue and Schurz Avenue adjacent to Ferry Point Park West would not be possible as it is a DEP outfall access area and cannot be fenced. She suggested that homeowners fence along their private property lines to prevent trespassing.

The request for streetlight repair at 925 Throggs Neck Expressway (South) #2106761, was accomplished just prior to the meeting. The resident reported the repair to the Board Office.

### **State Transportation Department (State DOT) – T. Bayer**

Mr. Bayer reported that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the proposed Bruckner Expressway – Hutchinson River Parkway Mobility Improvement Project which would provide access from the northbound Hutchinson River Parkway to Section 5 of Co-op City. The project will go to bid in a few weeks.

Mr. Cruz requested assistance at the I95 exit at Stillwell Avenue. Ms. Bayer indicated that he discussed the site with traffic and safety engineers and it was determined that additional signage and striping can be added to improve safety.

### **Department of Transportation - Bridges**

#### **Westchester Avenue Overpass – A. Zhou**

Ms. Zhou reported that the Westchester Avenue Overpass project is progressing well. Upcoming work will require full lane closure; however, it will be accomplished during the overnight hours to minimize disruption. Ms. Zhou will email a notice when the work is scheduled.

### **Unionport Bridge – A. Bayer**

Ms. Bayer indicated that the Unionport Bridge project is progressing smoothly and is on track for completion in 2022. Currently work is not impacting traffic flow.

### **Department of Design and Construction (DDC)**

#### **Burr Avenue Project SEX 20047 – L. Alfred**

Ms. Alfred reported that the Burr Avenue project is 70.96% completed and is on track for full completion by summer 2022. Currently catch basin installation, concrete reinforcement and pipe work are occurring. The reconstruction process has begun at various locations which includes pedestrian ramps and sidewalks. Yesterday, work required water to be shut down for two hours.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he would like to speak with Ms. Alfred after the meeting to request a few specific pedestrian ramp locations.

Ms. Alfred also noted that the curb at the location on St. Paul Avenue where a hydrant was erroneously relocated and restored will be repaired. A retaining wall will also be replaced.

#### **City Island Bridge HED564 – M. Caminero**

Ms. Caminero reported that two new subaqueous mains have been installed, flushed, disinfected and are active. Workers are in the process of removing land buildup near the Seashore Restaurant. The former watermain and concrete barriers were removed. Some sewer service installation between Bridge and Kilroe Streets remains, as well as restoration on both sides.

#### **Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) – R. Infante**

Mr. Infante reported that the subterranean gas main repair at the City Island Bridge, between Pelham Bay Park and City Island, is underway. Geiser like bubbling was reported, but no dangerous gases are escaping at the location. The gas integrity to City Island is intact and not compromised. The agency is in contact with Department of Transportation Commissioner Lopez.

### **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – E. Ardizzone**

Ms. Ardizzone reported that the agency is working to repair many sinkholes which resulted from Hurricane Ida. Some are the responsibility of the Department of Transportation rather than DEP.

The 311-system reflected that the sink hole near 530 Vincent Avenue, in front of the seawall, 311-07382496, meets DOT standards and does not require repair.

A work order was generated for repair of the collapsed catch basin at 181 Meagher Avenue, 311-07684225.

The 311-system indicated that, per DOT, the sink hole at 3240 Radio Drive, 311-07683043, meets standards.

The catch basin cave-in at 3189 Barkley Avenue, 311-07493898, requires rebuilding of the basin wall. Ms. Ardizzone will follow up on details.

Ms. Ardizzone will coordinate with field operations on cleaning the catch basin on the DOT lot at Lafayette Avenue and Shore Drive, 311-07695846. The agency usually does not work behind fencing.

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

Ms. Veliz indicated that she will order inspections for both pop-up car washes: 2711 Bruckner Boulevard, and Westchester and Mayflower Avenues. Inspections should occur within two weeks.

Mr. Cruz reported another illegal car wash in front of St. Peters Church, 2500 Westchester Avenue. He agreed to email a request for an inspection at this site.

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

Mr. Cruz noted that the Hutchinson River Parkway from East Tremont to Westchester Avenue was cleaned and looks great.

Superintendent Barry indicated that on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, the area outside the lot at Ericson and Zulette Avenues will be cleaned.

Mr. Cruz requested that the lot at Balcom and Edwards Avenues, off exit 1B of the Hutchinson River Parkway northbound, near Lehman High School, be cleaned. Couches were dumped in the high weeds on this lot.

### **Department for the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez**

Mr. Melendez reported that during the summer farmers' market coupons valued at \$40,000 were distributed. Centers may still have coupons available. They are valid through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Senior Centers have resumed full in-person activities, including serving hot meals. Any centers having difficulties should reach out to Mr. Melendez.

Mr. Melendez encouraged seniors to register for the "My Ride" pilot program which provides those 60 years old and older an alternative ride sharing program.

### **Department of Human Services (DHS) – J. Williams**

Mr. Williams thanked Ashley Meza of Senator Jamaal Bailey's Office for assisting with resolving cases of rent lapses. The "One Shot Deal" program was extremely helpful in assisting residents and preventing evictions.

Mr. Williams announced that Hurricane Ida assistance is still available to those in need. He encouraged all to review their homeowner's insurance to review coverage in the event of future flooding issues.

### **Pelham Grand – K. Mann**

Ms. Mann announced that the Pelham Grand has had a vaccination push for residents. The residence enjoys a 91% vaccination rate among their ninety-eight residents.

Mr. Cruz offered masks for use at Pelham Grand.

### **St Peter's Residence – R. Bryce**

Mr. Bryce was in attendance, however, did not have audio equipment to enable participation.

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

Ms. Simmons announced two upcoming events:

Youth for Equality and Solidarity Council (YES) - needs new young leaders between the age of thirteen to twenty-one, to join and assist young people will navigating current issues they are experiencing. They will be encouraged to network with other young leaders citywide to build advocacy and organizational skills. The deadline to apply is Friday, October 15, 2021.

The Commission's Bronx office is seeking to hire an Associate Human Rights Specialist. Responsibilities would include attending meetings, giving presentations on Human Rights Laws to schools organizations, etc. Anyone who is interested should contact Ms. Simmons.

## **New York Public Library (NYPL) , L. Marin, T. McCrae, M. Ramos-Lugo,**

Ms. McCrae of the City Island Branch reported that in-person programing has resumed, and she is anticipating a visit from a group of children today. In-person programing does require on-line registration to limit the number of those in attendance.

Ms. McCrae announced that beginning next week, she will be assigned to a different branch in another Community Board. Mr. Cruz thanked her for work at the City Island Branch and noted that her replacement will have "big shoes to fill".

Luz Marin of the Westchester Square Branch reported that the after school tutoring program will resume on September 27th. This valuable program assists children with homework.

Ms. Maribel Ramos-Lugo of the Pelham Bay Branch announced that English Conversation Classes will resume in October.

## **Office of Congressman Jamaal Bowman – N. Vasquez**

Mr. Vasquez reported that the office is focused on assisting residents with Hurricane Ida recovery/FEMA resources.

Mr. Vasquez announced that gun buyout events will be scheduled shortly and encouraged all to follow Congressman Bowman on social media: [bowman.congress.gov](https://bowman.congress.gov) for newsletter updates.

## **Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – A. Meza**

Ms. Meza reported that Senator Bailey's office continues to offer free PPE, food giveaways, rental assistance.

The office is transitioning to holiday mode and preparing for turkey and toy giveaways.

## **Office of City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj – F. Rubin**

Ms. Rubin announced that Councilman Gjonaj will host a Mammogram Bus at Santa Maria Church, 2352 St. Raymond Avenue, on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM. Call: 718 931 1721

The Councilmember's "Movies Under the Stars & Stripes" will present *Godzilla vs. Kong* on Sept. 25, 2021, 7-9 PM at the Sam Young American Legion Post.

The Councilmember continues to assist with community clean-ups and invites those interested to submit requests along with photos of areas in need of cleaning.

On Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 11 AM the Councilman will participate in a street Co-naming in honor of Lorraine Nugent at the corner of Bayshore and Ampere Avenues.

Mr. Cruz extended his appreciation for the councilmember's assistance with FEDCAP clean-ups in Community Board #10.

**Office of State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – M. McKay**

Mr. McKay reported that Assemblyman Benedetto's office continues to assist many residents with unemployment related issues and is working with the Department of Labor on their behalf. Residents in need of assistance can contact the office at 718 892 2235, or email: [mckaym@nyassembly.gov](mailto:mckaym@nyassembly.gov)

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

Ms. Tavarez-Santana reported that District Attorney Clark's Office will be fully opened in October.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> at 161<sup>st</sup> Street and Walton Avenue, the Fourth Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence will take place from 9:30 AM – 12:3 PM, rain or shine. A flyer will follow when available.

**New York City Fire Department - Richard Velez**

Mr. Velez reported that he will provide details concerning a recent fire with fatalities in Bronx Community Board #10.

July fire statistics included 30 structural fires (3 of those were suspicious), 365 medical runs, and 807 total incidents.

Mr. Velez reported that the Department continues to offer Virtual Fire Safety and CPR Training and are also available for street events.

Mr. Cruz thanked all for their participation. He noted that the next District Service Cabinet Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. The login credentials will remain the same.

Mr. Cruz concluded the meeting at 11:08 AM