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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 October 19, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; Con Edison: R. Infante; DCWP: A. Algabyali; M. Veliz; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: M. Caminero. L. Alfred; DFTA: J. Melendez; DEP: E. Ardizzone; DOB: E. Jarratt; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT (State): T. Bayer; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; NYCEM: A. Banks; DSNY: Sup. Barry; DSNY Enforcement: D. Ratliff; EMS – S. Russo; FDNY – R. Velez; DoHMH: E. Peralta; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Marin, M. Ramos-Lugo; L. Velazquez; Parks Department: C. Acosta; V. Davis-O’Neal; K. Zagorski; St. Peter’s Residence: R. Bryce, J. Violet; Bronx Borough President Rubin Diaz, Jr.’s Office: I. Gonzalez; Comptroller S. Stringer’s Office: Mariel de la Cruz; District Attorney Darcel Clark’s Office: M. Santana-Tavares; Senator J. Bailey’s Office: S. Morello; Senator A. Biaggi’s Office: A. Conley; (35)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:08 AM by welcoming Cabinet members and informing them that the meetings will be recorded.

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

Ms. Peralta reported that the agency continues to encourage getting tested and vaccinated. Booster Pfizer vaccines are available for those 18 and older with compromising conditions and all those over 65 years of age.

An update on the re-inspection of 2617 Harding will be provided later today. Inspections continue to lag due to staffing shortages.

NYC Emergency Management – A. Banks

Ms. Banks reminded all that we are in peak hurricane season. October 22nd marks the ninth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. Cruz agreed to provide a photo of the low-lying utility cables at Shore Road and Bartow Circle.

Ms. Banks reminded all that evacuation zones have changed and that this is the time to winterize emergency go-bags.

Agency presentations can be requested by emailing intergov@oem.nyc.gov

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

Ms. Cruz had no update on the lighting installation on Westchester Avenue from Middletown Road to Wilkinson Avenue.

Ms. Cruz requested that the ponding/icing issue on Orchard Beach Road be forwarded to the Parks Department as DOT has no role in this item. Mr. Cruz agreed to remove the item.

Ms. Cruz indicated that a response is due next month on the speed hump study requests for LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues DOT 406830-K0G5; and Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues, DOT-406830-M9C8.

The speed hump study request for Robinson Avenue, between Miles and Harding Avenues was assigned work order: DOT-514199-L9F7 and is due in August of 2023.

The speed hump study request for Dudley Avenue between Edison and Mayflower Avenues was assigned number DOT-522629-J1T4 and is due in October 2022.

Responses to requests for *No Standing Midnight to 6AM* signage should be available next month:

- 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 and Harding Avenues (St. Raymond Cemetery side)

The approved painting of double yellow lines on Westchester Avenue from Waters Place to Overing Street – DOT-514784-P1S2 is expected to be done in Fiscal Year 2022, and from Buhre Avenue to Wilkinson Avenue (Pelham Bay Station) DOT-514786-X0P0 – will be completed by the end of this month if not already done.

The request for replacement of street signs at Waterbury Avenue and Westchester Avenue, near 2273 Westchester Avenue. 311-07416728 has been accomplished.

The approved repainting of crosswalk on Doris Street near the intersection of Westchester Avenue is scheduled for completion in Fiscal Year 2022.

DOT removed agency equipment from the damaged, dangerously leaning light pole at the corner of Clarence and Philip Avenues. The pole is ready for Con Edison to proceed with removal.

All-Way Stop at the intersection of Harding and Longstreet: DOT-516307-S2R2 12/21 and Right Turn Lane at the intersection of Harding and Longstreet Avenues: DOT-516311-Z6T8 are due in December 2021.

DOT is prepared to coordinate with DEP concerning the catch basin cleaning on the DOT lot at Lafayette Avenue and Shore Drive 311-07695846. Ms. Cruz requested that DEP send an email when they are prepared to perform the work.

Ms. Cruz indicated that an emailed request for the repaving of George Street was needed.

New York City Department of Transportation (continued)

A response to the request for DOT to remove the City Bench at 1710 Crosby Avenue which has become a gathering place for vagrants, DOT-522828-T7F4, is due in January 2022.

The large cave-in within the crosswalk on LaSalle Avenue near the intersection with East Tremont Avenue, 311-08001107 was inspected on October 14, 2021 and a Corrective Action Request (CAR) was forwarded to DEP.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the Agency is hopeful that DSNY can assist with cleaning the DOT lot at Edwards and Balcom Avenues as it has done in the past.

A response to the request for a 4-Way stop sign at the intersection of Mayflower and Zulette Avenues, DOT-494456-G9K8, is due by the end of October 2021.

A response to the request for resurfacing Waterbury Avenue from Hollywood to Hobart Avenues, DOT-512146-Q0D1, is due by the end of October 2021.

New York State Transportation Dept. (NYState DOT) – T. Bayer

Mr. Bayer indicated that he had difficulty opening the Agenda and will check on the request for Traffic and Safety to install painted stipes and signage at the I-95 Stillwell Avenue exit.

Transportation Dept. – Bridges - A. Zhou, A. Bayer

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that full closure of the Hutchinson River Parkway will be necessary until Friday, October 29, 2021, on weeknights from 12 – 5 AM. Originally it was expected to only be necessary until Friday, October 22nd, but an extension was needed. Ms. Zhou relayed that several complaints were received about homeless individuals using a red tent in the vicinity of the project. These were relayed to NYPD.

Mr. Cruz inquired if the traffic lines off Waters Place can be repainted as cars are driving erratically without clear lane guidelines. Ms. Zhou agreed to speak with the contractor.

Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Bayer had no updates other than that the project is moving along smoothly. Currently work is taking place beneath the temporary bridges. Trucks accessing the 2505 Bruckner construction site are causing congestion.

Design & Construction, Dept. of (DDC) – L. Alfred; M. Caminero

Burr Ave Project # SEX20047 – Ms. Alfred reported that the project is 70.96% completed and is on target for July 2022 completion. St. Paul and E. 196 Street sewer excavation is progressing.

Mr. Cruz inquired if a street cleaning event on St. Paul Avenue with DSNY on Oct 30th will be possible. Ms. Alfred will check with the project engineer and report back.

City Island Project HED564 – Ms. Caminero reported that the project is almost completed. Currently, final sewer installation, road restoration on City Island Avenue and Pelham Bay Park and some plantings remains to be done. The completion date is estimated to be by the end of November 2021.

Consolidated Edison – R. Infante

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Infante for helping with a recent Co-op City issue. Mr. Infante confirmed that Con Edison discovered a gas leak between buildings last Tuesday. A plumber had to return to make repairs which unfortunately resulted in a delay in restoring service. Mr. Infante will follow up with Mr. Ellison.

Mr. Infante thanked Mr. Cruz for his assistance with servicing two customers from Locust Point. Con Edison will be supporting the upcoming Throggs Neck Halloween Parade, Oct. 30, 2021, 12 Noon to 5:00 PM on Throggs Neck Boulevard between Harding and Schurz Avenues. The agency will be filming at the event for their promotional outreach. The parade begins at noon.

The agency has been in contact with Mr. Doyle, City Island Rising, concerning the utility lines on Shore Road. The slack is coming from phone and cable wires rather than the utility.

Environmental Protection Dept. (DEP) – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone indicated that the agency has not yet received the issue of the pothole at 530 Vincent Avenue, in front of the sea wall. DX202167010. A CAR must be issued by DOT. Ms. Cruz will follow up with the Roadway Division who would have received the initial complaint.

Ms. Ardizzone reported that an open work order exists for repair of the sunken/collapsed catch basin beneath the grate at 181 Meagher Avenue: 311-07684225. Responses are being prioritized and will be addressed.

The catch basin cave-in at 3180 Barkley Avenue - 311-07493898 was made safe but needs to be rebuilt. This will be addressed.

Debris that was clogging the surface of the catch basin at Lafayette Avenue and Shore Drive, 311-07695846, was removed. If this does not remedy drainage, a new complaint should be filed.

A question was raised about the quality of area water. Ms. Ardizzone relayed that a press release on water distribution will be sent. The Catskill Aqueduct had to be shut down causing our water supply to shift to the Croton Water System. Some can detect a slight change in taste or smell, but it is harmless. An interactive map on the DEP website provides details. At some point we will be returning to the Catskill Aqueduct but not in the foreseeable future.

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

Mr. Cruz thanked the agency for removing the tree at 1330 Edwards Avenue, 311-07921606.

Mr. Acosta had no updates other than that the agency is keeping busy maintaining parks properties. The new zone 5 at Ferry Point Park East, adjacent to the golf course, opened, with beautiful pathways and views for all to enjoy. Mr. Cruz requested notification if a ribbon-cutting ceremony or grand opening event is scheduled.

Department of Parks and Recreation (continued)

Ms. Zagorski reported that the “2021 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk” was held on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at Orchard Beach. The event was a success with many participants.

On Saturday, October 23rd, from 8 AM to 6 PM, DSNY will host a Safe Disposal Event at the Orchard Beach parking lot. Registration is required for this event.

At Pelham Bay Park on Saturday, October 23rd, the agency will sponsor bike riding lessons and on Sunday, October 24th, between 10 AM and 1 PM, there will be a Bike Path Tour.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) – A. Algabyali, M. Veliz

Ms Veliz introduced Mr. Ayad Algabyali, who will be the new agency liaison to Bronx Community Board #10.

Ms. Veliz reported that inspections were performed for unpermitted car washing in our Board service area recently, however she did not have the results. She will contact Mr. Cruz with more information.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he instructs unpermitted car washers on how to obtain the proper permits, but they do not seem interested. A DEP permit is also required for use of hydrant water. Mr. Cruz inquired if there has been an increase in permit applications at DCWP?

Department of Sanitation Enforcement (DSNY-E) – D. Ratliff

Mr. Cruz reported that Bronx Community Board #10 has received many complaints about the condition of Crosby Avenue from Westchester Avenue to Middletown Road. Mr. Ratliff indicated that agents were in this vicinity this morning issuing violations where necessary. Homelessness has become an issue in this area as well. Mr. Cruz encouraged enforcement to contact the Board Office for assistance with acquiring services for homeless individuals.

Department of Sanitation (DSNY) – Superintendent Barry

Superintendent Barry reported that a request for cleaning the lot at Edwards and Balcom Avenues has been submitted to the lot cleaning division. He will check again on the status of the request and when it might be accomplished.

The agency participated in a clean-up in Co-op City with Councilman Riley and Senator Bailey. Another clean-up will target Section 5 in a few weeks.

Mr. Cruz indicated that once again bags are being dumped along the Hutchinson River Parkway Service Road between East Tremont and Westchester Avenue. It was discovered that a superintendent from a building on Ericson Place is committing some of the dumping.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he took care of the issue on Libby Place.

Mr. Cruz requested weed trimming outside the vacant lot at Ericson Place and Zulette Avenue. Superintendent Barry indicated that the area can be referred to Sanitation Enforcement since it is the property owner’s responsibility to keep the area maintained.

Department for the Aging – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez noted that farmers' market coupons expire on November 30, 2021.

The agency's Anti-aging campaign was relaunched. It features positive messaging to combat negative stereotypes associated with aging.

St. Peter's Residence – J. Violet, R. Bryce

The residence is conducting weekly covid-19 testing and encouraging vaccinations.

Human Rights Commission NYC (CCHR) –B. Simmons

Ms. Simmons announced that the former New York City Councilwoman, Anabel Palma, is the new Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Public Library NY (NYPL) – L. Brown, M. Lugo; L. Marin; L. Velazquez

Ms. Velazquez of the Throggs Neck Branch announced that it is "Welcome Week" at the New York Public Library. The Branch will be celebrating with various activities including button making and story time. Also, as of October 5, 2021, no fines will be issued for returned overdue items.

Ms. Brown of the Baychester Branch indicated that in celebration of "Welcome Week" free giveaways will be distributed on Thursday from 1-5 PM. Arts and crafts, story time, and button making will be among "Welcome Week" activities. The branch is also enjoying new outdoor spacing.

Ms. Lugo of the Pelham Bay Branch indicated that Friday is their featured "Welcome Week" day, and they will be offering teen button making at 3:30 PM, and while supplies last, a tote bag and goodies. Adult "Welcome Week" activities will take place at 11AM on Friday.

Ms. Marin of the Westchester Square Branch emailed an events calendar. Welcome Week backpacks will be distributed today, and special events will be held all week. There are no late fees for overdue returned materials. A computer lab will be held at 11 AM today. Board games will be ongoing today.

Ricky Collado will be the new liaison for the City Island Branch and will begin attending meetings shortly.

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi's Office – A. Conley

Ms. Conley announced that Senator Biaggi will be hosting a Job Fair Event on Saturday, October 23, 2021, 11 AM – 3 PM, in conjunction with the NYS Department of Labor and Assemblywoman Fernandez at Columbus High School, 925 Astor Avenue. Bring resumes

State Senator Jamaal Bailey's Office – S. Morello

Mr. Morello had no announcements but warned that in working on securing turkeys for the Senator's annual turkey giveaways he discovered that there is a serious turkey shortage this year.

City Councilman Kevin Riley's Office – J. Antonetty

Mr. Antonetty announced that the Councilman's Office has been focused on community cleanups around the 12th District. He thanked Mr. Cruz of Bronx Community Board #10 for participating.

Councilman Riley, Senator Bailey and Riverbay Corporation are hosting a Haunted Pirate Adventure for members of District 12 in celebration of Halloween on October 30th at 4 and 7 PM and on October 31st at 7 PM across from the Little League Field.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Office – M. Santana

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, District Attorney Darcel Clark's Office hosted a 5K Run, Walk, Roll to End Domestic Violence event. Over 400 people attended, and it is hoped that the event continues to grow each year.

On October 30, 2021 the office will be hosting a Re-entry Fair in Community Board #12. Logistics are being finalized and a flyer will follow when available. Mr. Cruz asked that it be tagged to Bronx Community Board #10 so that we can easily share the event.

Borough President's Office – I. Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez had no updates to report and provided his contact information: 347-259-8073, IGonzalez@bronxbp.nyc.gov

NYC Comptroller's Office – M. de la Cruz

Ms. de la Cruz reported that the Comptroller's Office published the latest "Making the Grade Report", which compares women and minority owned businesses to other businesses in New York City to alleviate inequities. Ms. de la Cruz will forward information concerning the report to Mr. Cruz.

The Comptroller's Office is looking forward to having a Chief Diversity Officer in place in the next administration.

FDNY – R. Velez

Mr. Velez announced that Daylight Savings Time begins on Nov. 7, 2021. On Saturday, October 30, 2021, the agency will be doing outreach at the Corner of Crosby and Buhre Avenues from 11 AM – 2 PM to remind all to change their clocks and smoke/CO2 alarm batteries. Newer alarms last 10 years and should be tested by pressing the test button for a beep response indicating that the alarm is functional.

Department of Buildings (DOB) E. Jarratt

Mr. Jarratt reported that 235 Robinson Avenue was inspected and escalated to an Immediate Emergency Demolition (IED). Mr. Cruz indicated that the residents in the vicinity will be pleased to hear this news.

3569 E. Tremont 311-07910656 was inspected on October 14, 2021, but no illegal activity was observed, and no violations were issued. There was a permit for the indoor work that was done. The permit has since expired. Mr. Cruz will remove this agenda item.

Mr. Cruz thanked all for their attendance and concluded the meeting at 11:05 AM.