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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 November 16, 2021

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; Con Edison: R. Infante; DCWP: A. Algabyali; CCHR: B. Simmons; DDC: L. Alfred; DFTA: J. Melendez; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DOB: E. Jaratt; J. Ward; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou. A. Bayer; NYCEM: A. Banks; DSNY: Sup. Falcara; DSNY Enforcement: Sgt. Lowe, Sgt. Marsh; FDNY – R. Velez; DoHMH: E. Peralta; NYPL: L. Marin; Parks Department: C. Acosta; K. Zagorski; St. Peter's Residence: J. Vialet; District Attorney D. Clark's Office: M. Santana-Tavares; Councilman M. Gjonaj's Office: F. Rubin; Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez' Office: N. Vasquez; Senator J. Bailey's Office: S. Morello; Senator A. Biaggi's Office: A. Conley (28)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:06 AM by welcoming Cabinet members and informing them that the meeting will be recorded. District Service Cabinet meetings will continue to be conducted virtually for the foreseeable future as it facilitates agency attendance.

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

Ms. Peralta reported that anyone over 18 is now eligible for a vaccine booster if it is six months after receiving the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations, and two months after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. For additional information or to find the nearest vaccination site please call 311. Vaccines are safe. All are encouraged to also get the flu vaccine. Pharmacies and primary care physicians are distributing vaccines.

A question was posed if it is advisable to mix vaccine brands when receiving the booster vaccine. Ms. Peralta will check for the most up to date recommendation and report back.

Ms. Peralta will follow up on the second inspection for 2617 Harding Avenue. The number of inspectors has increased therefore inspection request response times should improve.

Fire Department of New York: R. Velez

Mr. Velez reported that the Department has been unable to provide printed statistics for the past three months because the computer system is being upgraded. There were no new updates to report.

NYC Emergency Management – A. Banks

Ms. Banks reminded all to add winter weather items to go-bag emergency bags and change batteries on smoke/CO2 alarms.

She also referred all to the Community Risk Assessment Dashboard link:

<https://nychazardmitigation.com/cradashboard/>

The agency offers a podcast concerning the importance of business preparedness.

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. Early next year.

Ms. Cruz indicated that she is awaiting a response 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 Dudley Avenue between Edison and Mayflower Avenues was assigned number DOT-522629-J1T4 and is due in October 2022.

The following speed hump request responses are due in January:

Layton Avenue between Fairfax and Dean Avenues – DOT-523990-X8C6

Harding Avenue from East Tremont Avenue to Emerson Avenue – DOT – 523991-V3T2

Harding Avenue from East Tremont Avenue to Pennyfield Avenue – DOT – 523994-K9Y8

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.

Responses to requests for *No Standing Midnight to 6AM* signage should be available by the end of this week:

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 the spring of 2022.

The approved repainting of the crosswalk on Doris Street near the intersection of Westchester Avenue is expected to be done in the spring of 2022.

The catch basin cleaning on the DOT lot at Lafayette Avenue and Shore Drive 311-07695846 was accomplished.

Ms. Cruz indicated that she would input a study to determine whether George Street is a City street before requesting repaving.

The DOT lot at Edwards Avenue and Balcom Avenue was cleaned over the weekend.

Ms. Cruz had no update on the request for a 4-Way stop sign at the intersection of Mayflower and Zulette Avenues, DOT-494456-G9K8.

A response to the request for a stop sign on Baisley Avenue at Edison Avenue is due in February of 2022 and was assigned work order number DOT-526081-V5L3.

The request for the resurfacing of Waterbury Avenue from Hollywood Avenue to Hobart Avenue, DOT-512146-Q0D1, was approved for Fiscal Year 2023.

New York City Department of Transportation (continued)

Ms. Cruz did not think that the request for repair/remilling/resurfacing of Miles Avenue from Throggs Neck Expressway Service Road to the water at the boundary separating Alden Park and Pennyfield Camp, 311-08070988, was within the jurisdiction of the Agency; Mr. Cruz indicated that the street was not part of either Alden Park or Pennyfield Camp. The location will be reviewed for a determination.

The request for placement of a crosswalk on Balcom Avenue at the intersection of Dewey Avenue was assigned case number DOT-526080-R7G9.

Ms. Cruz referred the ponding issue at 140 Alcott Place (no catch basin in this area) to the HIQA Division for inspection.

The fallen pole on Alcott Place beyond the intersection of Asch Loop was removed.

Ms. Cruz referred the request for additional asphalt at Hutchinson River Parkway East and Boller Avenue due to sinking to the HIQA Division for inspection.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the request for weed trimming and sign removal at pedestrian islands on Baychester Avenue outside Bay Plaza Mall would be addressed at an upcoming meeting between the agency and Prestige Properties. Mr. Cruz requested an invitation to that meeting.

Mr. Cruz requested an update on the request for the repaving of Wenner Place, Rohr Place and Senger Place. Ms. Cruz will check on this request.

Ms. Cruz announced that Commissioner Lopez and Matthew Arancio are no longer at the agency and that all emails should be directed to Keith Kalb and her.

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

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that on Westchester Avenue contractors are installing the NYC Transit #6 Line substructure. This work requires the full closure of the Hutchinson River Parkway in both directions, during the overnight hours of 10 PM – 4 AM. A detour is in place. The contractor is also trying to locate the right turn on red sign which was removed from Westchester Avenue at Hutchinson River Parkway East, for the project.

Mr. Cruz requested that a pothole be filled on Westchester Avenue at Waters Place, just before the turn onto the Hutchinson River Parkway southbound.

Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Bayer reported that the ABO house, which controls the movement of the bridge, and the vasculature piers are almost completed. The project is on schedule. The traffic issues caused by construction at 2505 Bruckner Boulevard have dissipated. Mr. Cruz indicated that the property owners are currently seeking tenants for the space.

Department of Buildings (DOB) E. Jarrat, J. Ward

Mr. Jarrat will provide an update shortly on the Immediate Emergency Demolition (IED) Order at 235 Robinson Avenue.

Mr. Cruz inquired if there is a tutorial on using DOB Now. Mr. Jarrat indicated that there is not and that staff are still learning the program. He offered to field any inquiries as they arise.

Mr. Jarrat introduced John Ward as the new community liaison who will be working with Bronx Community Board #10. Mr. Ward has an extensive background in construction.

Mr. Cruz welcomed Mr. Ward and looks forward to working with him.

Consolidated Edison – R. Infante

Mr. Infante reported that the agency already removed their equipment from the pole at the corner of Clarence and Philip Avenues and that it is the responsibility of the last agency to remove their equipment to remove the pole. He suggested following up with Ms. Horton of Verizon and representatives of Cablevision to determine responsibility. Mr. Infante indicated that the Joint Use Group is tasked with notifying the appropriate agency of their responsibility. He agreed to reach out to them again.

Mr. Infante discussed the issue of Highland Electric squatting on DOT property on City Island Avenue and thwarting the advancement of the City Island gas main installation project. He inquired if Ms. Cruz had the DOT photographs depicting the issue. The neighboring homeowner erroneously insists that she has a legal right to rent out a portion of the space. Mr. Infante explained that the squatters are hampering the agency's ability to fortify the subterranean gas supply channel. He is hopeful the agency continues to receive the support needed to resolve the squatting issue expediently.

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

Burr Ave Project # SEX20047 – Ms. Alfred reported that the project is 74.2% completed. She thanked the Board for assisting with coordinating trash collection in construction areas with DSNY. Excavation work has progressed to Colonial Avenue between Pelham Parkway South and East 196th Street. The contractor is working every day including Veterans Day and the project is on schedule for completion in the summer of 2022.

Environmental Protection Dept. (DEP) – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone indicated that the agency has not yet received a CAR for the pothole at 530 Vincent Avenue, in front of the sea wall. DX202167010. If it is a pothole, DOT will make the needed repairs. Ms. Cruz will follow up with the Roadway Division to determine the next steps.

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.

An open work order also exists for repair of the catch basin at 3180 Barkley Avenue, 311-07493898. It was made safe, but workers will return to repair. The catch basin must be rebuilt.

Ms. Ardizzone was not sure if a CAR was issued by DOT for the agency to address the large cave-in within the crosswalk at LaSalle Avenue and East Tremont Avenue, 311-08001107. Ms. Cruz will check on her end. Ms. Cruz indicated that DOT crews will attempt to make the area safe when they respond.

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

Ms. Zagorski reported that the agency can now keep the staff hired with Mayoral funds issued for City Cleanup, until June 30th. The extra staff can work on other projects in preparation of summer.

Matt requested that litter on the Kazimiroff Trail be cleaned.

Department of Parks and Recreation (continued)

Chris Acosta had nothing new to report other than that the agency continues to work on leaf collection. He is also pleased by the extension of the budget to June but noted that many seasonal workers do not have a driver's license and therefore cannot be best utilized.

He requested that any problem areas be forwarded to him.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) – A. Algabwali,

Mr. Algabwali introduced himself as the new Deputy Director of Community Affairs and the point of contact for the Bronx.

The Child Tax Credit deadline was yesterday. Anyone who missed the deadline can claim it when they file their taxes it can be included in their refund.

Two cases were filed against multiple car dealerships. Kings Auto Show in Brooklyn received over 7,000 violations, and \$50,000 is being sought on behalf of 34 consumers. JM Motors in Queens received 9,000 violations, seeking over \$100,000 on behalf of 9 consumers. The licenses of these dealerships were revoked.

Mr. Algabwali reported that dealerships are required to provide a used car consumer bill of rights for review before signing on to purchase a car. Complaints can be filed on the agency website or by calling 311.

Mr. Algabwali is happy to look into any vending complaints forwarded from the Board office.

Department of Sanitation Enforcement (DSNY-E) – Sgt. Marsh, Sgt. Lowe

Sgt. Marsh had nothing new to report.

Mr. Cruz requested that agents spot-check the area of Westchester Avenue at Amendola Plaza, the Pelham Bay Subway Station. Please ask businesses to sweep and keep their properties clean and well-maintained. Also, please check sidewalks in front of businesses on Pennyfield Avenue.

45th Precinct - NYPD – Det. J. Souhrada

Det. Souhrada reported that the precinct has been active. There has been an increase in the 7 major crime categories. The increase is being addressed by concentrating resources at high priority locations.

Two weeks ago there was a stabbing in Pelham Bay Park following a domestic dispute between homeless individuals.

A few days ago there was a shooting at the corner of Puritan and E. Tremont Avenues. An altercation broke out between a group who lingered in the area after the establishment they had attended closed. A male pulled out a gun and struck 2 people.

Detective Souhrada reported that many establishments are requesting extended hours in their liquor licenses. NYPD is not endorsing these requests due to the spike in crime.

Mr. Cruz inquired if check points will be utilized around the holidays. Det. Souhrada indicated that the Department has already implemented checkpoints in response to the spike in stolen vehicles, one on each of three shifts, three times a day, at sporadic, high volume, locations. No stolen vehicles have been recovered through this exercise, thus far. Suspended licenses are the most common violations.

45th Precinct - NYPD (continued)

Ms. Rubin reported that her office continues to receive noise complaints about car speakers blasting music in the Home Depot parking lot on Gun Hill Road.

Det. Souhrada indicated that the location is in the 49th Precinct, but he can relay the information to them. Blasting car speaker offenders tend to travel between the 45th, 49th and 43rd Precincts. Officers are performing enforcement, but summonses issued are being dismissed. The slushy vehicle which was confiscated for selling illegal alcohol was recently returned to the owner and all summonses were released. The only advantage of confiscating equipment and vehicles is that it keeps the offenders out of commission for a short period.

Department for the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

Mr. Melendez reported that since the start of the pandemic, the agency has placed over 6 million wellness calls to older adults. The calls continue as we transition back to normal. Mr. Melendez reminded seniors with farmers' market coupons that they expire on November 30, 2021.

Mr. Melendez announced that seniors navigating the health insurance open enrollment period can receive assistance with Medicare questions through the agency's Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (HICAP). It is accessible through Aging Connect.

Human Rights Commission NYC (CCHR) –B. Simmons

Thursday, Nov. 18th – Transgender Day of Remembrance to memorialize those who were murdered due to transphobia and to provide support for the transgender community.

Nov. 30 – Facebook Live Conversation – Gender Based Violence and Domestic Workers.

Flyers will be available shortly.

Public Library NY (NYPL) – L. Marin

Ms. Marin, of the Westchester Sq. Branch, reported that the branch hosts computer classes for adults on Tuesdays, and also teen and toddler programs.

Ms. Marin reported that Ms. Brown of the Baychester Branch was unable to attend but sent word that the Baychester Branch will be hosting a Crochet Program on Nov. 19. Ms. Marin reminded all that NYPL is not charging late fees at this time and all are encouraged to return outstanding items and reapply for a NYPL card.

Congressman Jamaal Bowman – N. Vasquez

Mr. Vasquez reported that a violence town hall will be held at community Board 12. It will be a closed event, but all are encouraged to follow on social media for highlights.

The Co-op City and Mt. Vernon offices are opened 9-5 Tuesday-Friday for in person visits, and remotely on Mondays.

Offices will be closed on Thanksgiving and the following day.

Contact information: Office: 718 530 7710; nikolas.vazquez@mail.house.gov

Cell 817 480 0185.

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi's Office – A. Conley

Ms. Conley announced a Food and Health Empowerment Fair on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, 12-6 pm. The fair will have three components: food insecurity, nutrition education and agency resources, and finally, turkey and food distribution. Registration is required.

State Senator Jamaal Bailey's Office – S. Morello

Mr. Morello announced a Turkey Giveaway at Senator Bailey's Office this Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 1-3 PM. RSVP only, 718 547 8854

Senator Bailey, with Assemblyman Benedetto, Councilman Riley, and Councilwoman Gibson, will host a turkey giveaway in Co-op City at One Greenway, by 100 Dekruif Place. Turkeys will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, beginning at noon.

City Councilman Kevin Riley's Office – J. Antonnetty

Mr. Antonnetty was present but had to leave the meeting early.

City Councilman Mark Gjonaj's Office – F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. The office is organizing a turkey giveaway. Those interested must register by calling the office at 718 931 1721 and receive pick up information.

Councilman Gjonaj's Office is hosting a Shredding Event at JASA - 2705 Schley Avenue from 1-4 PM on Saturday, November 20th.

A pet food giveaway is being planned. Details will be distributed when finalized.

The office will be closed on Thanksgiving and on Friday, November 26th. For assistance call: 718 931 1721.

Department of Sanitation (DSNY) – Superintendent Falcaro

Superintendent Falcaro is filling in as temporary Superintendent of District 10. Superintendent Fontana was reassigned to Manhattan. A new Superintendent will be appointed shortly.

Mr. Cruz requested assistance in getting Sterns Street and Parker Street cleaned in Westchester Square. Debris has been dumped on the sidewalk at this location.

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

Ms. Santana announced a gun buyback event on December 18th in the 47th Precinct. A flyer will be distributed when available.

Mr. Cruz thanked all for their attendance and concluded the meeting at 11:07 AM. There will be no December meeting. We will reconvene on January 18, 2022 at 10 AM. Nov. 18, 2021 is the final Board meeting for the year and will be conducted via WebEx. In person meetings resume in January, however, District Service Cabinet meetings will remain virtual to facilitate agency attendance.

Happy Holidays to all.