



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

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Peter J. Sullivan
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING January 15, 2019

District Manager Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:05 am by wishing all a Happy New Year and conveying his hopes of working efficiently with the agencies in 2019 in serving the residents of Bronx Community Board #10.

NYPD – Lt. Hernandez

Lt. Hernandez reported that last year Community Board #10 did well statistically, but did see a slight rise in violent crimes. Assaults were up slightly due to the fact that an Assault 3 was raised to a felony. Felonious assaults were also up slightly in 2019. Rim thefts continue to be an issue in the Pelham Bay area.

Lt. Hernandez reported that the precinct will be working on party room enforcement this week. Party rooms may not be used on a regular basis so they are harder to regulate. The party room behind PARQ is of concern.

There was an assault at Bases Loaded on Westchester Avenue, last Friday. No arrests have been made as of yet.

There were 5 incidents of parking at the hydrant at 1018 Revere Avenue. The car owner is not from the precinct. Officers continue to monitor this issue.

No violations have been issued at the intersection of Coddington and Crosby Avenues. NCO's have been monitoring the intersection.

Lt. Hernandez reported that the NYPD visited Pennyfield Avenue 470 times last year. Double parking at the hydrant on Pennyfield Avenue is ongoing. SUNY Maritime College resumes classes next week. The precinct will keep an eye on parking issues on Pennyfield Avenue and illegal u-turning and double parking at Crosby and Buhre Avenues.

Mr. Cruz requested that the two or three abandoned vehicles parked in front of 3147 Bruckner Blvd. be removed as soon as possible.

Lt. Hernandez reported that a March Event took place at the Shamrock Inn and Cabo Restaurant. One violation was issued for underage drinking at each establishment.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz

Ms. Cruz announced that her name has changed and provided her new email address:
Dcruz2@dot.nyc.gov.

Ms. Cruz provided Alternate Side Parking Calendars for 2019 and reminded all to report potholes to 311 for repair.

The Board's request for a crosswalk at Schurz & Brinsmade Avenues was initially denied, but because it is in close proximity to Preston High School, it was referred to the School Safety Division of DOT. A response is due on the new request in March.

The Board's request for traffic signal timing on Jarvis Avenue at Bruckner Blvd was completed on December 5th.

Responses to the request for the repaving of East Tremont Avenue at the Bruckner Expressway overpass, repaving of Ellsworth Avenue between Fairmount and Layton Avenues, an All Way Stop Sign at 196th Street and St. Paul Avenue, request for a street light opposite 3010 Lawton Avenue, and a traffic signal request for the intersection of Crosby and Coddington Avenues are all due in March, 2019.

Concerning the Boards resurfacing requests, Ms. Cruz indicated that the Board will receive three letters: one indicating streets that were recently repaved, one indicating areas that are not City streets and cannot be paved, and one indicating when streets are scheduled to be repaved. If any requests are new, they won't be addressed until 2021 at the earliest as the 2020 schedule is already completed.

The Board's request for road surface repairs on the New England Thruway between Exits 8 and 13 north and south were met with confusion, since the New England Thruway Authority informed the Board that NYC DOT would handle the repairs and that agency indicates that it is the New England Thruway Authority's responsibility. Ms. Cruz indicated that a letter will be sent to the New England Thruway Authority. Mr. Cruz also requested assistance from Assembly Member Benedetto's Office on this matter.

Clarification was made concerning the request for removal of foliage extending onto the roadway along Shore Road from the Bartow Circle to the County line northbound and from the circle to the entrance of the Hutch southbound. It is the responsibility of the Park's Department. Mr. Cruz indicated that FEDCAP can assist with this request. Ms. Davis-O'Neal of Parks agreed to work with the Board and FEDCAP to facilitate this work. Mr. Cruz will email her with the specifics.

The Board's request for a traffic study at Balcom and Schley Avenues was denied. Mr. Cruz indicated that the Board received nearly 1000 signatures requesting assistance for this intersection and further indicated that daylighting would even be acceptable at this location. Ms. Cruz will resubmit the request for reevaluation.

Ms. Cruz indicated that she had no updates on the request for pothole repair on Maitland Avenue between 2806 and 2804.

The Board's request for muni meters at 3147 Bruckner Blvd and 3113 Westchester Avenue have been referred to the Parking Management Division. Muni meters are usually granted if the

request is in close proximity to existing meters, which is not the case in this instance. Ms. Cruz will explain the specifics of our request in an effort to have the meters installed.

DOT BRIDGES – R. Fernandez, A. Bayer

Mr. Fernandez reported that the Westchester Avenue Overpass Project is progressing well. Stage one of the project should be completed in the next couple of months. Mr. Fernandez asked to be contacted with any issues that may arise.

Ms. Bayer provided an update on the Unionport Bridge Project and provided flyers concerning an upcoming traffic shift. A new group of traffic agents have been placed and will be evaluated. Traffic agents have greatly improved travel through the area.

Mayor's Office of Community Affairs – F. Konneh

NYC ID – will be implemented in Board #10 in the spring. A better location is being sought, possibly in front of the Owen Dolen Recreation Center.

The Mayor's office is seeking a location to host a Resource Fair in Board #10 on either January 29th or January 31st as part of *City Hall in Your Borough*. Mr. Cruz indicated that Lehman High School would be an ideal location, however, school will be in session. Mr. Cruz indicated that in Board 11, Bronx House at 990 Pelham Parkway South might be an ideal location and is in close proximity to Board #10. A Town Hall event will be held in Riverdale. The Mayor's Office is interested in holding events in different areas of the Bronx.

Mr. Cruz inquired if he can review the Covenant House contract with the Mayor's Office and brief the Board on the specifics. He noted that another demonstration may take place this weekend against Covenant House, which is scheduled to move into the facility in March. Mr. Konneh indicated that Covenant House should be cooperative with the Board and attend meetings if they are on the agenda. Mr. Cruz has been in contact with the facility and will invite them to future District Service Cabinet meetings after they move in.

The facility, transitional youth housing for those 18 to 24 years old, at 1550 St. Peter's Avenue, also known as 2501 Glebe Avenue, is around the corner from a woman's shelter. The community is upset. Covenant House chose not to inform the Board that they were coming. The Board should have been notified as a courtesy.

Mr. Cruz thanked the Mayor's Office for ferry service in Ferry Point Park.

Parks and Recreation – V. Davis-O'Neal, K. Zagorski, A. Rivera

Ms. Davis-O'Neal introduced Mr. Rivera who was recently named a Parks & Recreation Manager. He indicated that he looked at the stairs at Bufano Park and will see what can be done. No money has been allocated for the reconstruction of the park. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will

reach out to Councilman Gjonaj. Mr. Cruz would also like to speak with the Hockey Rink manager to see how the space can be utilized.

Ms. Zagorski announced that a community workshop on the Orchard Beach Pavilion will be held on January 30th at 6:30 PM at St. Mary's Recreation Center.

Mr. Cruz noted that the Shore Road Project presentation at the Board's joint Municipal Services/Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was informative and welcomed. The Chairman has been requesting Shore Road improvements for quite a while and is happy.

DSNY – Enforcement – SEA II D. White

Mr. Cruz requested that tree pits continue to be monitored for cleanliness.

Illegal dumping is occurring behind the Dunkin Donuts along the Hutchinson River Parkway. Because it is along the highway this is a Parks issue. Ms. Davis-O'Neal will follow up.

Buildings – S. Nuzzo

Mr. Nuzzo reported on 3250 Westchester Avenue. HUD was contacted to schedule an appointment for a new building application

500 Baychester Ave. is still under litigation. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will remove this item from future agendas.

2115 Burr Avenue – a new building application was approved on Dec. 20, 2018. No permits issued.

3273 Westchester Avenue - permits issued to correct violations were approved. Alteration II for interior work was also filed for minor work.

1051 Hollywood Avenue – upon inspection illegal excavation and placement of a prefabricated retaining wall was observed and violations were issued. The stop work order was not adhered to and the wall was completed. They were issued a \$6000 violation and will have to follow up in court.

2018 Continental Avenue - Unsafe building filed – In courts adjourned to 28th of Jan. Roof was the major issue has been patched by owner.

2878 Sampson Avenue – 3 occasions visited the site. An ECB violation was issued for a fence. Roof and siding work was not permitted work so it was okay.

1820 Edison Avenue - Demo Application was issued Feb 1 2017, nothing permitted. New building application 6 stories 10 dwelling units was disapproved. Parking may be waived. One parking space for every two dwellings may be waived to one for every five.

2925 Green Place has \$18,000 in civil penalties. Their application to correct ECB violations was disapproved – stop work orders were issued and are in place. If work is observed, file a 311 complaint.

1525 Research Avenue was issued an unsafe building violation on Dec.20th. Court proceeding were started.

3551 East Tremont Avenue, the former bakery near Schuyler Hill Funeral Home – The chimney was found to be in good condition. ECB violations were issued for cracked bricks. Will follow up again concerning oil leaking out.

1141 Crosby Avenue – was issued a violation for an illegal class A apartment on the 1st floor.

Mr. Cruz inquired if legalizing basement apartments is being considered. Mr. Nuzzo indicated that it will begin as a pilot program.

2939 Wilkinson Avenue – There is no construction super on the site and they were not obeying the stop work order. Will follow up with the fire safety issue.

3109 Buhre Avenue is still an unfinished building. A stop work order has been in place for many months. Owner is not making any efforts to correct the violations and it is an eyesore in the neighborhood. It is a 7 story building with 9 parking spaces.

DEP – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone reported that the water main on Erskine Place under I-95 was repaired and the catch basin at 944 Revere Avenue near the corner of Barkley Avenue was cleaned.

Mr. Cruz requested the cleaning of a catch basin at 3147 Bruckner Blvd. Unfortunately, there is always a car parked over it. DEP must coordinate with residents so no one parks over it. Ms. Ardizzone explained that DEP makes 3 attempts to access the site before closing out the complaint.

Ms. Ardizzone announced that rain barrel season begins in April and the Agency will work with the Board and elected officials to coordinate rain barrel giveaways. Mr. Cruz indicated that Board #10 is planning a shredding event on March 30th and will coordinate a rain barrel giveaway to make it a joint event. Ms. Ardizzone requested an email indicating the number of rain barrels the Board would require.

FDNY – A. Lessuck, B.C. O'Reilly

Mr. Lessuck reported that the meter on Wenner Place is not theirs.

He reported on a serious fire in Co-Op City. Operations 61 and 66 did a great job saving the residents. The fire started with kids playing with a lighter. Mr. Lessuck is reaching out to Riverbay and PS 160 and PS 178 to perform fire safety programs. One program was done yesterday. The other will have their program on Wednesday, January 23rd. Mr. Cruz indicated that he would like to stop by and Mr. Lessuck will forward an email with specifics.

Mr. Lessuck met with Riverbay's Safety Director, Tony Bordolas, and they are working on a plan to work over the next 6 months to hold fire safety events with community groups and community centers in Co-op City.

Borough Chief O'Reilly recapped the recent fire and provided statistics: 43 structural, 10 non-structural and 1 suspicious, which is no longer suspicious as the cause of the Co-op City fire was determined.

Many FDNY calls are attributed to residents smelling gas.

Department of Homeless Services (DHS) – N. Jordan

Nothing new to report. Cluster conversion is not an issue in Board 10.

Covenant House coming to same block as St. Peters Residence. It is not a DHS facility.

Pelham Grand – K. Mann

Ms. Mann had nothing new to report.

Pelham Grand, supportive housing in Pelham Bay, can offer their facility as a meeting place for community groups. Community Advisory Board meetings will resume at the Pelham Grand.

DSNY – Superintendent Mason

Superintendent Mason reported that DSNY is cleaning Givan Avenue twice a week.

Mr. Cruz indicated that FEDCAP will be cleaning the Cross Bronx Expressway, by Providence Rest on Saturday, Jan. 26th.

An illegal dumper in a BMW was caught on Givan Avenue.

Baychester Ave. to Rombouts Avenue is being monitored.

Superintendent Mason referred Baychester Avenue to FEDCAP. 125 tires were removed from this area.

Many vehicles are being tagged. DSNY works with the sector officers on illegally parked cars. At Bruckner Blvd. and Waterbury Avenue a car has been tagged for removal.

DOH – E. Peralta-Downing

Letter grading for mobile food vendors began at the end of December. It should take approximately 2 years to fully implement. Tracking devices will be adhered to vendor trucks in order for the DOH to locate them for inspections.

Permits are also being issued in order to sell Hooka. Establishments had until Oct 23 2018 to submit their hooka permit applications. Prior to this hooka sale was not regulated. Inspectors were noticing that tobacco was being mixed with the shisha mixture; this is illegal. Tobacco is mixed in because it is cheaper, but it poses a serious health risk.

If a business who sold hooka goes out of business, the permit is not transferrable.

Some establishments haven't applied for their license within the timeframe and they will be unable to get a permit. If they applied within the time, they have a month or so to submit their documentation.

Lt. Hernandez inquired how NYPD will know which establishments have a hooka permit. Ms. Peralta-Downing will follow up on this question with the Agency. Right now establishments can continue to sell hooka until the permits are issued. Fines can vary and are issued on a case by case basis

DCA – T. Rahman

Mr. Cruz requested an update on Tosca Café at 4042 E. Tremont Avenue which has been shut down for 2 years. Ms. Rahman initiated an inspection request and will report back.

Ms. Rahman indicated that DCA hosted a student loan debt clinic last Saturday at the Mott Haven Library. Approximately 50 clients met with a financial counsellor. Loan forgiveness programs and other options were discussed.

Free tax events are coming up – the IRS will be doing free tax preparation, at 200 sites, for those earning less than \$54,000 starting Jan. 28, 2019. Mr. Cruz requested a pop up event in Co-op City.

Ms. Rahman reported that the agency has a new name. Dept. of Consumer and Worker Protection.

Office of the Comptroller – A. Ortiz

Mr. Ortiz announced that an affordable housing report was recently released. 15% of new construction will be set aside for homeless families and low income.

The Comptroller's Office is also supportive of homeowners' assistance with taxes paid when taking out a mortgage.

Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

A representative is not present, but best wishes were sent from Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez. She will have a new location in the Bronx shortly.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi

Senator Biaggi's office is currently at 1250 Waters Place with the same phone number as former Senator Klein: 718 822-2049. Christian Amato is the contact person if you need assistance. This office will be moving to the Morris Park area shortly.

Mr. Cruz wished our new representatives the best of luck in their new positions.

Office of Senator Jamaal Bailey – A. Meza

Ms. Meza announced that on Friday Jan. 18th the Senator will host a Creative Corner Event talent show and a candle making event at 3848 White Plains Road, 6 – 10 PM.

Job Fair for openings at the Northeast Bronx WMCA – on Sat. Jan 26th, 9 am-12 pm at PS 112, 1925 Schieffelein Avenue

Ms. Meza announced important legislative updates concerning voting reform items passed yesterday:
early voting, same day voter registrations, no excuse absentee voting, consolidation of the federal and state primaries, voting pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds., LLC loophole

Voting items on today's agenda:
GENDA gender identity crimes will be processed as hate crimes.
Reproductive health codifying Roe v wade.

By the end of the month the Dream Act named for the late Senator Jose Peralta, will be passed.

The Governor's State of the State speech is today at 2:30 pm

Office of Councilman Mark Gjonaj – Ishrael Gonzales

The Councilman hosted a recent toy drive which was successful.

Mr. Cruz announced that the Bronx Community Board #10 will have a Public Hearing prior to our full Board Meeting on Thursday, January 17th, at 7 PM, concerning Blondell Commons.

Office of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – J. Adams

Assemblyman Benedetto was named the Education Chair for the NYS Assembly.

Free tax prep for seniors in the district (62+) will be starting in mid-February.

Mr. Cruz, again, reminded all that on Thursday, January 17th at 7 PM, at 2999 Schurz Avenue, a Public Hearing will be held on Blondell Commons: six, 8 story buildings with 350 apartments at 1346 Blondell Avenue. This development will technically be in Board 11, however it most influences Board #10. Mr. Cruz welcomed all agencies to the hearing because if it comes to fruition, all agencies will be called upon to provide services to the new occupants.

OEM – B. Asher

The agency was involved in a gas main issue on Norther Boulevard.
During February in the Bronx and Queens there will be a drive to sign up CERT volunteers.
Please see website for CERT details: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/volunteer/nyc-cert.page>

Mr. Cruz announced that next Wednesday, January 23, 2019, Bronx District Managers will meet to discuss the 2019 City Charter Revision Commission. He requested that suggestions/recommendations be forwarded to him. Mr. Cruz noted that his recommendations include better Agency responses to requests made through the District Needs process and decreasing the frequency of District Service Cabinet meetings now that we are in the digital age.

The meeting concluded at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Noreen H. Kilkenny
Bronx Community Board #10