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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 March 19, 2019

District Manager Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:01 am by inviting agency representatives to introduce themselves.

NYPD – Lt. Juzsa, P. O. Souhrada

Lt. Juzsa with the Special Operations Unit, introduced himself and explained that his unit works with patrol, but also handles special operations, State Liquor Authority matters, domestic violence, etc. He explained that statistics are relayed on three levels, week to date, the 28 day period and year to date. For the year to date statistics, the overall crime index is down 14.5%. Every index area of crime is down double digits except for murder which increased because of the recent taxi driver murder in Co-op City. Burglaries are down 52% and grand larceny, which is usually high in this area due to car thefts, is down 9%. Lt. Juzsa attributed the lowering crime figures to the hard work of the NCO officers, Community Affairs Officers, and regular patrols.

Party room licensing requirements were discussed. Mr. Cruz relayed that party room venues cannot serve alcohol unless they have a liquor license. The Board is working on getting these establishments to apply for a permit even though there is no specific license for this use. This is not a chronic issue in Board 10.

Lt. Juzsa relayed that there are two types of licenses that can be used for party rooms: a catering establishment liquor license and a one-day liquor permit that can be applied for up to four times per year.

Lt. Juzsa relayed that Mamajuana, Bases Loaded, Parq and Havana Café were visited during the past month. Parq and Havana Café received no summonses. Mamajuana received a significant amount of summonses but it is not a problematic establishment according to Lt. Juzsa. Bases Loaded also received summonses.

Unattended property (phones and purses) accounted for three grand larcenies, one at Bases Loaded, one at Parq and one at Mamajuana.

2527 Glebe Avenue Health Center had no recent issues. Since January 1, 2018 only three complaints were received, one for harassment, one for unattended property and one domestic issue. The only 311 complaints received were for double parked cars.

Covenant House will open in April. NYPD met with the organizers and will work with them when the facility opens.

Filming of “The Hunt” is taking place today on East Tremont Avenue. Officer Rivera is running a check on it and Officer Souhrada will stop by the area after the meeting.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz

The response to the Board’s request for repaving at the Bruckner Expressway overpass on East Tremont Avenue is due tomorrow. Ms. Cruz will keep the Board apprised when information is available.

The response to the new request for traffic controls at Balcom and Schley Avenues which was originally denied has been resubmitted for new ideas and is due in June.

The request for inspection of illegal sidewalk markings at 2280 Lyon Avenue is due in thirty days. C1-1-1670361856

A response has not been received to the Board’s request for All Way Stop signs at St. Paul Avenue and E. 196th Street.

The request for repaving Ellsworth Avenue between Fairmount and Layton Avenues has been approved and should be accomplished in fiscal year 2020. DOT 400580-C1N5

A response has not been received to the request for a traffic signal at Crosby and Coddington Avenues, DOT-397217- F4Z5.

A response to the request for a traffic light at Dreiser Loop and DeKruif Place, DO-406174-Q8B0 is due in June.

Refurbishing street markings at Dreiser Loop and DeKruif Place has been approved and should be accomplished during the spring marking season.

A response to the request for removal of the No Parking Anytime signage at 3176 El Tremont Avenue is due in May. DOT 406494-P9V5

A response to the request for All Way Stop Signs on LaSalle Avenue from Crosby to Edison Avenues is due in June.

A response to the request for pedestrian ramps at Keane Sq. Park is due in April.

A response to the request for a speed hump study on LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues is due in March of 2021. Speed hump requests have a two year response time. Dot 406830-K0G5

A response to the request for a speed hump study on Edison Avenue from LaSalle to Waterbury Avenues is due in March of 2021. DOT-406830-M9C8

Mr. Korrez of Assemblyman Benedetto’s office requested the removal of truck loading zone signage at 1534 Williamsbridge Road, the old Dizzy Deans store which has been out of business for many years. Ms. Cruz agreed to follow up with Mr. Korrez on this issue, after the meeting.

Mr. Cruz posed the issue of billboards near highways in our district. Most are illegal if closer than 200 ft. to an arterial highway because they pose a distraction to drivers. He will report any he encounters.

DOT BRIDGES – R. Fernandez, A. Bayer

Mr. Fernandez reported that the project is progressing well. They are preparing for a steel erection in a few weeks which will require lane closures. He suggested that anyone who would like to be included in the notification contact him. Mr. Cruz noted that he should include the representatives from Senator Biaggi's office if they are not already on the list.

Ms. Bayer reported that two lift bridges will soon be in place at the Unionport Bridge. Potholes on the bridge should be reported to her and not 311. Potholes on the bridge are being handled by a different contract than street potholes.

DSNY – Supervisor V. Baranello

Mr. Baranello discussed the District Needs items requesting more on-street trash cans and recycling containers and expanded household hazardous waste events. He relayed Superintendent Mason's feeling that on-street trash cans were increased and are now sufficient and that Hazardous Waste events are scheduled regularly. He announced that on May 4th from 10 AM to 4 PM the Department of Sanitation is holding a Hazardous Waste Event at the Orchard Beach parking lot.

James Chen of central DSNY requested locations that experience littering from motor vehicles in Board #10. Mr. Cruz provided locations and copied Superintendent Mason.

Mr. Baranello reported that a crew responded to the Board's complaint of overflowing litter baskets at the five way intersection at Crosby and Westchester Avenues and found no overflow at that time. Receptacles in our area are serviced five times a week by the baskets crew.

The Department has been issuing violations for littered tree pits.

DOB – S. Nuzzo

Mr. Nuzzo announced that the agency has launched a new interactive map. Users can click on a building to receive activity at that property for the past twelve months, violations, etc.

3250 Westchester Avenue there are no new updates. They professionally certified a temporary downpipe. Mr. Cruz noted that this 7 story, all commercial/medical, project is not popular with local residents, but it is ready to begin.

2115 Burr Avenue is approved for 22 dwelling units, 11 parking spaces.

3273 Westchester Avenue has a partial stop work order but some alteration applications were approved to repair violations.

Owners of 2018 Continental Avenue went to court concerning the roof at this property. It has been patched and resolved and will be removed from future agendas.

1820 Edison Avenue - A proposed new 6 story building with 10 dwelling units and no parking spaces has been disapproved on two occasions.

1525 Research Avenue is in a court proceeding. Mr. Nuzzo will have more info at the end of the month.

3551 E. Tremont Avenue have an approved job for exterior brick work. Mr. Cruz requested notification if they apply for internal work. Mr. Cruz noted that the Board received complaints of oil leaking through the brick work.

2280 Lyon Avenue received executive inspections and was found to be providing off street parking facility without a curb cut. They received a violation for zoning non-conformance. News will be available at the end of the month after court proceedings. Mr. Cruz indicated that he will contact the homeowner. Inspectors were not able to gain access to the garage to inspect for illegal conversion.

1141 Crosby Avenue received violations for having an illegal class A apartment. The homeowner has submitted certified corrections and filed to remove all necessary components of the apartment.

The project at 3109 Buhre Ave. is at a standstill. Mr. Nuzzo will get updates when available.

372 Balcom Avenue received parking and illegal use violations on February 27th. This item will be removed from the agenda.

3530 Bruckner Blvd. - two homes have applied for demolition and the merging of their tax lots to erect an 8 story building with 26 dwelling units. The application was submitted but has not received a determination, as yet. This application has thirteen open parking spaces.

3250 B Lucerne Street – Mr. Cruz reported that he received an anonymous complaint of a resident parking two commercial tow trucks on this block and requested that this be investigated. Complaint number - 2277791

Mr. Ellison of Riverbay Corporation requested assistance from the Department of Buildings with their elevator modernization program at Co-op City. Mr. Nuzzo indicated that he would work with Riverbay to facilitate the program.

FDNY – Borough Chief T. Reilly

BC Reilly reported on statistics. Non-medical emergencies increased, mostly due to better awareness of reporting gas odors. On occasions when the FDNY responds first to complaints, residents are not allowing Con Edison representatives onto their property. Residents should allow access for the agency to also check for any issues.

DEP – E. Ardizzone

Ms. Ardizzone discussed the agency's attempt to clean the catch basin at 3147 Bruckner Boulevard. Despite NYPD No Parking signage at the location, cars were parked and the site could not be cleaned. Another attempt will be scheduled.

Ms. Ardizzone discussed the Board's District Needs request for catch basin inspection. She reported that all catch basins are inspected yearly and maintained as needed.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he will remove this District Need going forward since it is routinely performed by the Agency.

3166 Spencer Drive issue has no complaint calls. Mr. Cruz received video, however Ms. Ardizzone stressed the need for 311 notification.

The issue of a missing catch basin cover at the southbound entrance to the Hutchinson River Parkway at Waters Place falls under the responsibility of State DOT. DEP will no longer perform work on equipment that is not theirs.

DEP will be participating with Board #10 and Zoodohos Peghe Church in a rain barrel/shredding event on Saturday, March 30, 2019, 10 AM – 2 PM, at the church parking lot, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard. Ms. Ardizzone requested a copy of this event flyer.

Ms. Ardizzone announced a new DEP campaign, *Trash It Don't Flush It*, which discourages flushing grease, baby wipes, and other harmful products, which create problems at waste water treatment plants.

Mr. Cruz noted that in 2020 a large scale sewer project will begin on Burr Avenue. Parking will be removed for the project and will be difficult for residents. Another water main project will take place on City Island.

Crystal's Place – A. Sepulveda

Ms. Sepulveda relayed that there were no updates other than that DOE conducted a pre-registration event at the facility.

The next CAB meeting will be held on April 3rd.

OEM – J. Joonoos

Mr. Joonoos had nothing new to report.

Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta, K. Zagorski

Ms. Zagorski reported that on Monday the movie FBI was approved to shoot on Orchard Beach Road and will be closed in both directions from 7AM to 8 PM in both directions. The project may end earlier than 8 PM.

Mr. Cruz inquired about a Parks presentation at the Ice House Café. It was ascertained that the meeting was not regarding dredging, but ecological issues.

Chris Acosta introduced himself as the new manager of the district.

The Owen Dolen Recreation Center improvements are in phase one, including roof and window repair, and indoor amenities. Work should be completed in approximately 18 months.

A family awareness event will be held at Bufano Park on March 23 from 2 – 6 PM.

Commission on Human Rights - S. Miranda

Ms. Miranda reported that in conjunction with Councilman Gjonaj's Town Hall meeting on March 27th at the Westchester Square Library, HPD representatives will be on hand to help those in need of assistance.

Department of Homeless Services - DHS – N. Jordan

Ms. Jordan announced that in February, year 2 of *Turning the Tide* was completed. Most clusters that were closed, approximately 1500 units, were in the Bronx. DHS placed over 100,000 families in the past 6 years. Homelessness in the City decreased by 2,000 (down from 60,000 to 58,000).

Not every site has CAB meetings.

Mr Cruz addressed Officer Souhrada concerning incoming complaints about tractor trailers on Bruckner Boulevard and Middletown Road. Officer Souhrada explained that the 45th Precinct has done ticket blitzes and heavy duty tow operations. It is difficult to conduct tow operations, because there is a lack of tow equipment and storage facilities.

New York Public Library - NYPL – L. Brown, Baychester Branch

Ms. Brown was happy to introduce their new adult librarian, Taylor Harding, at the Baychester Branch. She also announced the *Making of Co-op City* event to be held on April 6th at 1 PM at the Baychester Branch. Three speakers will deliver their viewpoint of the building of Co-op City.

Mr. Cruz commented that the new Westchester Square branch is planned, scheduled and funded, contrary to a recent newspaper article.

Office of District Attorney, Darcel Clark - M. Tavares

Ms. Tavares announced that on March 27th the District Attorney's Office will provide a free informative workshop "After the Arrest" which will provide an overview of arrest and arraignment process.

On April 24th there will be a workshop, "You Be the Judge" which provides an overview of how the District Attorney's office works.

There will be a child safety fair on April 24th in the 46th precinct area. Location information is as yet unavailable.

Office of Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. – A. Toledo

Mr. Toledo announced that the annual development report is available on the website. The Bronx had another banner year for investment: 3.43 billion dollars.

Board member reappointment letters are being mailed next week.

Office of Comptroller Scott Stringer – A. Ortiz

Mr. Ortiz announced that the Comptroller was in Board #10 last week visiting senior centers. A report was released calling for City agencies to diversity. The City received a “D” for effort in this area. Only a handful of agencies received an “A”. The Comptroller wants to appoint a diversity officer to monitor this area.

Mr. Ellison or Riverbay Corporation noted that diversity among city vendors is a concern of residents of Co-op City. He is working on planning a vendor expo to provide an opportunity for residents to meet the vendors that serve them.

Mr. Cruz noted that although Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez does not have a representative at the meeting, she may be attending the April Board meeting on April 17th at 7 PM at Providence Rest.

Office of State Senator Alesandra Biaggi – F. Mercedes, M. Joyce

Ms. Joyce announced that this was their first time attending the Board’s District Service Cabinet meeting. Senator Biaggi is hoping to have constituent services stationed at the Community Board Office for a day in April. They are planning to have 5 mobile office days per month, all around the district. Currently their office is located at 1250 Waters Place, but they will be moving soon. All agency representatives are invited to visit.

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – A. Mesa

Ms. Mesa announced that the State Senate is currently in the budget process.

Today the Senate is passing expanding use of speed cameras in school zones.

A “Women’s Her Story” event is scheduled for March 23rd between 1-5 PM, at the Dole Center in Mt. Vernon. Flyers are available.

Taste of the District will take place from April 22nd through 28th. Participating restaurants will provide “Bailey Specials” for people to have an opportunity to sample great local venues.

An Autism Awareness Walk will be held on Sunday April 28th from 11 AM to 2 PM at Hapfen Park. Participants will meet at Hammersley and Ely Avenues meeting.

Office of City Councilman Mark Gjonaj – F. Rubin

Ms. Rubin announced that the Councilman will have mobile office hours in City Island tomorrow.

A Housing Town Hall & Resource Fair will be held on March 27th from 4 – 6 PM at the Westchester Sq. Library, 2521 Glebe Avenue. HPD representatives will be on hand to assist with Housing Connect applications, disability/accessibility, etc.

On April 23rd a mammogram van will be parked outside of the Council Office at 1478 Williamsbridge Road.

Free tax prep and immigration and housing assistance is available by appointment at the Council Office.

Cleanup days are being organized in the district. The Councilman's office is working with community groups and schools to accomplish area clean ups. Children can get community service hours by participating.

Office of Councilmember Andy King – A. Bermudez

Mr. Bermudez had no new issues to report.

Office of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – J. Korres

Mr. Korres had no announcements, but complemented the Board on the informative nature of the meeting.

Mr. Cruz adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

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