



Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson  
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 October 18, 2022

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; Consolidated Edison: R. Infante; CCHR: O. Torres; DDC: J. Parisien; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: L. Szabados; DoHMH – K. Johnson; DOT: J. Soto, K. Perez; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou, R. Zurita; State DOT: T. Bayer; DSNY-E: Lt. Ratliff; Office of Mayor Eric Adams, CAU: A. Dowe; NYPD: Det. J. Souhrada, Officer H. Rivera; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Velazquez; Parks: C. Acosta, K. Zagorski-Kelly; Pelham Grand: K. Mann; Town and Country: P. Alexander; Office of Council Member Amanda Farias: R. Nieves; Office of Assembly Member Michael Benedetto: M. McKay; Office of State Senator J. Bailey: C. Coleman; Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez: S. Rodriguez; Office of Council Member Kevin Riley: K. Bolt; Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark: M. Santana-Tavarez; R. Spencer; Office of the Borough President: I. Gonzalez; Office of Public Advocate Jumaani Williams: S. Solano (33)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:06 AM by welcoming Cabinet members. Meetings will continue to be virtual. Credentials will be the same. If you are new to the meeting, please include your contact info in the chat.

#### **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DoHMH) – K. Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reported that Omicron Boosters and Flu Shots are being distributed. They can be received simultaneously.

The Agency has implemented a name change for the Monkeypox Virus. It will now be referred to as MPV. It is also being temporarily classified as a sexually transmitted disease (STI) in New York State. This will facilitate access to care for minors.

The Halal Food Cart at 3775 E. Tremont Avenue which was shut down by the agency, continues to operate. Mr. Johnson reported that the cart has been flagged for a follow up inspection and will notify the team that it is operational.

#### **New York City Police Department (NYPD)- Det. J.Souhrada, P. O. H. Rivera**

Detective Souhrada reported that crime statistics are down in most areas except robberies and grand larcenies. A Bronx pattern of armed robberies has emerged. Grand larcenies are up 66%. We've had 50 this year up from 30 this time last year. Much of this may be attributable to catalytic converter thefts. The Department is also bracing for an uptick in holiday driven thefts.

On Friday, October 21 the Bronx District Attorney's Office in conjunction with Patrol Borough Bronx will host a Catalytic Converter Etching Event at the Orchard Beach Parking lot from noon to 4 PM. All are encouraged to attend and promote the event. If it is well attended additional events may be scheduled.

Last Sunday the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct hosted a very successful Fall Festival where approximately 200 residents visited the precinct and enjoyed festive activities such as a bouncy house, game truck, etc.

Mr. Cruz referred to the list of parking issues on the agenda. Det. Souhrada indicated that heavy duty tow operations have taken place in the area. Over 40 heavy duty tows were accomplished. Over 20 vehicles were towed and over 20 commercial vehicles were booted, over 100 summonses were issued. Executive officers have been particularly focused on this issue and have done much work to remedy it. Det. Souhrada thanked Sanitation and other agencies who have greatly assisted in ongoing tow efforts.

Mr. McKay from Assemblyman Benedetto's office inquired if stickers indicating that the vehicles were NYPD etched would be applied as a deterrent to potential thieves. Detective Souhrada indicated that he would pass on Mr. McKay's valuable suggestion at an etching event meeting scheduled later that morning. Detective Souhrada will report back to the Board and Assemblyman Benedetto's Office.

### **New York City - Department of Transportation (DOT) – J. Soto; K. Perez**

Mr. Soto reported on agenda items:

- Mr. Soto is awaiting a response from the streetlighting unit concerning the installation schedule for the approved additional street lighting on Bruckner Boulevard from East Tremont Avenue to Balcom Avenue, # DOT-529222-B3Q1.
- Mr. Soto received Mr. Cruz' follow up email concerning the area on Pennyfield Avenue which was omitted from the recent repaving. He will check with his co-workers that this issue was not already logged in the system before entering it and scheduling a site visit.
- Mr. Cruz offered to visit this site with Mr. Soto: Request for a left turn signal on the Layton Avenue overpass at Throggs Neck Expressway Service Road.
- Request for new curbs on Lafayette Avenue between E. Tremont and Edison Avenues, case number DOT-545921-G0N9 and request for curb installation on Dean Avenue between Layton and Barkley Avenues - DOT-563041-C9F6 are being researched internally, as they are automatically being processed as pedestrian ramp requests in the system.
- Mr. Cruz offered to visit this site with Mr. Soto, also. Mr. Soto did not find it in the system. Request for pothole repair in the crosswalk on Graff Avenue at Miles Avenue. Possible street anomaly causing severe ponding.
- Mr. Soto is checking on the request for pedestrian ramps at the intersection of Pennyfield and Harding Avenues, DOT-539465-T9Y7
- Mr. Soto checked with the division and will let us know as soon as confirmation is received that the faded street signs at Lafayette and Dean Avenues are replaced: DOT-547983-Z0R2
- Mr. Soto will follow up with the Design and Construction Division regarding the request for repainting angle parking lines at 100, 120, 140 Carver Loop
- Mr. Soto indicated that he observed the area of the sinkhole repair request in the southbound lane on Westchester Avenue between Blondell Avenue and Waters Place (across the street from the Pelham Bay Little League field) DOT-558513-J0V1 and it no longer appears to be sinking and is covered.
- The property owner at 187 City Island Avenue, was notified in January that he needs to repave the sidewalk. Mr. Soto indicated that city repaving projects move from Community Board to Community Board and are triggered by complaint/violation volume. He will double check with the sidewalk division.

## **New York City - Department of Transportation (DOT) continued**

- Mr. Soto inquired if the request for repair of the crosswalk at Ericson Place and Westchester Avenue - road hummocks - DOT-560007-N9C2; Pavement Markings - DOT-560008-Q7P1 was sent to DOT from the Board Office. Mr. Cruz will resend. He indicated that the road surface in this area is sinking, but repainted crosswalk lines would improve the road condition.
- Mr. Soto received notice from Borough Engineering that the signs that were erected on both sides of Conner Street from Tillotson Ave – Hollers Ave, DOT-560128-T6X7 and 311-11292022, are the same that were in place prior to the DOT work.  
Mr. Cruz indicated that no standing signs were erected on several service roads in the Board area and now an influx of trucks are parking along cemetery streets.
- Mr. Soto will refer the request for pothole repair on Waters Place at Fink Avenue.
- Mr. Soto reported that repair of the pothole at 2701 Gifford Avenue near the corner of Balcom Avenue was referred to DEP. Ms. Ardizzone confirmed that DEP is working in this area on the sewer. The sewer has silt in it; DEP work may not be related to the street depression. Mr. Soto will confirm when the CAR was issued by DOT.
- The responses to requests for speed humps are all due shortly and Mr. Soto will inform the Board Office as soon as he receives updates on:
  - Dudley Avenue between Edison and Mayflower Avenues – DOT-522629-J1T4
  - Layton Avenue between Fairfax and Dean Avenues – DOT-523990-X8C6
  - Harding Avenue from East Tremont to Pennyfield Avenues – DOT-523994-K9Y8

Mr. Soto responded to an inquiry from Ms. Rodriguez of Council member Velazquez' Office that it was permissible for DOT response letters to be shared with constituents.

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

Mr. Bayer reported that work on Project NYSDOT D264410 is progressing on the ramp from the Hutchinson River Parkway North and the ramp at the I-95 Pelham Bay Parkway interchange. This morning the agency is scheduled to close and decommission the existing clover leaf ramp from northbound I-95 to westbound Pelham Parkway, Exit 8C. Going forward all traffic use exit 8B to access Pelham Parkway West, and turning left at the temporary signal. This will become permanent as the project progresses. Notifications are posted on overhead signage as well as electronic travel advisories.

No update was available on the request for roadway repair on Bruckner Expressway/New England Thruway/195 South by Exit 8C, in the middle lane. The Board will be notified as soon as information is received.

## **Transportation Dept. – Bridges - A. Zhou; R. Zurita**

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that the contractor is working on steel girder demolition which will result in a full closure on the Hutchinson River Parkway in both directions through Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. M-F, 12:30 am to 4 am. A detour will be in place with on site traffic agents. A detour map available upon request.

### **Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Zurita**

Ms. Zurita provided an update on work completed since September: roadway concrete and a light pole installed at Brush Avenue, a curb and sidewalk installed at Zerega Avenue, continued installation of operating machinery at the control house, began assembly of the vacuole span and conducted vibration monitoring. Upcoming work includes placing asphalt at Brush Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard, installing new sidewalks at Zerega and Brush Avenues, continuing installation of machinery at the control house and assembling the vacuole span, and installing various concrete barriers and walls and continued vibration monitoring.

Mr. Cruz commented that the project has been conducted professionally and without incident.

### **Department of Design and Construction – J. Parisian**

Ms. Parisian reported on Pedestrian Ramp Installation Project HWPR21QX.

Pedestrian ramps have been installed on Barclay Avenue between East Tremont and Balcom Avenue, Ellsworth Avenue between Waterbury and Layton Avenues, and currently corners on McClay Avenue at Benson Street, East Tremont Avenue and Parker Street are being worked on.

### **Department of Buildings (DOB) – L. Szabados**

Mr. Szabados reported that on September 6<sup>th</sup> 928 Swinton Avenue was inspected and referred to the padlock unit. The unit will be responsible for addressing issue at this location going forward. No additional complaints have been received and are not expected since it is past the swim season. The agency issued a warning letter to the property. Since no additional complaints will be received it may appear that the owner has come into compliance when that may not be correct. The change in season is causing it to appear that the owner is compliant. Mr. Szabados will discuss this with the padlock unit representatives.

Mr. Szabados announced the Buildings After Hours Program, which takes place every Tuesday between Tues 4 and 7 PM. Homeowners can visit without an appointment and receive assistance.

Local 97 Carbon emissions.

### **Consolidated Edison – R. Infante**

Mr. Infante reported that the agency had no major issues over the summer or this year's hurricane season. High customer bills are expected. It is a worldwide problem and the agency has programs in place to assist needy customers.

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

Ms. Ardizzone indicated that the agency is aware that repairs are warranted at 191 Meagher Avenue. It will be addressed, however, repairs are priority driven.

The street depressions at LaSalle and Tremont Avenues was originally repaired with asphalt patch, however it opened and now has a second hole. Ms. Ardizzone requested that DOT refer it again to DEP in a CAR, also 2701 Gifford Avenue.

Ms. Ardizzone noted that flood barriers have been distributed to New York City Council members. 200 were provided to Ms. Velazquez' Office and residents can reach out to obtain them.

### **Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta, K. Zagorski-Kelly**

The Parks Department submitted their update via email.

Mr. Acosta indicated that the green street clean up request was taken care of.

### **Department of Sanitation Enforcement (DSNY-E) – Lt. Ratliff**

Mr. Cruz provided locations for follow up and will resend.

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

Mr. Melendez announced that the Mayor's Cabinet on Aging met in September and were able to identify 17 city agencies that will be collaborating to address age related issues.

The Annual Plan Summary Hearing will take place on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10 am – 2 pm at Casa Boricua Senior Center, 910 E. 172 Street.

### **Human Resources Administration (HRA)**

A representative was not present, but Mr. Cruz noted that the Agency is very proactive and provides a liaison once a week to assist Community Board #10 residents with their SNAP benefits.

### **Pelham Grand – K. Mann**

Nothing significant to report. Monkeypox/MPV education is ongoing. Pelham Grand had a few cases, but those individuals are recovered.

### **Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) - O. Torres**

Effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Pay Transparency Law will be in effect in New York City. Employers posting any employment opportunity, must post a low and high salary range to achieve transparency.

### **New York Public Library (NYPL) – L. Brown; L. Velazquez**

Ms. Brown had to leave the meeting to attend another. Ms. Velazquez provided Ms. Brown's updates: The Baychester Branch will host *The Peoples' Money* to help identify community needs on October 21 and Oct. 28, from 11 am to 12:30 PM.

Ms. Velazquez invited all to stop by and pick up a limited-edition Spider Man card at the Throggs Neck Branch to commemorate 60 years of the comic book superhero.

### **Mayor's Office (CAU) – A. Dowe**

Ms. Dowe reported that to combat the City's rat problem, the Mayor's Office is proposing later curbside trash deposit times from 4 pm to 8 pm.

Ms. Dowe also provided an update on the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the agency has partner with the ASPCA in the Edenwald section of the Bronx from 9:30 am to 4 pm. The ASPCA grooming van will be available by appointment. Will provide details when finalized.

### **Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – C. Coleman**

Ms. Coleman was present at the meeting, but experienced technical difficulties and could not provide a report.

### **Office of City Council Member Kevin Riley – K. Bolt**

Mr. Cruz noted that the Council Member partnered with Community Board #10 for a fantastic shredding event last Saturday in section 5 of Co-Op City. Several hundred residents participated.

Mr. Bolt announced three upcoming Halloween events that Councilmember Riley will co-sponsor with Borough President Vanessa Gibson:

On Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> - Trunk or Treat event at the YMCA from 12 – 3 PM.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 at Noon the Section 1 Greenway of Co-op City - Trick or Treat Event.

Thursday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct on Laconia Avenue - Trick or Treat Event

Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM at Bay Plaza Shopping Center.

**Office of City Council Member Marjorie Velazquez – S. Rodriguez**

Ms. Rodriguez announced that the Councilwoman's ACE NY partner collected 7,000 pounds of trash from Westchester Avenue and the Pelham Bay Park Station.

Any homeowner needing assistance with collecting their \$150 tax rebate from the Department of Finance can contact the office.

Sat. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> the Councilwoman is partnering with DOT to host a helmet event at Pelham Bay Park.

Also, on October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Council Member is partnering with the Italian American Cancer Society to provide free mobile breast cancer screening at 3040 East Tremont Avenue from 9 AM to 4:30 PM.

Please schedule an exam by contacting the Council Office: 718 931 1721;

[district13@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district13@council.nyc.gov)

**Office of City Council Member Amanda Farias – R. Nieves**

Ms. Nieves announced that the Council Member will host a Fall Festival on Sat. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Soundview Park, by the Lafayette Morrison Avenue entrance, 12 noon to 4 PM.

**Office of Assembly Member Michael Benedetto – M. McKay**

Mr. McKay announced that on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Benedetto will host the Annual Throggs Neck Halloween Parade and street event from 11 AM to 9 PM at Throggs Neck Boulevard between Harding and Schurz Avenues. This year the Throggs Neck Little League will also be hosting an event from Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be many activities and fun attractions.

**Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark – M. Tavarez-Santana, R. Spencer**

Ms. Tavarez-Santana reiterated that this would be her last meeting and introduced Robert Spencer as the new Community Affairs liaison.

Mr. Spencer indicated that he looked forward to working with the Community Board and all agencies.

**Office of Borough President Vanessa Gibson – I. Gonzalez**

Mr. Gonzalez announced that today the Borough President's Office is hosting a Domestic Violence workshop at the Rotunda at 851 Grand Concourse at 161 Street; from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration from 6-9 pm – at Bronx Community College. All are invited.

Sunday, October 23 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Tour the Bronx. Registration is required and participation is capped at 1,000 riders. It is a 25-mile tour.

Mr. Gonzalez announced that the Borough President's Office is hiring and has many employment opportunities including Community Board Liaison. Mr. Gonzalez is no longer in the Community Board Unit and is now the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. He will

**Office of Public Advocate Jumaani Williams – S. Solano**

Mr. Solano reported that the Public Advocate has been monitoring the asylum seekers issue and recently toured the new welcome center.

Montefiore is closing many clinics and moving to health centers. This severely inconveniences patients and Public Advocate Williams is working to ensure that there are no interruptions in service to patients.

Public Advocate Williams participated in a Walk for Peace over the Fordham Road Bridge – He is focused on getting to the issues causing the increase in gun violence and joined Mayor Adams in speaking against violence.

The Public Advocate's Office is hiring, and many open positions are available.

Anyone in need of assistance with a city issue is encouraged to contact the office at:  
[gethelp@advocate.nyc.gov](mailto:gethelp@advocate.nyc.gov).

Mr. Cruz announced that the full Community Board #10 meeting will be held this Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM in Co-op City – 2049 Bartow Avenue, room 31. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.