



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 November 15, 2022

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; CCHR: A. Algabyali; Con Edison: R. Infante; DEP: E. Ardizzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: N. Lazo Hayes; DoHMH – K. Johnson, III; DSS – J. Bennett; DOT: H. Malone; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou, R. Zurita; State DOT: T. Bayer; FDNY: R. Velez; MTA: M. Molina; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Marin, M. Ramos Lugo, L. Velazquez; Parks: Valerie Davis-O'Neill, K. Zagorski; St. Peter's Residence: J. Violet; Office of Mayor Eric Adams: A. Dowe; Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey: J. Rosenbaum; Office of Council Member Amanda Farias: R. Nieves; Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez: S. Rodriguez; Office of Council Member Kevin Riley: J. Yapp; Office of Public Advocate Jumaani Williams: S. Solano (28)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:05 AM by welcoming Cabinet members. He invited all to attend the upcoming full Board meeting of Bronx Community Board #10 on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Greek American Institute, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard.

Mr. Cruz announced that there will not be a December District Service Cabinet meeting and wished all a Happy Holiday Season.

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

Mr. Johnson reported that the Halal Food Cart at 3775 E. Tremont Avenue, complaint # 311-111674859, will be seized as a last option due to ongoing noncompliance. The vendor has continued to sell food despite violations. The Board will be notified when further action takes place.

Mr. Johnson reported that MPV treatment is transitioning to normal sexual health providers. Pop up sites closed yesterday. Existing sexual health clinics in the Bronx are the Morrisania Sexual Health Clinic at 1309 Fulton Ave 2nd floor, The Bronx, NY 10456 and at the Health and Hospitals site at Lincoln Hospital. Daily cases have dropped significantly to single digits.

Covid 19 booster shot and flu shot pop up events are hosted throughout the city.

#### **New York City Police Department (NYPD)- Det. J. Souhrada**

Det. Souhrada offered NYPD support with the food cart seizure. Mr. Johnson indicated that the Food Safety Team is working with NYPD on the issue.

Det. Souhrada reported on the 28-day period statistics. Crime is down or flat in most areas such as burglaries: 10 this year as opposed to 12 last year. That is a 16 % decrease.

The most disturbing spike in crime is robberies with a 283% increase. There were 23 robberies this year as opposed to 6 last year. A pattern of gunpoint robberies is affecting the northeast Bronx.

Three or four perpetrators around 14 years of age are jumping out of a vehicle and robbing victims at gunpoint. Different vehicles are being used. In some cases, they steal the vehicle of their victim and discard it a couple of blocks away so they cannot be pursued by the victim. Several incidents have taken place recently in Co-op City and the department is working hard to apprehend them. The perpetrators are very reckless and have victimized off duty police officers and correction officers. The public is advised not to resist if targeted.

Mr. Infante of Con Edison requested updates on this crime pattern. He is concerned for worker safety as the Agency responds to issues 24 hours a day.

Det. Souhrada also suggested following the Precinct on their social media feed for up-to-date details.

Det. Souhrada reported that the Nightlife Division and NCO officers continuously perform food and beverage operations on local establishments. The Nightlife Division is particularly focused on smoke shops and is issuing summonses where needed. Some smoke shops attempt to sell marijuana prior to receiving licensing.

Det. Souhrada reported that Capt. Johnson and his team are blitzing commercial and abandoned vehicles and especially targeting the Co-op City area. Hundreds of summonses have been issued, and many vehicles have been towed, or booted. NYPD is working with many agencies to best address the ongoing issue. Car dealerships are being operated on city streets and dropping dozens of cars in the Randall Balcom area. A tow blitz is needed to remove 10 to 15 cars belonging to one dealer to hurt them financially and discourage such practices.

Det. Souhrada announced that the owner of Patricia's on Tremont is donating 500 turkeys to the 45<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct communities this Friday. Recipients are asked to stop by their precinct to pick up a turkey voucher and bring it to Patricia's on Friday afternoon between noon and 2 pm.

#### **Fire Department of New York (FDNY) – R. Veliz;**

Mr. Veliz reported that October statistics report 37 structural fires, 11 nonstructural fires and 389 EMS responses in Board #10 service area. Response times for structural fires: 4 minutes 30 seconds, for EMS calls: 6 minutes 13 seconds.

In-person and virtual fire safety/prevention instruction is available upon request.

#### **State Department of Transportation (SDOT) – T. Bayer**

Mr. Bayer reported that Project NYSDOT D264410 is proceeding well at both the ramp from the Hutchinson River Parkway north and the Bruckner interchange. Exit 8AC is closed. Exit 8B is open. Overhead signage was added to provide clarity.

The paving condition on the Bruckner Expressway/New England Thruway/195 South by Exit 8C, in the middle lane was patched. Clarification of which agency is responsible for permanent repair is needed. Mr. Cruz noted in the chat that pavement repairs on the southbound I-95 exit 8C are included in the upcoming NYSDOT Pavement Preservation Contract XM 22.49.

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

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that there were no updates this month. Project completion is expected by late summer of 2023. No closures are scheduled for the upcoming week. Notices will be forwarded when generated.

Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Zurita provided the following report:

**Summary of work activities completed for Unionport Bridge since October:**

- Installed sidewalk at Brush Avenue bus stop, Zerega Avenue, and westbound (WB) Bruckner Blvd.
- Installed steel faced curb at Brush Avenue.
- Placed asphalt at Brush Avenue, WB Bruckner Blvd, and eastbound (EB) Bruckner Blvd.
- Installed light poles at EB Bruckner Blvd.
- Installed panels onto the river fenders.
- Relocated & installed new conduit for MTA Bus Fare Machine.
- Painted NYSDOT overhead structures and south of the bridge (basculer span).
- Continued installation of operating machinery at the basculer pier & control house.
- Continued assembly of the bridge (basculer span).
- Continued conducting vibration monitoring.

**The upcoming work to be done for Unionport Bridge is:**

- Install pavers at Zerega Avenue construction yard.
- Place asphalt at Brush Avenue.
- Install walkway at river fenders.
- Paint control house walls.
- Continue installation of operating machinery at the basculer pier & control house.
- Continue assembly of the bridge (basculer span).
- Continue vibration monitoring.

**Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) – M. Molina**

Ms. Molina had no updates to report. She requested photos of the Pennyfield/Harding area issue.

**Department of Design and Construction (DDC) – J. Parisien**

Ms. Parisien had no updates to report on the Simple Pedestrian Ramp Project, HWPR21QX. Only calking work is scheduled for Barkley and Balcom Avenues.

**Department of Buildings (DOB) – N. Lazo Hayes**

Ms. Lazo Hayes, covering the meeting for Mr. Szabados, reported that DOB NOW has a new look. “*Building on My Block*” is a new feature where residents can see what building projects are planned on their street. Walk-ins for Certificate of Corrections are now open at 280 Broadway. Every Tuesday from 4 to 7 PM, assistance is available from the Department of Buildings at any New York City location.

Mr. Cruz requested a meeting with Commissioner Gittens regarding 155 Pilot Street which is being operated against zoning regulations. An inspection is scheduled for 11/10/22. Mr. Cruz requested notification of any filings from this site.

**Consolidate Edison (ConEd) – R. Infante**

Mr. Infante reported that the Agency prepared for possible impacts of tropical storm Nicole, but thankfully issues were averted. Mr. Infante will be attending a meeting with Mr. Cruz and others concerning issues at the City Island Bridge following this meeting.

**Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) - E. Ardizzone**

Ms. Ardizzone responded to agenda items:

The Meager Avenue parks style catch basin must be converted to a single highway style basin. A work order exists, but no update on when it will be completed.

### **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continued**

The request for repair of a small sink hole on Gifford Avenue near Balcom is on hold until the CSI unit inspects the 12-inch sewer and the main at this location.

The request for repair of two sink holes in the crosswalk of LaSalle Avenue at the corner of East Tremont Avenue has no open 311 request. Data indicates that the agency responded twice to this location and repaired the condition. Mrs. Kilkenny will open a new 311 complaint.

### **Department of Parks and Recreation – K. Zagorski, Valerie Davis-O’Neal**

Ms. Zagorski reported that the agency has moved out of the Pavilion Buildings at Orchard Beach and into a trailer in preparation of the renovation project which is beginning.

Ms. Davis-O’Neal had no updates other than that Mr. Acosta emailed responses concerning agenda items.

Mr. Cruz requested that 1012 Brinsmade Avenue please be included in the current ITP contract. The property owner is requesting a small amount of pruning.

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

Mr. Melendez announced the recent launch of the *Join Us* campaign aimed at encouraging seniors to return to centers and partake of pre-pandemic activities.

Medicare open enrollment ends on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Seniors seeking guidance are encouraged to contact Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Programs (HIICAP), a state program headquartered at area agencies on aging or their subcontractor non-profit agencies.

Mr. Melendez reported that due to an unfortunate incident, the *My Ride* program has been suspended.

### **Department of Social Services (DSS) – J. Bennett**

Ms. Bennett reported that Kenneth Charles is no longer with the agency and several personnel changes are underway. All are encouraged to continue to report homelessness to her directly or via 311.

Due to decreased need, there has been a slow-down in sanctuary site openings. Ms. Bennett will forward information as it becomes available.

### **New York Public Library (NYPL) – L. Brown, L. Marin, L. Velazquez, M. Lugo**

Co-op City Branch – Ms. Brown reported that the branch will be closing this Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, for renovations. The branch will be recarpeted and redesigned to become a teen center. Reopening is expected in mid-February 2023. In the interim, staff will be reassigned to neighboring branches. A branch presence may be opened in the Bay Plaza Mall area to accommodate the public during the renovation period, but nothing specific has been determined.

Westchester Square Branch – Ms. Marin reported that after-school tutoring is popular at the branch and serves over 20 children daily. Preschool time on Wednesdays is also a very popular program. Libraries will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after.

Throggs Neck Branch – L. Velazquez reported that the branch has many activities for young people including an after-school program from 2:30 – 4 PM. Story Time on Saturdays at 11 is also a popular program.

### **New York Public Library (NYPL) continued**

Pelham Bay Branch – Ms. Lugo reported that an array of free programming is offered at the branch, and she encouraged all to spread the word about the many NYPL resources available for children, teens, and adults.

### **Community Affairs Office of Mayor Eric Adams - A. Dowe**

Ms. Dowe reported that the Mayor's Office is focused on tackling the rodent problem in New York City.

Ms. Dowe offered agencies interested in promoting community events to forward information for inclusion in the Community Affairs Office announcements.

Mr. Cruz took a moment to congratulate recently re-elected representatives following the November 8<sup>th</sup> elections. Community Board #10 will be losing Congressman Bowman as of December 31<sup>st</sup> due to redistricting.

### **Office of New York State Senator Jamaal Bailey – J. Rosenbaum**

Ms. Rosenbaum announced two upcoming turkey giveaways:

Senator Bailey along with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Congressmen Bowman and Torrez, Council Member Riley and Borough President Gibson will provide free turkeys on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM at the Northeast Bronx YMCA, 1250 E. 229<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10466, while supplies last. Reservations are required: 718 684 5509 | [district12@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district12@council.nyc.gov).

A second giveaway will take place in Co-op City, at 177 Dreiser Loop, Bronx, NY 10475, at 5 PM.

### **Office of New York City Council Member Kevin Riley – J. Yapp**

Mr. Yapp noted that Council Member Riley's office will host a Veterans Meet and Greet Luncheon on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 3 PM at 135 Einstein Loop.

Councilmember Riley is also partnering with fellow elected officials on the two Turkey giveaways noted above.

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

Ms. Rodriguez announced that Council Member Velazquez will host an Albanian Independence Day Celebration, on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Also, the office is hosting two turkey giveaways:

Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Bronx House, 990 Pelham Parkway South, co-sponsored by CCA Metro, Door Dash, and Lyft.

Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7 PM at Kips Bay Boys' and Girls' Club, 440 Balcom Avenue, co-sponsored by Grub Hub. from 4-7 PM.

Registration is already full and closed for these events. Those interested can sign-up for the waiting list.

### **Office of New York State Assembly Member Michael Benedetto – M. McKay**

Mr. McKay reported that the Assembly member is partnering with the Throggs Neck Bid on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> for the Lighting of the Christmas Tree at DeRosa O'Boyle Triangle, corner of East Tremont and Dewey Avenue.

### **Office of New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams – S. Solano**

Mr. Solano reported that the Public Advocate's Office conducted monitoring of election sites on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Three poll sites were selected and tables offering a variety of resources were erected to attract people to the poles. Next year Public Advocate Williams would like to host a health fair at several polls to promote the *Party at the Polls* campaign and civic engagement.

**Office of New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams continued**

The office is working on a list of the worst Landlords in 2022.

Public Advocate Williams is working to help small business by supporting a Bill which would establish an agency to assist businesses as they digitize.

Mr. Solano indicated that Advocate Williams is interested in providing a recorded holiday message to agencies meeting in December.

**Office of New York State Assembly Member Amanda Farias – R. Nieves**

Ms. Nieves announced that Assembly Member Farias will host two Turkey Drives:

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> between 1 and 3 PM at 1216 Noble Avenue, and

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Sotomayor Community Center, 1000 Rosedale Avenue, at 11 AM to 2 PM.

On Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, all are welcome to attend a Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration at Council Chambers at City Hall. Please RVSP for the event.

Ms. Malone of DOT added that Mr. Cruz's request for a meeting on the E-scooter Pilot Program was accepted and that they can work offline to schedule the meeting. Mr. Cruz inquired about his submitted suggestions to the agency including requiring ID and disabling the device when attempting to drive on the sidewalk. Ms. Malone had no updates but indicated that the subject can be addressed at the upcoming meeting.

Mr. Cruz concluded the meeting at 11:08 AM and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.