



**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 June 20, 2023**

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; CCHR: O. Torres; DEP: E. Ardizzone; DOB: N. Lazo-Hayes; DoHMH: K. Johnson, III; DOT: M. Perez; DOT Bridges: R. Zurita; DSNY- E: Sgt. Lo; NYPD: Captain J. Orellana, P.O. H. Rivera; NYPD-Transit: Sgt. Saxon, Det. Vega, P. O. DeLuna; NYPL: R. Collado, L. Marin; Parks: C. Acosta; DVS: A. Cherigo; Office of Mayor Eric Adams: A. Dowe; Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark: R. Spencer; Office of Assembly Member Michael Benedetto: M. McKay; Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez: T. Bonet-Cardona; Office of Council Member Kevin Riley: J. Yapp (23)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:12 AM with introductions.

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

There were no major announcements to report. Covid-19 cases are significantly down. A Covid-19 booster like the flu vaccine booster may be available in the fall.

Recent air quality issues from wildfires as well as smog levels are tracked in real time by the agency. Alerts will be publicized on the Notify NYC system.

Aerial larviciding will be scheduled throughout the summer months. Prior notification will be provided.

#### **Police Department – 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct – Capt. J. Orellana; P.O. H. Rivera**

Captain Orellana has been heading the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct since November 2022. At that time the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct was plagued with robberies, mostly auto thefts and grand larcenies, which are thefts of over \$1,000. The Bronx Robbery Taskforce made significant progress in stopping robberies where perpetrators emerged from cars to rob passing victims. Robberies are slightly down at this point. There were 250 auto thefts so far this year. Half of those were Hondas and Kia's. Stolen vehicles are usually used for joyriding and to commit other crimes. 75 percent of stolen vehicles are recovered within a week. Grand larcenies were targeting the Bay Plaza Mall and drug stores. Three officers were assigned to Bay Plaza to prevent theft. This task force was very successful in suppressing retail theft and resulted in many arrests. 70 percent of theft has been suppressed. The list of Agenda Items will be forwarded to officers for follow-up.

### **Police Department – 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct continued**

On Sunday night at 11:30 PM a shooting occurred in the school yard of Truman High School at a pop-up barbeque. Patrons were older and have not been cooperating with the investigation. The motive is unclear. The victim was shot in the right shoulder and was not fatally injured.

There was a stabbing at Made in Puerto Rico. A suspect was identified by patrons and arrested but has not been positively identified by the victim. A conflict broke out and resulted in the non-life-threatening stabbing. It is believed that the victim was not the intended target.

The Night Life Task Force is effective in monitoring and patrolling local establishments.

Valet parking was discussed and though no major issues have arisen, it is frowned upon. Valet drivers are merely restaurant employees who park the cars, not a hired company, and cars can be misplaced. Agua de Coco and Mama Sushi have valet parking

### **NYC Transit Police –Det. Vega, Sgt. Saxon, P.O. DeLuna**

In the 28-day period, District 12 had two grand larceny incidents at Pelham Bay Station. Sleeping individuals were robbed of their phones.

A safety meeting was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Pelham Bay Station to educate MTA personnel on how to interact with homeless individuals and provide needed services. As trains pull in every sleeping individual is woken up and offered services.

### **New York City Emergency Management – provided by email**

Information below was provided in advance of the meeting. A representative was not in attendance.

#### **Coastal Storm Reminders**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Climate Prediction Center is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season.

- Visit [NYC.gov/knowyourzone](http://NYC.gov/knowyourzone) to find your hurricane evacuation zone.

#### **Share Your Space**

- NYC Emergency Management runs a program called "Share Your Space" that allows people to offer their properties voluntarily for Emergency Management activities, such as a service center, a CERT training, a commodity distribution point, or other functions identified by the department.
- To apply please visit NYCEM's website or email [intergov@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:intergov@oem.nyc.gov)

#### **National Pet Month**

- For many, pets are more than just animals — they are a part of the family. As members of your family, they should be included in your emergency planning process.
- Make sure your disaster plan addresses what you will do when an emergency requires you to leave your home, leave your pet at home, or prevents you from returning home. A few simple steps to
  1. ensure your pet's safety can go a long way when disaster strikes.
- Your pet's go bag should include a picture of the pet in case you're separated, their paperwork, their vet's number and any prescription information, some toys, and food.
- Know your pet's hiding places to quickly retrieve them.
- For more information visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/pets.page>

#### **Beat the Heat**

Summer heat is on the way. NYCEM encourages New Yorkers – especially older adults - to "Beat the Heat" and to take steps to be prepared for extreme heat. New Yorkers are especially vulnerable to extreme heat-related hazards during the summer months.

## **New York City Emergency Management continued**

Get tips on how to stay healthy and cool during the summer months, conserve water and energy, and identify and treat individuals with heat-related illnesses at: [www.nyc.gov/beattheheat](http://www.nyc.gov/beattheheat)

Request a Ready New York Event

- Take the next step to preparedness and request a virtual emergency preparedness presentation.
- Through the program, you can learn about the hazards you may face in New York City and prepare for all types of emergencies by writing an emergency plan, choosing a meeting place, gathering supplies for your home and preparing a Go Bag in case you need to leave your home in a hurry.
- Request a virtual Ready NY event or material via email at [intergov@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:intergov@oem.nyc.gov)

Notify NYC

- Sign up to Notify NYC to receive New York City's official information about emergency alerts and important City services. Visit [nyc.gov/notifynyc](http://nyc.gov/notifynyc), call 311, follow Notify NYC on Twitter, or download the free mobile application for your Apple or Android device. Individuals can receive notifications in 13 languages, as well as American Sign Language.

NYC Emergency Management Government Relations team is here to assist you. Please email all requests and inquiries to [intergov@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:intergov@oem.nyc.gov)

- Notify NYC subscribers can choose to receive two new messaging types – notifications regarding life-threatening weather conditions that may impact residents living in basement or cellar apartments and localized law enforcement announcements.
- New Yorkers already subscribed to Notify NYC can opt-in and begin receiving either of the two new message types on the mobile app or by logging into their account, and updating notification preferences under the "My Account" tab.

## **New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) – K. Perez**

Mr. Perez introduced himself as a new representative to the meeting.

The No U-turn signage was installed at Middletown Road and Hobart Avenue (DOT-578163-J5M1)) and will be installed at Crosby and Roberts Avenues (DOT-78162-CoK1) by the end of the month.

The following repaving requests are due in Fiscal Year 2023:

Edison Avenue from Haskin Street to Bruckner Boulevard southbound  
Revere Avenue from Philip to Lafayette Avenues  
Waterbury from Hollywood to Hobart Avenues

The missing street sign at the intersection of LaSalle and Mayflower Avenues was replaced.

A response or the following faded street sign replacement requests is due by the end of August:

- DOT-583819-F8H8 (I/O Roebling Ave & Ericson Pl)
- DOT-583820-Y9C8 (I/O Roebling Ave & Hutch River Parkway SR)
- DOT-583821-G2B4 (I/O Gillespie Ave & Lasalle Ave)
- DOT-583822-N4M9 (I/O Throgs Neck Expwy & Layton Ave)
- DOT-583823-W1Q8 I/O Philip Ave & Vincent Ave)
- DOT-583825-S1W7 I/O E Tremont Ave & Randall Ave)
- DOT-583826-N7H5 (I/O Philip Ave & E Tremont Ave)
- DOT-583829-F5L6 (I/O Lafayette Ave & Hutch River Parkway SR)
- DOT-583831-B3Z1 (I/O Lafayette Ave & Swinton Ave)
- DOT-583833-S4H4 (I/O Calhoun Ave & Cross Bx Expwy SR)
- DOT-583834-RoF3 (I/O Schley Ave & Cross Bx Expwy SR)
- DOT-583835-C3C6 (I/O Cross Bx Expwy & Logan Ave)
- Hollywood Avenue and Zulette Avenue (311-13939389)

## **New York State Transportation Department (State DOT)**

A representative was not present. Mr. Cruz reported that NYSDOT D264410 pertains to an ongoing ramp installation project. It is scheduled for completion in 2024.

Also, I95 is scheduled to receive a repaving and pedestrian crossing project to begin shortly.

## **Transportation Dept. – Bridges - R. Zurita**

Recent work activities completed for Unionport Bridge:

- Completed installation of steel at the South Bascule Span
- Placed concrete at the South Bascule Span
- Continued installation of fender panels
- Continued installation of operating machinery at bascule pier and control house

Upcoming work to be done for Unionport Bridge:

- Installation of bridge railing at the South Bascule Span
- Continue installation of bridge railing at Eastbound Bruckner Blvd & Zerega Ave
- Continue installation of bridge railing at Westbound Bruckner Blvd & Zerega Ave
- Continue installation of bridge railing at East of Zerega Ave – leads into the bridge
- Continue delivery and installation of steel at the North Bascule Span

Continue installation of operating machinery at bascule pier and control house

The Bridge will remain open to traffic throughout the summer.

## **Department of Design and Construction (DDC)**

A representative was not present.

Mr. Cruz noted that a watermain/sewer project on Minnieford Avenue on City Island will be commencing shortly. Such projects can cause significant disruption to the community.

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

A meeting to discuss 155 Pilot Street crane issues is scheduled for tomorrow evening.

An inspection was performed on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1627 Pilgrim and all exposures were reported to be sealed. Please inform the agency if this is not the case.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> an inspection of 928 Swinton Avenue took place. Access to the property was not granted but no evidence of advertising was noted. The owner of this property is accused of renting his pool and yard on the Swimply website. The Mayor's Office of special enforcement is also looking into this complaint. Mr. Cruz is interested in requesting another inspection.

The existing stop work order at 831 Swinton Avenue was changed to a partial stop work order to allow exterior work. For example, to relocate the construction fence.

The illegal convenience Store at 4140 Throgs Neck Expressway, Azizo, will be followed up on. This convenience store location has not been operational for over two years, which makes the property no longer in compliance.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> an inspection of 1733 Edison Avenue was inspected. It is another ZsaZsa Smokeshop. An ECB violation was issued because the addition was evident.

Tonight from 4 to 7 is a homeowners' night at DOB.

At the YMCA at 229<sup>th</sup> Street tomorrow night, the agency will hold a DOB in Your Community Event. Multiple agencies will be represented as well as different facets of DOB.

### **Department of Environmental Protection – E. Ardizzone**

Ms. Ardizzone indicated that DEP will be in attendance at the DOB in Your Community Event. There was a discrepancy concerning the date of the event which will be resolved.

The sink hole at 955 Edison Avenue across from Barkley Avenue needs to be made safe. DEP is investigating the sewer at this location.

A Commissioner's Order (warning) was issued to 326 Brinsmade Avenue and is no longer an issue.

A work order was issued to replace the missing cap on the hydrant at 3555 Bruckner. It will be repaired shortly.

### **Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta; K. Zagorski**

PEP patrols and 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct patrols at Ferry Point Park have been increased.

Mr. Acosta will follow up with the forestry department on the tree issues.

The request for painting of Bufano Park Handball Court walls will be addressed once the pool painting initiative is completed.

### **Sanitation Department of New York - Enforcement – Sgt. G. Lo**

Sgt. Lo indicated that tree pit cleaning/enforcement at 2809 Middletown Road and 3060 East Tremont Avenue will take place. Overgrowth is not addressed, only litter/debris.

Mr. Cruz indicated that the office receives frequent complaints about the condition of the Crosby Avenue strip from Westchester Avenue to Middletown Road.

### **Citizens Commission on Human Rights – O. Torres**

Discrimination for weight and height categories will be added to the City's Human Rights Law in November. Employment and housing discrimination will not be tolerated.

### **New York Public Library (NYPL) – L. Marin, R. Collado**

Ms. Marin reported that the Westchester Square Branch has an ongoing summer reading program. Tomorrow is a live music performance. After school programming is concluded for the year. The library is a cooling center for all during the hot weather.

Mr. Collado noted that the City Island Branch has many programs for all ages available. Their most popular program is a Creative Writing program on Fridays, 1-2 PM. This program attracts participants from across the city. All are encouraged to visit the beautiful City Island Branch facility.

### **Office of Mayor Eric Adams - Community Affairs Unit (CAU) - A. Dowe**

Civil Engagement – the Peoples' Money – voting opened through June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Pride Month – NYPD can reexamine cases involving LGBTQ community members.

Exec. Order 32 – protects access to gender affirming health care

City of Yes for Economic Opportunities – Zoning changes to promotes economic development

Summer streets opens July 29 in all five boroughs.

National first minimum pay rate for at base restaurant delivery venders.

Summit on Social Media - exploring actions to protect youth using social platforms.

A Key to the City was awarded to actor, Robert DeNiro.

### **Office of Mayor Eric Adams - Community Affairs Unit (CAU) continued**

The Mayor's Office established a food education road map to promote healthier school communities which focuses on the importance of healthier food options in public schools.

The Mayor's Office continues to work tirelessly on providing accommodation for the influx of asylum seekers.

The final Bronx Hiring Hall Event will be held at Lehman College tomorrow for those interested in working for the City of New York.

The Breaking Bread Building Bonds program is seeking a location in this area. A stipend is available to finance gatherings. Those interested in hosting a dinner or learning more about the initiative can visit [www.nyc.gov/breakingbread](http://www.nyc.gov/breakingbread).

Ms. Dowe encouraged all agencies to stress the importance of filing 311 complaints when seeking agency assistance. The Board Office continues to promote the 311 system.

Ms. Dowe reported that the Board's inquiry concerning paid detail for off-duty police officers is currently under consideration by the legal department. She will provide updates as soon as she receives them, but it is believed that this is not permitted. Liquor selling establishments are not permitted to hire off-duty NYPD Officers to provide security.

Ms. Dowe will follow up with the Street Activity Permit Office concerning the Throgs Neck Little League's request for a September event.

Ms. Dowe requested Matt to resubmit the Swimply pool renting issue at 928 Swinton Avenue. It may be difficult to prove that events are being paid for rather than personal events. Mr. Cruz will follow up and provide proof of advertising.

Ms. Dowe noted that recent lithium battery fires, reinforce the importance of inspecting battery charging/storage facilities to ensure that all safety measures are being followed. This practice can help save lives.

All are encouraged to stay connected to the mayor's activities and announcements by subscribing to his newsletter.

### **Department of Veterans' Services – A. Cherigo**

Mr. Cherigo introduced himself as the Executive Program Specialist and offer Veteran's Services to NYC Veterans. His goal is to promote the agency. Sat. June 24 event with the Mets, The Wall that Heals is a traveling replica of Veterans' Memorial Wall.

Funeral Honors Program is available to assist with Veteran funeral services.

Presentations describing overall veterans services are available, but individual connection is preferable to provide specific needs. Benefit services are available in house at 1 Center Street, Suite 2208, New York, NY 10007.

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

Mr. Yapp confirmed that the Board's request for maintenance of medians by the mall at Bay Plaza will be accomplished by Councilman Riley's Office and Wildcat Services.

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Father's Day Skating Party will be held at Agnes Haywood Park from 4-7 PM, at Barnes Avenue and E. 216<sup>th</sup> Street.

Councilman Riley and Senator Bailey will co-host the Father's Day March of Dads on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 PM at the Main Greenway in Co-op City.

**Office of New York City Council Member Marjorie Velazquez – T. Bonet-Cardona**

A Public Safety Committee hearing relating to smoke shops was held a week ago. Proposed legislation will hold landlords accountable if they knowingly rent space to an illegal cannabis selling establishment. She will keep the Board updated on results of the vote when it occurs.

Mr. Cruz indicated that he has issue with establishments that claim to be deli/smoke combination shops. They must be one or the other and cannot cross the line of multi-use. Ms. Bonet-Cardona will bring his concern to Council member Velazquez's office and requested specific locations. The councilwoman's office has been forwarding locations to the sheriff's office for enforcement.

M. Cruz noted that most signage being erected at smoke shops is illegal and can be reported to the Buildings Department. There is a \$5,000 penalty for illegal signs.

Ms. Bonet-Cardona noted that there are a variety of licenses relating to cannabis, for example a cannaboid license, which regulates different products than a cannabis license.

A speed camera will be installed at St. Theresa School at the end of July.

The next Movie night will be held at Orchard Beach this Friday: *Dr. Strange and the Multiverse of Madness*. This is a free event.

Fireworks on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> will take place at Orchard Beach. Details will be forwarded.

Mr. Cruz announced the first cannabis license application in Community Board #10 has been received for 3220 Westchester Avenue. This location is not in violation of the school proximity requirement. The Board will have a public hearing on this matter in July.

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

Mr. McKay had no announcements to report.

**Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark – R. Spencer**

On Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 pm, at the Villa Barone Manor the District Attorney's Office will discuss Bronx Cams – This computer assisted program links private cameras to a database and can access private footage to solve crimes.

Private camera information is confidential. Residents can register their cameras at:

[bxcams@bronxda.nyc.gov](mailto:bxcams@bronxda.nyc.gov)

Mr. Cruz wished all a happy summer and noted that the next meeting will be on September 19<sup>th</sup> and will be virtual.

Mr. Cruz concluded the meeting at 11:12 A.M.