



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 September 20, 2022

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; CCHR: A. Algabyali; Con Edison: R. Infante; DDC: J. Parisian; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DoHMH – K. Johnson; DSS – J. Bennett; DOT: J. Soto; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou; State DOT: T. Bayer; DSNY-E: Sgt. McKenzie; Mayor's Office, CAU: A. Dowe; Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare: A. Silver; NYPD: Det. Souhrada; NYPL: L. Velazquez, M. Ramos-Lugo; Parks: Valerie Davis-O'Neill, K. Zagorski; Pelham Grand: K. Mann; Office of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto: M. McKay; Office of Council Member Amanda Farias: R. Nieves; Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez: A. Reyes, M. Corbett; Office of Council Member Kevin Riley: K. Yapp; Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark: M. Santana; Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi: A. Conley (28)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:06 AM by welcoming Cabinet members. Virtual meetings will continue indefinitely, as this is the best option for maximizing attendance. Meeting credentials will remain the same until January 2023. If you are new to the meeting, please include your contact information in the group chat.

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

Mr. Johnson reported that the Halal Food Cart at 3775 E. Tremont Avenue, Complaint # 311-111674859, was inspected on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and violations were issued. The cart was closed by the Mobile Food Unit. Specific violations for unhygienic furniture around the cart were issued. Food carts are not permitted to have furniture. Mr. Cruz will check that the cart remains closed.

Monkeypox update: eligibility for the vaccine is lowered to under eighteen. A guardian must provide consent for those sixteen and seventeen. A guardian must accompany those under sixteen.

Bronx High School of Science and Lincoln Hospital have opened Monkeypox vaccine clinics.

All are encouraged to receive the Covid-19 Omicron Booster which protects against several variants, including Omicron.

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

Detective Souhrada reported on the 7 major crime categories in the 28-day period compared to the same period last year. Murders are the same: one to one. A man was murdered near Pelham Bay Station; stabbed in the chest. Most cases are domestic related. Robberies are up by 2, from 12 last year to 14 this year. Increased theft is a citywide issue. Felony assault is down this year by 24%. There were 22 this year. Burglary is down 25%, 9 vs 12. Grand larceny spiked to 57 this year vs. 33 last year. Our precinct is lighter in crime compared to other precincts. 137 total in the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct vs. 2,204 boroughwide.

298 commercial truck summonses were issued in CB10 as of last Friday. Around 25 tickets are issued per month on commercial vehicles.

574 speeding summonses were issued within the precinct. Sector A issued 270 summonses, Sector B issued 116, and C, 182. The Country Club area is part of Sector B.

Nightlife Inspections are ongoing. Sgt. Major and the newly established nightlife team have visited and enforced most bars in the area. Many underage operations and inspections have been performed and many violations issued. There was a recent shooting in Westchester Square, near Caribbean Crave. At Zuka Lounge, an after-hours establishment, three patrons were shot. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> incident this year. Cameras across the street recorded the incident and the establishment is cooperating with ongoing investigations.

Mr. McKay of Assemblyman Benedetto's Office inquired if the new "No Standing 10 PM to 5 AM" signage erected at Pelham Bay Park has resulted in increased ticketing. Det. Souhrada indicated that the signage will assist with issuing summonses and will try to get specifics on the number issued since the signage was placed.

Mr. Cruz noted that there are many troubled areas noted on the agenda. The most recent issue which was emailed this morning is an abandoned bus on the Cross Bronx Expressway just off Lafayette Avenue. Det. Souhrada will investigate these items.

#### **Department of New York City (FDNY) – R. Velez**

Mr. Velez was present but experienced technical difficulties and was inaudible.

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

Mr. Soto report on agenda items:

- The request for repair/remilling/resurfacing of Miles Avenue from Throggs Neck Expressway Service Road to the water at the boundary separating Alden Park and Pennyfield Camp, 311-08070988, was approved and added to the Fiscal Year 23 resurfacing schedule. It should be accomplished next spring in May or June.
- Request for the placement of crosswalks on Balcom Avenue at the intersection of Dewey Avenue, Sampson Avenue between Balcom and E. Tremont, and Doris Street near the intersection of Westchester Avenue. Balcom was not yet repaved. It is on the resurfacing schedule for 2023 and the marking will be done after completion. Mr. Soto requested that the Board email an official request.
- Installation schedule for approved additional street lighting on Bruckner Boulevard from East Tremont Avenue to Balcom Avenue, # DOT-529222-B3Q1. Street lighting division is checking on this.
- Request for a speed cushion study on Revere Avenue between Philip Avenue and Dill Place DOT-521620-S3H3. DOT number correction: 531620-S3H3. This is an 18 month study and is still pending. Response is due next July.
- Pennyfield Avenue – recent repaving omitted street light area, please Mr. Cruz will forward photo and schedule a site visit.
- Request for a left turn signal on the Layton Avenue overpass at Throggs Neck Expressway Service Road. The Board emailed request but did not receive a DOT number. Mr. Soto will follow up.
- Request for new curbs on Lafayette Avenue between E. Tremont and Edison Avenues, case number DOT-545921-G0N9. Mr. Soto indicated that there was confusion between ped ramps and curbs. Will follow up.

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

- Repaving:
  - Edison Avenue from Haskin Street to Bruckner Boulevard, southbound DOT-498445-F4N7 is on the FY 2023 resurfacing schedule.
  - Revere Avenue from Philip to Lafayette Avenues, DOT-498623-M8Z2 is on the FY23 resurfacing schedule and is due in May or June of 2023.
  - Waterbury Avenue from Hollywood to Hobart Avenues, DOT-512146-Q0D1, is on the FY 2023 resurfacing schedule and is due in May or June of 2023.
  - Graff Avenue from Miles to Harding Avenues This item was not on the resurfacing schedule. Mr. Soto requested that the Board reissue this request.
- Request for pothole repair in the crosswalk on Graff Avenue at Miles Avenue. Possible street anomaly causing severe ponding. This item is not in the system. Mr. Soto will work on this.
- Request for pedestrian ramps at the intersection of Pennyfield and Harding Avenues, DOT-539465-T9Y7 - This item is due within 45 days. The time is coming due shortly.
- Request for replacement of faded street signs at Lafayette and Dean Avenues, DOT-547983-Z0R2 - This item was approved and should be installed by the end of the month.
- Request repaving of angle parking lines at 100, 120, 140 Carver Loop - Mr. Cruz reported that this area was repaved, but angle parking lines were not repainted. This request was not in the system. Mr. Soto will follow up.
- Request for dismount signage at Shore Road Bridge – Mr. Cruz submitted the request on behalf of a cyclist who requested the dismount sign. Mr. Cruz will follow up.
- Request pothole repair on the southbound lane of the Shore Road Bridge -This was repaired.
- Request for sinkhole repair on the southbound lane of Westchester Avenue between Blondell Avenue and Water Place (across from Pelham Bay Little League field) DOT-558513-J0V1 – DEP was issued a CAR and it was repaired, but as of this morning, it is sinking again. Mr. Soto will follow up with the HQUA Unit.
- Sidewalk inspection at 187 City Island Avenue, 311-11240465 – inspected Jan. 8 2021, prop. Owner responsible for repair of sidewalk. If owner doesn't repair, DOT may repair and bill homeowner through property taxes. Not sure when DOT would do it. Could be years. Mr. Soto will check.
- Crosswalk Repair at Ericson Place and Westchester Avenue Road Hummocks – DOT 560007-N9C2; Pavement Markings DOT-560008-Q7P1- both requests were approved. The agency has thirty days to make repairs.
- Replacement of missing parking regulation signs on both sides of Conner Street from Tillotson to Hollers Avenues DOT-560128-T6X7 and 311-11292022 Mr. Soto did not see preexisting regulation signs for this area. Regardless of signage, commercial vehicles are not legally allowed to park beyond 3 hours. Mr. Cruz indicated that there were “No Standing” signs at this location. Mr. Soto will follow up with Borough Engineering.
- Repair/Repave Waters Place at Fink Avenue – Mr. Soto indicated that this item is not on the FY23 repaving schedule. Mr. Cruz indicated that pothole repair would suffice. Mr. Soto will submit to the pothole division.
- Pothole Repair at 2701 Gifford Avenue near the corner of Balcom Avenue DX2022258017 – The Agency is awaiting a joint inspection with DEP at this location. DEP appealed the CAR that was originally issued, but clearly it is a DEP issue.
- Curbs for Dean Avenue between Layton and Barkley Avenues DOT-563041-C9F6 will get back on this. Agency response was for a pedestrian ramp rather than for a curb. Mr. Cruz explained that this street is on an incline and causing flooding on Shore Drive because there are no curbs to redirect water.

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Soto for his thorough report and for his diligence.

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

Mr. Bayer reported that Project NYSDOT D264410, ramp construction is proceeding smoothly. The repaving on the Hutchinson River Parkway East and reinstallation of the median concrete barrier was completed approximately six weeks ago. Existing ramps from eastbound Pelham Parkway and northbound I95 were recently closed for about a week for water main work. The detour was reopened around September 7<sup>th</sup>. Ramp work is continuing from the northbound Hutchinson River Parkway ramp to the Bartow Avenue/Hutchinson River Parkway. Drainage work continues on the new ramp from eastbound Pelham Parkway to northbound I95.

Mr. Bayer had no updates on the Board's request for roadway repair on the Bruckner Expressway/New England Thruway/I95 South by Exit 8C, in the middle lane. The site is close to the border line of State DOT and Thruway Authority jurisdiction. It may have been forwarded to the Thruway Authority. Mr. Bayer will follow up on this matter.

### **Transportation Dept. – Bridges - A. Zhou**

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that the contractor is planning a two-week, full closure of the Hutchinson River Parkway, from September 26<sup>th</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday from 12:30 AM to 4:00 AM in both directions. A detour plus traffic agents will be in place. A detour map is available.

Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Zurita was unavailable to attend, but submitted the written update below:

*NYCDOT has accomplished several milestones at the Unionport Bridge project.*

*NYCDOT completed the installation of mechanical and electrical components at the bascule pier. Delivery of the steel for the bascule pier steel has begun. On the west approach of the new bridge, installation of the railing has begun. On the channel, installation of the fender panels also began.*

*At the Control House, the new operating machinery has been installed and the water and sewer service has been connected. At Brush and Zerega avenues, the contractor continued the installation of street lighting, lamp posts and steel faced curbs. A bus stop was constructed solely at Brush Avenue.*

*In the upcoming months, NYCDOT will assemble the new bascule span on the new Unionport Bridge. At Brush Avenue, concrete and railing will be placed and the MTA fare machines will be relocated. Installation of the operating machinery will continue at the Control House. Vibration monitoring will take place daily.*

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

Meagan Molina, Assistant Director, Government & Community Relations of MTA New York City Transit, introduced herself. She provided her contact information in the meeting chat and welcomes all inquiries.

Ms. Molina reported that on Friday, the MTA announced the implementation of the *Open Stroller Pilot Program* for a 6-month period, on certain lines. The BX23 is the Bronx line which will offer the Open Stroller capability. The specially designed buses will allow for one opened stroller on each bus. The program may be expanded if it is successful. Customers can identify which bus is equipped with this feature.

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

Ms. Parisian reported that the Pedestrian Ramp Installation Project HWPR21QX is underway in Throggs Neck. The Board Office will be updated on worksites.

### **Office of District Attorney, Darcel Clark – M. Santana-Tavares**

Ms. Santana-Tavares announced that she has been appointed the new Director of Community Affairs at the District Attorney's Office. As such she will no longer be the agency representative to the District Service Cabinet Meetings. Robert Spencer has been appointed to attend meetings.

Ms. Santana-Tavares announced that the Agency is involved with many crime prevention and life skills programs for young people. Workshops for school aged children and free program supports are available. Adult series workshops on such topics as bail reform and other topics are available.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> annual *5K Run Walk Roll Against Domestic Violence* will take place at 161<sup>st</sup> Street, between the Grand Concourse and Walton Avenues. Flyers will be sent shortly.

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

Mr. Infante discussed an agency release concerning expected high billing, a regional problem. The release highlights tips for lowering bills. NY times highlighted expected higher bills. Low-income customers can apply for assistance with energy bills.

City Island condominium owner insulted a Con Edison worker with racial and economic insults, but the agency continues to work with him.

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

Ms. Ardizzone indicated there was nothing in the system under 178 Meagher Avenue but was under 191 Meagher between Harding and Lawton Avenues. Replacement is needed of a Parks style basin to a traditional basin.

The cave-in in the crosswalk at Lasalle and East Tremont Avenues has an open work order. DOT issued another CAR and DEP will be repairing it.

Ms. Ardizzone reported that catch basins are located at the corners of Dean Avenue, at Layton and Barkley Avenues, and that the requested installation of curbs would be instrumental in forwarding the water flow to these basins. DEP can be called in for consultation when curbs are being installed, if needed.

In response to the issue of flooding/sewer backups on Revere Avenue between Randall and Philip Avenues during routine storms since Ida – 733 Revere Ave.: 311-11757683, and 739 Revere: 311-11759029 - Ms. Ardizzone reported that the Agency has been at the location on several occasions and that the sewer is running. The Agency performed a curtesy flush on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to ensure no blockages. She indicated that the area is suffering from more intense storms which the sewer system can't handle.

Ms. Ardizzone provided a homeowner's guide which offers helpful measures that can be taken. One long term measure is to install a back water valve. Mr. Cruz inquired if rain gardens can be requested. Mr. Ardizzone reported that rain gardens assist, but do not eliminate flooding. The Bronx has bedrock issues and rain garden sites have a list of requirements in order to accommodate them. The agency does not accept requests for rain gardens.

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

Mr. Melendez was present but had to leave the meeting prior to giving a report. Anyone requesting assistance should contact him after the meeting.

**Department of Sanitation Enforcement (DSNY-E) – Sgt. McKenzie**

Mr. Cruz indicated that he will email locations in need of cleaning.

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

Ms. Bennet indicated that the Poplar and Blondell sites are moving forward. Mr. Cruz requested a meeting with providers to discuss plans and have representatives on the Community Engagement Boards. Ms. Bennett suggested they discuss this more after the meeting.

**Mayor’s Office of Communit Affairs (CAU) - A. Dowe**

Ms. Dowe indicated that she is available as the Bronx Borough Director for the Mayor’s Community Affairs Office and is available to liaise between the Mayor’s office and agencies.

**Mayor’s Office of Animal Welfare – A. Silver**

Ms. Silver introduced herself as the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Animal Welfare. She was appointed to that position in July and addresses all animal concerns from service animals to wildlife issues. She indicated that she is eager to work with the agencies on animal concerns and left her contact info in the chat.

**Pelham Grand – K. Mann**

Ms. Mann was on the meeting earlier but had to sign off before her report.

**Department of Parks and Recreation – V. Davis-O’Neal; K Zagorski**

Mr. Cruz indicated that he will speak with Parks after the meeting concerning updates on the Trees and Sidewalks Program. He thanked Ms. Zagorski for reporting on Beldon Park over the weekend.

**Office of New York State Senator Biaggi’s Office – A. Conley**

Ms. Conley had no major updates. Fall events will begin shortly. She left her contact information in the chat.

Mr. Cruz offered the Board Office for any elected officials in need of space. The Board Office can assist with distributions.

**Office of Council Member Riley – J. Yapp**

Mr. Yapp had no updates other than that the office is now opened fully. They offer free notary services at the 940 East Gun Hill Road Office, by appointment. Free legal services are also offered on the last Thursday of the month on topics such as child support, custody, and financial abuse. The Co-op City Community Fridge is open for those with food insecurities. Fresh foods are delivered every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Mr. Yapp thanked Mr. Cruz for recommending sites for Wildcat Services.

Mr. Cruz commented that Wildcat Services do great work in our community and thanked the Council member for assigning them.

**Office of Council Member Velazquez – Mike Corbett**

Mr. Corbett reported that Councilmember Velazquez has scheduled a community cleanup with Wildcat Services next month. A Hearing is scheduled on Monday concerning fair work week law. Hearings next month will concern catalytic converters. The office is beginning to work on Participatory Budgeting.

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

The Councilmember has also started gathering and accepting Participatory Budgeting ideas. This Thursday there will be a hearing on reduced ferry fares for those under 18. There will be a *Party With Parks* event at Caserta Playground, at the end of Castle Hill Avenue, this Saturday at Noon. Bring your own skates or rent them on site. Ms. Nieves will send a flyer.

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

Mr. McKay reported that the Assembly Member's office has scheduled the annual Halloween event for Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and is also assisting with an NYPD event on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone requesting assistance can contact the Assembly Office after the meeting.

**New York Public Library (NYPL) – L. Velazquez, M. Ramos-Lugo**

Ms. Ramos-Lugo reported that the New York Public Library continues Civic Engagement Initiatives. Please contact Lauren Deering for additional information at [Laurendeering@nypl.org](mailto:Laurendeering@nypl.org).

NYPL Continues to distribute Covid 19 tests and host testing sites.

Ms. Velazquez was also on the meeting but had to leave before her report.

**Commission of Human Rights – A. Algabali**

Mr. Algabali reported that he is located with the Commission at E. Tremont and Arthur Ave. – He is organizing a training on human rights law on September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm.

Mr. Algabali indicated that he is interested in tabling at New York Public Library events.

Mr. Cruz adjourned the meeting at 11:19 AM. Next month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am. The same Webex Credentials will be used.