



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 May 17, 2022

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; Basics: J. Berkley; CCHR: O. Torres; DCWR: A. Algabyali; DEP: E. Ardizzzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: E. Jarratt; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou, A. Bayer; State DOT: T. Bayer; DSNY-E: Sgt. O'Neill; FDNY: R. Velez; NYCEM: B. Fagnoli; NYPD: P. O. H. Rivera, Det. J. Souhrada; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Marin; L. Velazquez; Parks: C. Acosta; St. Peter's Residence: J. Vialet, J. Berkley; Office of Mayor Eric Adams (CAU): A. Dowe; Office of Sen. Jamaal Bailey: S. Morello; Office of Sen. Alessandra Biaggi: A. Conley; Office of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto: M. McKay; Office of Council Member Amanda Farias: R. Nieves; Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez: A. Jadric; Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark: M. Tavarez-Santana (30)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:05 AM by welcoming Cabinet members. Meetings will continue to be conducted remotely to facilitate attendance.

A representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was not present, but Mr. Cruz commented that Covid 19 cases in New York City are actively increasing and encouraged mindfulness to prevent spreading.

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) – B. Fagnoli

May 1st to 7th was Hurricane Awareness Week. The agency advises all to be aware of hazards caused by coastal storms. Hurricane season begins on June 1st and is most active at the end of August/beginning of September. The Board Office will be sent press releases.

Coastal storm evacuation centers have changed. Check NYC.gov/knowyourzone to find area hurricane evacuation centers.

May is National Pet Month. Plan for pets as part of the family emergency plan. Knowing pet hiding places can help locate them during emergencies. Prepare a Go-Bag for your pet. The ReadyNY website hosts CERT – Certified Emergency Response Teams - classes beginning in early June. One class takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays, the other on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Half of the program is in person and the other half is virtual. NYPD, FDNY and EM personnel assist with this training. Register on the agency website: nyc.gov/cert
Ready NY presentations are available at intergov@oem.nyc.gov.

New York City - Department of Transportation (DOT) – D. Cruz

Ms. Cruz requested that the repair/re-milling/resurfacing of Miles Avenue from Throgs Neck Expressway Service Road to the water at the boundary separating Alden Park and Pennyfield Camp. 311-08070988 be resubmitted with no mention of Alden Park. It is Miles Avenue and because it abuts Alden Park, it is being misconstrued as being a private street.

The approved street lighting installation on Harding Avenue and Huntington Avenue DOT-516990-X2S6 is awaiting a contract. More info will be provided when available.

The mobile speed enforcement device on Bruckner Boulevard at the St. Joseph Way intersection DOT-536380-Q8V1 will be made more permanent if it is deemed necessary.

Ms. Cruz will provide an update on the request for the placement of a crosswalk on Balcom Avenue at the intersection of Dewey Avenue when it is available.

Additional street lighting on Bruckner Boulevard from East Tremont Avenue to Balcom Avenue, # DOT-529222-B3Q1, was approved and is awaiting a new contract.

The repainting of the crosswalk on Doris Street near the intersection of Westchester Avenue was accomplished. Street markings are typically installed two weeks after repaving. Mr. Cruz indicated that Sampson Avenue also needs street markings. This is a wide street, and the lack of markings is problematic. Ms. Cruz agreed to expedite the markings on this street.

Ms. Cruz is expecting an update on the request for a speed cushion study on Revere Avenue between Philip Avenue and Dill Place DOT-521620-S3H3. She will contact Mr. Cruz after the meeting.

Ms. Cruz requested a photo of the area of Pennyfield Avenue which was omitted during the repaving. It is the street light area between Harding and Schurz Avenues.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the request for a speed hump on Carver Loop between Co-op City Boulevard and Cooper Place has been given case number: DOT-541887-NOQ2 and is due in April 2023.

Speed Hump request on Mayflower Avenue, between Zulette and Wellman Avenues, DOT-502994-S5Q2/DOT-540430-G2Q3, is due in May 2023.

The requests for repaving of Boller Avenue, between Erskine Place and Hutchinson River Parkway East and Balcom Avenue, between Lafayette Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard, have been approved and added to the Fiscal Year 2024 schedule.

Ms. Cruz requested that the Board resend our request for a left turn signal on the Layton Avenue overpass at Throgs Neck Expressway Service Road.

The Trip hazard in the crosswalk of LaSalle Avenue at East Tremont Avenue, on the LaSalle Avenue side of 3161 East Tremont Avenue. 311-10187085 has been forwarded to DEP for repair.

The request for new curbs on Lafayette Avenue between E. Tremont and Edison Avenues has been assigned case number DOT-545921-G0N9 and is due in June.

Ms. Cruz indicated that the street lighting unit is working on the request for repair of several Co-op City Boulevard streetlights from Benchley Place to Carver Loop. She will provide an update when available.

Ms. Cruz announced that she will be beginning maternity leave on Monday, May 23rd. She advised all to contact Keith Kalb or Holly Malone in her absence.

State Transportation Department (State DOT) – T. Bayer

Project NYSDOT D264410, the entrance ramp from the Hutchinson River Parkway to Co-op City, is progressing. Work is beginning on the embankment and utility work is being performed in conjunction with Riverbay Corporation.

The milling and paving work scheduled for July along the Hutchinson River Parkway East to Bartow Avenue will be moved up a week or so to June. The Jersey barriers will be temporarily removed for about two weeks while the milling and paving are done and then be restored.

Transportation Dept. – Bridges - A. Zhou, A. Bayer

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that concrete work is being done on the west bound portion of the bridge. Overnight closures will be necessary for about one week from midnight to 6 AM. Notices will be circulated when details are finalized. Project completion is expected in late summer or fall of 2022.

Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Bayer reported that concrete work is being done on the east sidewalk of her project. Potholes have been patched.

Department of Buildings (DOB) – E. Jarratt

1432 Crosby Avenue was inspected on March 19, 2022. No violations were observed. No wires or extension cords were in use. The resident is no longer charging his vehicle by accessing home electricity.

Inspectors visited 928 Swinton Avenue but were not granted access to the property. It is alleged that a pool party business is being run from the two-family residence through the Swimply website.

The inspection of a possible unpermitted enclosure at 1412 Castle Hill Avenue was not yet performed.

Mr. Jarratt had not previously requested an inspection of a possible unpermitted enclosure at 3273 Westchester Avenue but will now that the issue was discussed.

Mr. Jarratt will also get DOT involved in the inspection since the enclosures at 1412 Castle Hill and 3273 Westchester Avenue are on City sidewalks and involve the Agency.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – E. Ardizzone

The street cave in at 178 Meagher Avenue will be repaired shortly. There is an open work order.

The Agency is proposing a 4.9% water rate increase for 2023. The proposal is subject to review on May 25 and 26th

A Green Infrastructure Grant Program webinar will be held on Wed. June 8th between 2-3:30 PM.
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/green-infrastructure-grant-program.page>

Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta

Trimming of the green street on Libby Place and Mulford Avenue and the overgrowth at the entrance to Ferry Point Park were taken care of by the Agency.

There was no update on the request for tree maintenance at 3244 Radio Drive: 311-09181188.

PEP officers will patrol Veterans Memorial Park as part of their route to deter gatherings.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) – A. Algabvali

Mr. Algabvali reported that unlicensed car washes are a Borough wide issue. Vendors know that if they refuse to present identification a summons cannot be issued. Vendors sometimes cover their license plates to prevent identification. They are also organized and if one vendor is approached, others receive notification.

The City Council must revisit the law to enable better enforcement.

Department for the Aging (DFTA) – J. Melendez

The Agency is promoting the Affordable Connectivity Program which subsidizes internet services up to \$30 per month. Program info will be forwarded.

Public Library NY (NYPL) – L. Marin; L. Brown; L. Velazquez

Ms. Brown of the Baychester Branch announced that Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn libraries will kick off the Summer Learning/Reading Program on June 9th at Fordham Plaza. The Baychester Branch kick off will be on June 16th. Adult Summer Programs are also available. June is LGBTQ month. Resources and celebratory festivities will be ongoing. All are encouraged to stop by and continue to support the New York Public Library. Funding is needed to continue the wonderful programs offered by NYPL. Please reach out to her to table at upcoming events: lesliebrown@nypl.org.

Ms. Marin of the Westchester Square Branch announced a free take home Covid-19 test distribution this week. The Westchester Branch will be distributing free books at the upcoming Fair at the Square event. The Westchester Square Branch will kick off their Summer Reading Programs on June 15th. Ms. Marin expressed excitement about the new library facility coming to Westchester Square.

Crystal's Place – A. Sepulveda

The residence is meeting performance standards and is in the process of gaining state certifications. Currently, the residence has employment opportunities for case manager and security guard positions.

St. Peter's Residence – J. Violet; J. Berkley

The residence has a new client coordinator, Mr. Berkley. Mr. Berkley looks forward to working with the agencies in his new position. There are currently 38 families at the residence.

Human Rights Commission NYC (CCHR) – O. Torres

Domestic Worker Protections are in full effect. The Agency has been receiving many calls. There has been an increase in Housing Voucher complaints. Refusing vouchers is illegal in New York City.

Community Affairs Office of the Mayor (CAU) – A. Dowe

Ms. Dowe introduced herself as the Bronx Director of Community Affairs. The city is preparing for a high Covid-19 alert. Indoor mask mandates may be reinstated. In pursuit of economic recovery, the Mayor's Office is jumpstarting small businesses and can assist with resolving tickets, etc.

Office of State Senator Alessandra Biaggi – A. Conley

Ms. Conley had no updates to report.

Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – S. Morello

Mr. Morello announced that the annual Taste of the District begins tomorrow, May 18th and runs through 25th. Congressional and senatorial maps will be voted on.

Office of State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – M. McKay

Mr. McKay was present but had to leave early to attend another meeting.

Office of Council Member Amanda Farias – R. Nieves

Councilwoman Farias' office moved to a storefront office at 778 Castle Hill Avenue. There is always a staff member in the office, but appointments for constituent work are preferred. Councilwoman Farias will host a Silent Disco next Friday. The Councilmember will work with the 2121 Westchester Avenue.

45th Precinct (NYPD) – P.O. H. Rivera, Det. J. Souhrada

The 45 Precinct experienced a spike in crime but remains lower than other parts of the Borough.

Two dead bodied were discovered in a car fire on Shore Road over the weekend. Detectives are working on this active case and updates will be provided when available.

A dead body was also discovered floating under the Whitestone Bridge in the vicinity of Ferry Point Park. The body has not been identified.

Concerning graffiti was discovered on Sunday in a bathroom of the AMC Movie Theater in the Bay Plaza Shopping Mall which referenced the Buffalo shooting. A serious investigation is underway. No video surveillance was available.

Tractor trailers are being ticketed. Officers went to every trailer and left flyers on windshields. Mr. Cruz volunteered to assist with placing flyers. The issue is becoming overbearing in the Board area.

Mr. Cruz noted several issues including a white van on Roberts with its gas tank removed and placed at the curb, and trucks on Whitmore Avenue.

Det. Souhrada commented on the unfortunate losses of Det. Johnny Walker, and Schuyler Hill Funeral Home proprietor and Board Member, James McQuade. Mr. McQuade's wake on Wed. and Thurs. and the funeral on Friday will create parking and traffic flow issues.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) – R. Velez

Mr. Velez reported that the Department will be offering a Fire Safety presentation on Tuesday, May 24th at 3555 Bruckner Boulevard.

As of April 10th, the Department performed 342 presentations. Virtual and in-person options are available.

Statistics: 25 structural fires, 6 non fire runs, 356 EMS runs

Office of District Attorney Darcel Clark – M. Santana-Tavarez

The District Attorney's Office collected over 400 prom dresses and 150 suits for the Prom Dress/Suit Drive. Two shops were opened for seniors to select and pick up clothing.

Office of Council Member Kevin Riley – K. Burton

Movies Under the Stars will take place this Friday at 7:30 pm.
The Councilman will be hosting a Youth Day of Service.

Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez – A. Jadric

A schedule of Summer Programing will be released shortly.

Mr. Cruz noted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21st, at 10 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.