



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 FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Attendance: CB10: M. Cruz; N. Kilkenny; Acacia: J. Violet-Rodriguez; DCWR: A. Algabyali; DDC: L. Alfred; DEP: E. Ardizzone; DFTA: J. Melendez; DOB: E. Jarratt; DoHMH: E. Peralta, K. Johnson; DOT: D. Cruz; DOT Bridges: A. Zhou, A. Bayer; DSNY: J. Falcaro; DSNY-E: Sgt. McKenzie; DSS: J. Bennett; Mayor's Office: P. Caquias; NYCEM: Y. Duarte; NYPD: Det. J. Souhrada, P.O. W. Sanchez; NYPL: L. Brown, L. Velazquez; Parks: C. Acosta, V. Davis-O'Neal, K. Zagorski; Congressman Bowman's Office: N. Vasquez; Sen. Biaggi's Office: A. Conley; Assemblyman Benedetto's Office: M. McKay; Assemblyman Riley's Office: K. Burton; Councilmember Velazquez' Office: A. Jadric; Council Member Farias' Office: R. Nieves; Sen. Bailey's Office: S. Morello; (32)

Mr. Cruz commenced the meeting at 10:03 AM by welcoming Cabinet members. Meetings will continue to be conducted remotely to facilitate attendance.

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

Ms. Peralta reported that the agency continues to encourage all to get vaccinated/boosted. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines can be boosted five months after receiving the second of two doses. Johnson and Johnson vaccines can be boosted two months after receiving the first dose. It is currently flu season, and all are encouraged to get the flu vaccine.

Mask mandates continue to be in effect in public places, congregate settings, classrooms and on public transportation.

Inspections are being conducted. Please report issues requiring follow up.

Ms. Peralta reported that Ashwin Vasan has been appointed the new agency Commissioner by Mayor Eric Adams. Ms. Peralta also announced that she will be leaving the agency as of Friday, February 18, 2022. Kenneth Johnson will be the Bronx Community Liaison. Ms. Peralta indicated that she has enjoyed serving the Bronx for the past five years and that Mr. Johnson is also committed to serving the community. She thanked all for working with her during her tenure.

Mr. Cruz wished Ms. Peralta well and thanked her for her service to the Community Board. He welcomed Mr. Johnson and indicated that he looks forward to working together in service of the community. He requested that Mr. Johnson add his contact information in the chat.

#### **NYPD 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct – Det. J. Souhrada; P.O. W. Sanchez**

Det. Souhrada reported that the entire City, including the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct, has experienced a spike in crime and that all are working to rectify this, particularly before the warmer weather when more people are out and active.

All crime categories have increased, including property crimes/burglaries, car thefts/rims and tires, and thefts of catalytic converters. Det. Souhrada reported that Community Board #10 and Mr. Cruz will be partnering with the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct and Home Depot for a catalytic converter vin etching/painting event aimed at deterring catalytic converter theft. The event will be publicized on social media to encourage participation.

Detective Souhrada indicated that since January, an intensive tow truck initiative has been underway. Tow trucks are being used to steal cars in broad daylight while residents believe they are performing legitimate tow operations. Tow operations are being verified by requiring that documentation be presented.

Overtime transit posts at transit stations from Pelham Bay Park to Castle Hill Ave. are ongoing. Officers are remaining beyond their designated shift to patrol troublesome areas. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Precinct is also manning transit posts in their district.

Det. Souhrada discussed the ongoing parking and derelict car issues plaguing our area. Most streets in Board #10 are not governed by alternate side parking regulations, therefore car owners take advantage and leave cars unattended for prolonged periods. This practice eliminates parking for other residents and visitors. Officers work to contact owners and encourage them to remove the vehicle. Electeds are working to establish a resolution to the tractor trailer issues. Tractor trailer drivers are limited to a specific number of consecutive driving hours. When that number is reached, they are mandated to take a break. Some truckers are out of work and are storing their vehicles curbside. Det. Souhrada provided his office and cell numbers. 718 822 5449; 917 557 7002.

Mr. Cruz inquired about the possibility of persistent ticketing since occasional ticketing penalties are far below the cost of procuring a parking space. Commercial vehicles are not permitted to park overnight on city streets. They are limited to three consecutive hours during the daytime, but the precinct does not have the resources to have officers monitor the parking for that time frame.

Mr. Cruz suggested that perhaps lobbying our representatives to increase ticket penalties would be effective.

### **New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) - Y. Duarte**

Ms. Duarte indicated that an agency report was forwarded to the Board via email.

The application period for the John D. Solomon Fellowship Program is now open. Anyone in a master's degree program can apply. Those selected will be placed with one of ten participating agencies and provided an opportunity to learn and possibly launch a career path with that agency.

The *Share Your Space Program*, which identifies suitable large spaces for use during emergencies, is seeking sites. Applicants must own the space they are proposing. The contact is notified prior to the agency utilizing the space.

The agency is currently offering presentations on a variety of topics. Requests can be submitted at: [intergov@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:intergov@oem.nyc.gov).

Mr. Cruz congratulated Ms. Duarte who was recently honored at the Borough President's office. Ms. Duarte relayed that she was happy to represent the agency and the Dominican Community.

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

Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Cruz and the agency for their attendance at the February Municipal Services Committee. Any issues that were addressed at that meeting can be skipped from the agenda.

Ms. Cruz thanked the Board for having patience. Traffic signal studies were delayed a year due to Covid 19 restrictions.

The Speed Hump study requested for LaSalle Avenue from Edison to Crosby Avenues, DOT 406830-K0G5, was denied.

Responses to the following requests are due in October 2022:

Layton Avenue between Fairfax and Dean Avenues – DOT-523990-X8C6

Harding Avenue from East Tremont to Pennyfield Avenues – DOT-523994-K9Y8

The request for a stop sign on Baisley Avenue at Edison Avenue, and the request for a 4-Way Stop Sign at the intersection of Mayflower and Zulette Avenues DOT-494456-G9K8 are due in May 2022.

Street clarification is needed concerning 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.

The roadway crew will evaluate if measures can be taken to improve the condition of Alcott Place at Asch Loop while the area awaits a response to a Capital Reconstruction request.

The HYQUA Division deemed that additional asphalt at Hutchinson River Parkway East and Boller Avenue is not needed as the area is not sinking. If photos indicating otherwise are available, please submit.

The response to the traffic signal study for Robinson & Miles Avenues: DOT-514198-Q3J9 is due in May 2022. This area is already road dieted, but drivers continue to speed. The road diet project manager will be consulted to determine if another tool can be added to produce the desired result.

The request for a DOT study and removal of the City Bench at 1710 Crosby Avenue which has become a gathering place for vagrants, is due end of February 2022

The agency is awaiting contract information concerning the approved street lighting study at Harding and Huntington Avenues, DOT-516990-X2S6. The Board will be updated when additional info is provided.

A response to the request for an All-Way Stop at the intersection of Harding and Longstreet: DOT-516307-S2R2, is due in May 2022.

HYQUA issued a CAR to repair the road opposite 905 Brush Avenue and the agency is awaiting an update.

The malfunctioning streetlight on Barkley between Calhoun and Revere Avenues was repaired on January 23, 2022.

Ms. Cruz requested that the request for resurfacing the street at 825 Vincent Avenue due to improper pitching at time of paving be resubmitted to the Agency by the Board.

The request for repair of the streetlight/pole at Asch Loop and Alcott Place was issued work order number DOT-534282-Z3K5 and is due in May 2022.

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

Mr. Cruz indicated that he is anxious to receive an update on the status of Project NYSDOT D264410, the entrance ramp from the Hutchinson River Parkway to Co-op City. It is important to keep the Co-op City community informed of upcoming construction and traffic disruptions.

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

Westchester Avenue Overpass - Ms. Zhou reported that this Saturday February 19 through Sunday February 27 single lane closures will be necessary. Closures will be 10am – 3 pm on weekdays and 6 am – 6 pm on weekends. Ms. Zhou has emailed a notice concerning this work and has contacted new elected officials.

Unionport Bridge Project – Ms. Bayer reported that the project is progressing perfectly. She had no updates to report and is available to assist with any issues that may arise.

Mr. Cruz requested that if Ms. Bayer notices cars parking along the bike lane and pedestrian lane in the vicinity of the project she notify the Board Office as complaints have been received. He suspects they are workers from the 2505 Bruckner Boulevard project. Ms. Bayer confirmed that there were cars parked in the area, but they moved.

Mr. Cruz directed Ms. Bayer to contact information available in the chat for Ms. Nieves of Assemblywoman Farias' Office to familiarize and update that office on the project.

### **Design & Construction, Dept. of (DDC) – L. Alfred**

Burr Ave Project # SEX20047 – Ms. Alfred reported that the project is 80.93% completed and on schedule for completion in July 2022

Tie-in work is ongoing in the coming days on Pelham Parkway South between Colonial and Burr Avenues. The field office will be closed on February 21<sup>st</sup> in observance of Presidents' Day.

Ms. Alfred thanked the Department of Sanitation and the Board Office for assisting with trash removal access issues.

Mr. Cruz thanked Ms. Alfred for her diligence and the agency for their capable handling of a complicated project.

Ms. Alfred inquired about where residents can obtain Covid-19 test kits. Mr. Cruz indicated that the Board Office had a limited supply of kits, and that they should be directed to the office.

### **Department of Buildings (DOB) – E. Jarratt**

Mr. Cruz indicated that he already received an update on 235 Robinson Avenue will be demolished next month per HPD.

Mr. Jarratt reported that an electrical enforcement team could not gain access to 1432 Crosby Avenue to determine if unsafe practices are being used to charge an electrical car from an in-home power source. They will make another attempt.

Mr. Jarrat requested structural engineering reports on 2317-2321 Glebe Avenue and 1551 Parker Street, however, he was informed that they will only be performed if deemed necessary by an inspector during an inspection. He will keep the Board informed of any developments.

### **Consolidated Edison**

No representative was present. Mr. Cruz commented on the recent pricing spike in energy bills. He indicated that disputed bills must be brought to the New York State Department of Public Service, an entity of the Public Safety Commission.

Mr. McKay indicated that Assemblyman Benedetto's Office has reached out to Con Edison on behalf of residents and was informed that the spike is the result of supply chain issues, delivery costs, etc. He will forward Con Edison's explanatory email.

### **Environmental Protection Dept. (DEP) – E. Ardizzone**

Ms. Ardizzone reported that the homeowner of 156 Edgewater Park received a three-day notice and repairs will be done.

A water main break occurred on St. Peters Avenue between St. Raymond and Maclay Avenues.

Ms. Ardizzone announced that the agency's new commissioner, Rohit T. Aggarwala, plans to focus more heavily on climate change issues. The former Commissioner, Vincent Sapienza, will remain as chief operations officer.

The New York State Low Income Household Water Assistance Program allows eligible homeowners to receive up to \$5,000 to resolve overdue water bills. Applications are available at [otda.ny.gov/lihwap](http://otda.ny.gov/lihwap), or call 833-690-0208, or the toll-free OTDA Hotline: 800-342-3009.

DEP also has a home water assistance program that does not require an application. Eligibility is determined through qualifying for other benefits such as Snap.

A Green Infrastructure Grant Program presentation will be offered on March 9 from 2-3:30 PM. It will review the process of installing green roof retrofits on private property.

Ms. Ardizzone reported that the work order for the catch basin at 181 Meager Avenue is still open and active, 311-07684225. Repairs are being done on a priority basis and it will eventually be addressed.

### **Department of Parks and Recreation – C. Acosta, V. Davis-O'Neal, K. Zagorski**

Mr. Cruz thanked Mr. Acosta for his earlier update on small repair work around the perimeter of Bufano Park. Mr. Acosta also reported that a couple of weeks ago pedestrian ramps were installed at the four corners of the park. Larger cracks were repaired but full replacement is a larger scale project requiring funding. Mr. Cruz will reach out to Councilwoman Velazquez for this and installation of an ADA compliant swing.

Mr. Acosta will reach out to the Forestry Department for updates on the tree at 1275A Hobart Avenue.

Ms. Zagorski had no updates on Pelham Bay Park. Mr. Cruz would like to schedule a virtual meeting concerning the Middletown Road section of the park next week.

### **Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) – A. Algabiyali**

Mr. Algabiyali announced that NYC Free Tax Prep is available to Bronx residents. Many are eligible but are not aware of the program. Please promote the program, which is available for drop off, virtual, in-person and self-prep with help options. Eligible families must have an income of under \$72,000, individuals, under \$50,000. Virtual and in-person presentations promoting Free Tax Prep are available.

Restaurant delivery workers have new rights under the agency. Food Apps must be licensed by NYC, disclose tips, and provide bathroom access to delivery workers. Additional protections will be implemented in the future.

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

Sgt. McKenzie had no updates to report and requested that complaints be forwarded to her.

**Department of Sanitation (DSNY) – Superintendent Falcaro**

Superintendent Falcaro had no updates to report. The agency continues to pivot between collection and weather issues.

Mr. Cruz indicated that the condition of the area has improved since Superintendent Falcaro's arrival as Superintendent.

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

Mr. Melendez reported that senior centers are opened for in person meeting. Virtual attendance is also available as well as grab and go meals. The link for the agency newsletter is:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/news-reports/newsletters.page>.

Mr. Melendez reported that the deadline for first time filing for Enhanced Star is March 1st.

Mr. Melendez reported that he contacted the seniors in need of assistance who were forwarded to him from our office and provided program information.

Mr. Cruz inquired if a representative from the Department of Homeless Services was present. He expressed concern regarding two planned men's shelters at 1400 Blondell Avenue and 2400 Poplar Street. Both are in Board 11 but face our communities.

Ms. Joycelyn Bennett of the Department of Social Services indicated that both sites are on track and moving forward. In response to Mr. Cruz's inquiry of why the 1400 Blondell Avenue project was so delayed, Ms. Bennett reported that the site is still in the negotiation phase.

**Pelham Grand – K Mann**

Ms. Mann reported that the Pelham Grand Residence continues to encourage vaccines. 93% of residents are vaccinated. Mr. Cruz offered K-N95 masks which are available at the office.

Ms. Mann reported that though it is a goal of residents to be good neighbors, currently a few tenants have been noisy, and the administration is working on resolving issues. She asked that we inform her if we receive complaints.

Ms. Mann complemented Mr. Cruz on the informative nature of the District Service Cabinet meetings.

**St. Peters Residence – J. Violet-Rodriguez**

Ms. Violet-Rodriguez was present at the meeting but experiencing audio issues and was unable to participate.

At Mr. Cruz' request, Ms. Bennett of the Department of Social Services agreed to reach out to Town and Country Residence concerning their lack of attendance at virtual meeting. Ms. Bennett agreed to forward information offline.

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

Ms. Velazquez reported that in-person programming resumed yesterday. She requested that we circulate NYPL calendars/flyers to promote programming.

Ms. Brown reminded all that mask mandates are still in effect at the library. She invited agencies to table at upcoming branch events.

**Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Office – P. Caquias**

Ms. Caquias introduced herself as the new representative of Mayor Eric Adams' Community Affairs Unit. She looks forward to working with fellow representatives to serve the community.

The Office of Faith Based and Community Partnership, led by Pastor Guilford Monroe, is now part of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. Those needing to liaise with the Partnership can contact Ms. Caquias.

Events and announcements can be forwarded to Ms. Caquias for inclusion in the Mayor's weekly newsletter which is distributed on Fridays.

**Office of Congressman Jamaal Bowman – N. Vazquez**

On February 22, 2022, Congressman Bowman will host a LIHEAP webinar at 6:00 PM.

On February 25, 2022, a Fair Pay For Home Care Rally will be held at 177 Dreiser Loop from 12- 1 PM.

The League of Conservation Voters is interested in connecting with local conservation groups such as the Bronx River Alliance. Please forward contacts to Congressman Bowman's office to facilitate networking and funding amongst green life recycling groups and healthy earth policy advocates.

Congressman Bowman's Office will be celebrating Black History Month by bestowing awards and recognizing individuals for their contributions to black culture and community. A town hall event will be scheduled, possibly on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Follow Congressman Bowman's Office on social media for updates.

Finally, Congressman Bowman's office is interested in starting a Youth Advisory Council to engage young people from the district on important topics such as mental health. Highschool aged young people are encouraged to contact the office.

**Office of City Council Member Kevin Riley – K. Burton**

Mr. Burton announced that this and every Friday between the hours of Noon and 3 PM, the Councilmember's Office will participate in "Keeping Community Together" at Unity With Love Warehouse, 3369 Wilson Avenue. All are welcome to participate.

Mr. Burton also requested that those present include their contact info in the chat.

**Office of Council Member Marjorie Velazquez – A. Jadric**

Ms. Jadric had no updates. Constituent services are available by contacting the office at 718 931 1721.

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

Ms. Nieves had no updates. Constituent services are available in-office by appointment, 718 792 1140.

**Office of State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto – M. McKay**

Mr. McKay reported that Assemblyman Benedetto's office will provide free tax prep for seniors at the 177 Dreiser Loop and 3602 Tremont Avenue offices, 718 892 2235.

**State Senator Alessandra Biaggi's Office – A. Conley**

Ms. Conley announced that Senator Biaggi's Office is participating with Borough President Gibson, Councilwoman Velazquez, and Assemblyman Benedetto to distribute at-home testing and personal protective equipment today at Hawkins Park on City Island at 2 PM. Resources are limited therefore representatives are pooling inventory to best serve the community.

**Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey – S. Morello**

Mr. Morello reported that Senator Bailey's Office will celebrate Black History Month on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, with a virtual trip to the Black History Museum.

The Office is open and returning to normal. Staff are present on a rotating schedule to ensure social distancing and providing constituent services. The office is located at 959 E. 233<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Mr. Cruz thanked all in attendance for their participation and concluded the meeting at 11:14 AM.