



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

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Peter J. Sullivan
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

Health and Human Services Committee

June 18, 2019

Present: M.J. Musano, B. Bieder, T. Smith, T. Franklin, H. Acampora, W. Chin, M. Cruz, T. Accomando, I. Guanill, A. Chirico

Absent: D. Hunt, N. Rosario, L. Council, R. Barbarelli, A. Salimbene

Guests: P. DelDebbio, J. Vaini, J. Blout, J. Webber, V. Moore, L. Agovino, D. DePasquale, W. Cancel, R. Uvaro, R. Olan, K. Rivera, W. Zulch, J. Murphy, D. Colon, M. Furnari, J. Gilmore, Z. Diaz, S. Pinega, R. Tanga, E. Sementilli, L. Rocco, R. Webb, O. Mayo, C. Scholl, E. Jorge, J. Bauer, O. DeLuca, M. Allard, R. Rodriguez, J. Dinneen, M. Rosario, M. Joyce, C. DePolo, E. Rosario, I. Law, M. Luciano, R. Reyes, R. Berver

Our meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to our flag. It was extremely well attended by our community.

Zoraida Diaz, Regional Director for the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, spoke about the procedure to apply for licensing to operate under an 822 license. She made it very clear that under this license it is expected that medication would be part of the treatment. As part of the licensing procedure it is expected that the applicant develop a working relationship with the community. She said that OASAS does not seek out applicants for licensing to operate substance abuse centers, rather the applicants apply to them. There was a question and answer session and then we went on to the next presenter.

Ertuania Jorge, Program Director for Carnegie Hill Institute, spoke about their plans to open a substance abuse center at 3134 E. Tremont Avenue. She claims that their center will prescribe but not distribute medication at this time. They will offer counseling for people with substance abuse and other problems such as domestic violence. She stated that they have not yet purchased 3134 E. Tremont Avenue.

Matt Cruz, District Manager, asked Ms. Jorge if she would keep her promise to him that she would not go forward with the plan to buy 3134 E. Tremont Ave. for the site of their substance abuse center if there was community opposition. Although there was a room full of community members in opposition as well as several letters of opposition, she refused to answer.

Carnegie Hill Institute operates another substance abuse center at 116 E. 92nd Street. This facility does distribute medication as well as offering counseling.

The floor was opened for questions. The consensus was that our community feels that this facility, sandwiched between a learning center and a day care center for autistic children and blocks away from Lehman HS, is poorly placed and creates a dangerous situation for our community. Also, Carnegie Hill Institute's services are not needed as we are fully serviced by Montefiore's Wellness Center on Water's Place, who provides the same outpatient services.

We then went on to the resolutions:

“Resolved...at the recommendation of the Chairperson of Bronx Community Board #10 to write a letter to our state officials asking them to draft legislation, similar to that of adult entertainment venues, that will prohibit the opening of substance treatment facilities near all schools and public parks and that it be forwarded to the full board for approval.”

This resolution received a unanimous vote in favor with no abstentions.

“Resolved...at the recommendation of the Chairperson of Bronx Community Board #10 to write a letter of objection to the State Department of Health with regard to Miracle City's operation at 2800 Bruckner Boulevard on the condition that Mr. Egidio Sementilli provide any and all necessary statistics and information affirming Bronx Community Board #10 does not need this facility and can provide petitions/letters in opposition from immediate neighbors.”

It should be noted that this information was presented and this resolution will be forwarded to the full Board for approval.

Mr. Sementilli provided a large packet of information with statistics and information affirming that this facility is not needed as well as petitions and letters of opposition. The vote was unanimously in favor with no abstentions.

Lastly, Venus Moore, from New York Problem Gambling Resource Center, discussed resources for Bronx Residents. The helpline for problem gambling is 1-877-HOPENY.