



**COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
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**Dominic Castore
Chairman**

**Fernando Ferrer
Borough President**

**John A. Fratta
District Manager**

COMMITTEES

- Community Development & Budget priorities
- Economic Development
- Education & Culture
- Health & Social Services
- Highways, Traffic & Transportation
- Housing
- Land Use
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Public Safety
- Sanitation & Environmental Protection
- Youth

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1999
IN THE PATIENT ACTIVITY CENTER OF CALVARY HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. by Dominic Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Henry Joseph – 2409 Poplar Street

Mr. Joseph stated that there are two auto body shops on Poplar Street. He stated that one of them leaves car part on the street. Mr. Joseph spoke about a fire at the other auto body shop. He stated that there is an abandoned burned car there. Mr. Joseph stated that DEP had come out.

Mr. Joseph also spoke about customers from the diner (Friday and Saturday nights) who make a lot of noise, throw bottle, fight and use the street for a toilet.

John reported that he had gone out to see the area after he received a complaint. John stated that he was surprised that no one ever complained about the fact that there are no sidewalks. John stated that he sent DOT and DEP to the area. He also stated that the empty building was open and dangerous. John reported that he was going to concentrate on this block, and what could be done to make living conditions better for the residents. John said that he would like to get DOT to put sidewalks in and bill the owners. John reported that the car was removed. John told Mr. Joseph to call him if there are any further problems. He also told Mr. Joseph that the police would be monitoring the area.

b. Janice Walcott – Allerton Coops

Ms. Walcott spoke about the problem with the garbage at the Coops. She reported that citations were issued in September to management. Ms. Walcott stated that the garbage needs to be contained. Ms. Walcott stated that garbage is put out 2-3 days ahead

of time. It is a health hazard. Ms. Walcott stated that she requested that the buildings be exterminated from basement to roof for fleas and rodents, but this has not been done.

John reported that Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein has set up a meeting with the State, HPD and Code Enforcement on Monday, November 29th.

Ms. Walcott reported that she has several apartments that need to be visited.

John reported that Assemblyman Klein had jumped on this and has asked for high level personnel to come to this meeting.

c. Laverne Underdue – 2753 Barker Avenue

Ms. Underdue stated that she has lived in the Coops since 1951. She stated that many things have changed. Ms. Underdue stated that we need to fight for rent stabilization. She also stated that John has been a good friend and helped the Coops,

John informed Ms. Underdue that in January the Housing Committee would be discussing the issue of rent stabilization.

d. Martin Joseph O'Grady – Plumber

Mr. O'Grady reported that he is concerned about the crisis that may occur in the sinter of busted water pipes and the escalating costs. He stated that the costs have increased due to the fact that DOT workers repave streets over water and sewer pipes, and these big trucks damage the homeowner's pipes. (Copy of testimony available in office)

II. District Manager's Report – John A. Fratta

John reported that finally after 10 years, No Parking signs were put up on Pelham Parkway North. John spoke about the fact that the Garabedian's (Christmas House – 1605 Pelham Parkway North) were upset that the signs were put up. He stated that the Chester Civic Association had requested these signs.

John reported that DOT had wanted to put up No Parking signs in front of people's houses on Colden and Radcliff Avenues. He stated that there is a 2-way turn where Colden and Radcliff Avenues meet.. John stated that the homeowners came to him for help and asked that the street be made a one way turn. John also reported that he had gone to visit this area with the previous DOT engineer, and she agreed with us that there should not be "No Parking" signs. A month later the "No Parking" signs were put up. John stated that with the new engineer, Mr. Palmeri looked at the area

and it was corrected.

John spoke about Poplar Street, and what could be done. John wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

John reported that there would be a Board meeting in December, December 16th. He also reported that there would be a public hearing on a proposed group home for eight mentally retarded/developmentally disabled individuals at 2181 Muliner Avenue. John reported that this proposal comes from F.E.G.S. (Federation Employment Guidance Services) who previously had a similar proposal for this site in 1989. John stated that we are trying to get a site for the public hearing. He stated that there is a 40-day time period in which the Board can respond. John stated that we cannot show saturation. We can submit 3 alternate sites, but if one of these is chosen the fight is over. John reported that the Morris Park Association and our elected officials were notified about this proposal. John stated that the Board would notify the newspapers and send out flyers on the public hearing.

Annette asked if the mentally retarded living in apartments could count toward saturation.

John said no, as this is assisted living. John reported that he had looked over the petitions signed by the homeowners against the proposal from 1989, and made several phone calls. John reported that few people who signed the petitions live there.

III. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed. He stated that adjustments need to be made to the report. Silvio asked the Board members not to leave early as a vote is needed.

IV. Borough President's Report – Linda Loeb

As the report was lengthy, Linda submitted it to the secretary.

1. FERRER PRAISES VOTERS FOR CHARTER SMARTS
2. FERRER TO CITY HALL: CLEAN UP YOU ACT IN THE BRONX
3. FERRER ON NEW PROPOSAL BY MAYOR GIULIANI TO PUT HOMELESS TO WORK IN EXCHANGE FOR SHELTER
4. THE BRONX WINS THE 1999 AMERICAN CITY AND COUNTY CROWN COMMUNITIES AWARD
5. FERRER INTRODUCES INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE BRONX

6. FERRER CONGRATULATES CITY ORGANIZATIONS AWARDED \$5 MILLION BY NEW YORK STATE TO EXPAND HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN
7. FERRER WELCOMES NEW BRONX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT AND CALLS ON CITY HALL TO ENSURE SERVICES FOR THE FACES BEHIND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS
8. FERRER JOINS LEGAL SUIT IN CAMPAIGN FOR FISCAL EQUITY'S FIGHT FOR FAIR SHARE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION DOLLARS
9. BOROUGH PRESIDENT TESTIFIES AT ASSEMBLY HEARING ON FUTURE OF NCB: ENCOURAGES RESTORATION OF SERVICES AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

V. Committee Reports

A. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

Joe reported that a vote on Gleason's at 2040 Eastchester Road was tabled last month. He stated that the Board received the notice of intent to renew four days before the October meeting, and he received it two days before the meeting. Joe stated that he had requested that a vote on this license renewal be tabled until he had had a chance to talk to the owner and the police. Joe stated that five days later when he went to Gleason's to speak with the owner, they already had their renewal license. Joe stated that the Board acted as quickly as possible. He recommended that the Board sent a strong letter to our elected officials.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Annette Marchitello – That Community Board #11 send a letter to our elected officials on how the SLA handles liquor licenses without waiting for Board input.

Unanimously approved.

B. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – Vincent Prezioso

1. Installation of meters

Vinnie reported that the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Committee had held a meeting on a request that 1-hour meters be installed on Eastchester Road from Seminole to Stillwell Avenue. This would be for one block only. (where Gleason's 24 hour deli and oil change place are)

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Dorrie Castro – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the Parking Bureau requesting that 1-hour meters be installed on one side of Eastchester Road from Seminole to Stillwell Avenue.

Passed.

Vinnie spoke about a request that the Board had received from the University Diagnostic Center at 1733 Eastchester Road for the installation of 2-hour meters from their parking lot to Waters Place. He stated that the Board had approved this request and sent it to DOT. DOT approved the meters, but they were never put in because the person who came out to look at the site said that there were trees there. Vinnie stated that he visited the area again and there are no trees. He asked that this be brought to DOT again.

John reported that the installation of these meters was put on hold by DOT pending the installation of meters all over the community. He stated that he would push for this again. John stated that he would try and get Mr. Patterson to come and look at this area again. John stated that this request is two years old.

Vinny reported that the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Committee requested that Mr. Patterson attend its November meeting. He stated that Mr. Patterson called to say he could not attend because his boss would not pay him overtime.

John reported that the Board had requested that the meters at Jacobi Hospital be changed to ending at 7:00 P.M. He stated that this has not been done to date.

Dom DeProspero reported that a stop sign was installed at Colden and Neill Avenues and on Waring Avenue. He stated that one on Waring Avenue is right in front of a tree and needs to be moved.

Dom also reported that the meters on Morris Park Avenue either don't work or run fast.

Dom Castore asked anyone finding a problem with a meter to call the Board office. He also complained about the problem of condensation in the meters which makes them hard to read.

Rabbi Fuchs stated that he held a meeting specifically to talk about the meters and no one showed up from parking meters. Rabbi Fuchs asked that a letter be sent to the head of the parking meters division asking for a day meeting with all the groups.

Rabbi Fuchs reported that parking at Einstein Hospital is getting worse. He stated that community parking is being taken away for Doctor Parking Only.

Dom Castore suggested that Rabbi Fuchs should set up a meeting in December and get our elected officials to help us.

C. Sanitation and Environmental Protection – Dominick DeProspo

Dom reported that Amtrak has not been back to clean Sackett Avenue. He stated that it is filthy, there is a car still there. Dom also asked that the alternate side parking regulations be changed from 3 hours to 1½ hours.

Dom also reported that the wall at Pelham Parkway South from White Plains Road to Hering Avenue is filthy, there is garbage and leaves. He stated that DOT has to fix the cut in the road.

Dom reported that the sewers are full of leaves. He also reported that at the parking lot at 801 Neill Avenue it becomes a sliding pond in the winter.

Dom reported that since 1985 curb cuts have been installed. The problem is when they are installed, many times the sewer is not moved. He stated that this has occurred by Chase bank at Lurting and Morris Park Avenue. Dom said that it gets so bad that planks have to be put down so people can cross the street.

John Fratta reported that DOT is working on changing the ASP from 3 hours to 1½ hour. Dom stated that the wall at Pelham Parkway Avenue is not the responsibility of Sanitation but rather Parks.

Annette reported that there is a metal piece sticking up on the curb cuts of both sides of Rhinelander and Williamsbridge Road.

Linda White spoke about Metro North at 1600 Van Nest Avenue. She stated that rats have been seen there. They are not cleaning the tracks. Linda reported that there are odors are coming from the sewers at the Pioneer and Bid Deal Super Markets. She also reported that they are cutting curbs in Van Nest and removing catchbasins.

D. Education and Culture – Ruth Burko

Ruth reported that she had received a letter from the New York Historical Society on a program they are developing in which they are asking New Yorkers to turn their homes inside out for posterity (Flyer attached).

Ruth reported that a joint meeting of the Education and Youth Committees Chaired by both Linda White and herself was held on October 27th. She stated that the meeting was very well attended. Ruth reported that Senator Guy Vellella, Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein and Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano as well as Rafael Carbelo from the District Attorney's office attended along with representatives of NIDC, 15 youth, and the director of their program. Ruth reported that there were no principals in attendance.

E. Youth – Linda White

Linda thanked the Community Board members who came and supported us at the meeting. She stated that this was a follow up to two other meeting on gang problems in Community District 11. Linda reported that there is a lot of denial that there are gangs in our area. She stated that there is a problem. Linda stated that while it is not as bad as other areas we need to contain it.

Linda reported that the youth that attended this meeting were all from a program that NIDC runs. There were no youth other than those from NIDC at the meeting.

Linda reported that the 15 kids from NIDC are in a program and that Assemblyman Klein is working with these kids. She stated that they need adult help. Linda stated that there is life and death peer pressure on our youths. Linda reported that not all of the elected officials at the meeting were able to stay for the entire meeting. Linda stated that the object of the meeting was to get the kids to talk with the politicians. Linda reported that there would be another meeting in January. She stated that the principal of Columbus High School was invited to attend as well as the principals of the feeder schools. She stated that only P.S. 96 was represented, not M.S. 135, P.S. 83 etc. Linda stated that these schools say they have no gang problem.

Linda reported that Columbus has a program called the Council for Unity. She stated that most students in the school do not know about the program. Linda stated that it was a very fruitful meeting. She stated that there was no Youth Officer at the meeting as all the Youth Officers were pulled to a training meeting. She stated that she wanted to have interaction with the police.

Pat Quaranta asked that a letter be sent to Joseph Kovaly asking why the principals did not attend this meeting, and why they principal of Columbus did not attend.

Howard Rasche of Assemblyman Klein's office stated that he is on the School Board, and if he is notified he would see to it that the principals of I.S. 135, M.S. 96, 97 and 83 attend.

Pricilla Crowell reported that the kids from Eastchester Gardens could not attend because they had to attend another meeting.

Annette reported that the youngsters at this meeting were very articulate. She stated that we need more than NIDC funding.

John stated that these kids were asking for jobs in general. He stated that NIDC was the only group to attend.

Linda reported that the gangs were invited. She stated that they are afraid of police and peer pressure. Linda said there are 10 gangs in Board #11, mainly in Van Nest and Pelham Parkway. She stated that some of them are off shoots of major gangs such as the Bloods and the Crips.

Linda reported that channel 7 did a story last night, with a report tonight at 11 P.M. on gangs from 225th Street to White Plains Road. She stated that the 49th Precinct stated that there were no gangs until now. Now they are saying we have gangs.

Dom Castore thanked Ruth and Linda for the job they are doing.

Dorrie asked if it was possible to set up a meeting in the New Year with gang representation with plain-clothes officers.

Linda stated that they would know.

Vinnie asked for a meeting without the police.

Linda stated that we are going to see if we can establish a meeting without the police.

Joe Thompson stated that the gang members are not going to come to a meeting with anyone they don't know or trust. He stated that we need to invite people that they do know and trust, and hold the meeting in an area where they are located.

Linda reported that there would not be a Youth meeting in December.

Robert Potter reported that he had attended a School Board meeting where he learned that there had been vandalism at P.S. 87. He stated that classrooms had been trashed, and that computers had been stolen.

Bob reported that the test scores in most areas in School District #11 were even or above average. He also reported that the Bronx is above average in Math and English. Bob reported that the School Board is targeting group 2 in teaching them test taking.

Bob also spoke about verbal corporal punishment. He stated that this is when a teacher corrects a student or class by raising their voice or calling them stupid.

F. Parks and Playgrounds – John Cifichiello

John reported that the Committee had met on November 16th. He reported that black top is being put down at Mazzai playground. He also reported that tables and benches are being secured with chains and cables. John reported that Mazzai Playground is located on Williamsbridge Road and Mace Avenue. He stated that the project is costing \$2,600,000.

John reported that the Roller Hockey League had requested a room to keep their equipment. He stated that they followed Joe Thompson's example of using a van and did not have to bother the Parks Department.

John reported that someone put up on Pelham Parkway South roadway stating Do Not Drive on Pelham Parkway Drive at Your own Peril.

John reminded everyone not to use salt on the sidewalks to get rid of snow. It damages the sidewalks and plants. John told everyone to use salt.

G. Public Safety – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Committee had met on November 17th. He stated that a copy of the report had been distributed.

A Resolution was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Linda White - Be it resolved that Community Board #11 support a campaign that calls upon the Mayor, City Council and Police Commissioners to allocate increased funding and provide committed leadership to bring about improvement in the NYPD. Such improvements include updated and diverse police academy training, increased pay, and improved police facilities with full computerization.

Unanimously passed.

H. Other

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:10 P.M. and returned to business at 9:15 P.M.

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Ruth Burko – That John Fratta be given an increase of .0635% as specified by the Mayor.

Unanimously passed.

John thanked the Board.

Dom wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko

(142)

Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 1999

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	Gerald Launer
Joseph Carozza	Annette Marchitello
Dominic Castore	Silvio Mazzella
Dorrie Castro	Seymour Ostroga
John Cifichiello	Robert Potter
Priscilla Crowell	Vincent Prezioso
Dominick DeProspo	Pat Quaranta
Patrick Dolan	Martin Sacewicz
Harain Figueroa	Madeline Saltaformaggio
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	Joseph Thompson
Kenneth Gelnick	Elaine Weisbrot
Marilyne Jamieson	Linda White

ABSENT

Kwasi Afrifa	James Gisondi
Randal Allen	Dexter Hendon
James Cenera	David Leavitt
Anthony DelGaudio(Should he be Excu)	Joseph Milone
Emilian Eisdorfer	Keith Ramsey

EXCUSED

Rev, Leslie McHenry	Joseph Reda
Hazel Miura	Blanche Rifkin
Dr. Mahendra Patel	

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Marilyn Klein – Representing Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano
Earl Nurse – Representing Councilman Larry Warden

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Libbi Locascio – Representing Senator Guy Vellella
Howard Rasche – Representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager
Harriet Lasky, Secretary
Susan Nolan, Community Coordinator
Linda Loeb – Borough President's Office