

**COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10462
(718) 892-6262 FAX (718) 892-1861
E-Mail: CommBd11BX @AOL**



**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, FEBRUARY 24, 2000
IN CALVARY HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 P.M. by Rev. Leslie McHenry, First Vice Chair.

I. Gallery Session

a. Debra Ann Jaffee

Ms. Jaffee stated that she was here tonight to thank John Fratta for help regarding Muliner, Bronxdale and Neill Avenues. She stated that they still have an ongoing problem on Muliner Avenue. But now we have an additional problem with Key Food trucks parking on the block from 7:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. there are 3 18 wheel trucks on the block. She stated that since her block is made up mainly of senior citizens it is a great hardship for them since they have to park 2 or 3 blocks from their homes. Ms. Jaffee stated that she contacted Key Food and they feel it is not a community issue and are doing nothing about it. She stated that they indicated that they have the right to park their trucks wherever they like. She asked for the Board's help.

John said that he would take care of it.

b. Sandy Zoccolillo

Ms. Zoccolillo stated that she was here tonight representing the two apartment buildings whose back faces Stillwell Avenue. She stated that she was here to express the community's outrage at the reopening of Bourbon Street. Ms. Zoccolillo spoke about the fights that went on in and outside of the establishment when it was open. She stated that at times she got up and looked out the window to see people being dragged out of the place and into the parking lot. Others staggered out of the place and went to their cars to drive home. She also spoke about cab drivers honking their horns for their fares at all hours of the night. Ms. Zoccolillo stated that it was impossible for people to sleep with all the noise that was going on. Ms. Zoccolillo stated that several nice people have moved away

from her building and the surrounding buildings to escape the goings on there. She stated that people are coming and going at all hours of the night. Ms. Zoccolillo stated that we do not want this to start all over again. We were assured that this would not happen when Bourbon Street first opened originally. But, those words apparently meant nothing. She asked the Board to please not approve a cabaret or liquor license. She stated that they would also like some consideration given to rezoning some part of the area. She stated that her side of the street is residential, but across the street it is industrial.

c. Rey Solano

Mr. Solano stated that he was here to talk about two serious traffic and safety issues. Mr. Solano stated that as a homeowner in Morris Park he frequently drives through the intersections of Neill, Bronxdale and Hunt Avenues and the intersection of Sagamore Avenue AKA Regis Philbin Way and Plains Road.

Mr. Solano stated that while traveling westbound on Neill Avenue crossing over Bronxdale Avenue to enter onto Hunt Avenue he finds many motorists traveling southbound on Bronxdale Avenue who do not know where to stop in order to let pedestrians cross. Mr. Solano suggested that appropriate road markings and signs be installed which denote where the southbound Bronxdale Avenue traffic should stop.

Mr. Solano stated that while traveling on Sagamore Road and stopping at the traffic light on White Plains Road one of the traffic lights has been tampered with, and periodically faces the wrong direction. It is the traffic light that should face the southbound White Plains Road traffic. Mr. Solano stated that this light now faces the westbound Sagamore Road traffic. Mr. Solano suggested that the traffic light be put in the correct position and fasten the nuts with lock tight.

Lastly, Mr. Solano spoke about a culprit who is tampering with the light. He explained that one evening he almost went through the light and cause an accident. He asked Mr. Fratta and the members of the community board to take whatever steps are necessary to address this matter in a timely fashion.

Mr. Solano stated that he wanted to personally thank Mrs. Nolan for having the light fixed the first time. Unfortunately, someone continues to jeopardize the safety of our residents by tampering with the light.

Rev. McHenry introduced Congressman Joseph Crowley.

Congressman Crowley thanked everyone for warm welcome. He stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping him become more acquainted with the Bronx. He stated that this was only his second year in elected office representing part of the third district in the Bronx. Congressman Crowley stated

that 80% of his district is located in Queens County and 20% is in the Bronx including Throggs Neck, Morris Park, Parkchester and Pelham Parkway. He stated it has been exciting and he has enjoyed getting to know this portion of the Bronx. Congressman Crowley reported that Queens County and Bronx County have a lot in common. He stated that in ethnic make up and the way the districts are laid out is very similar. Congressman Crowley stated that his office is on Williamsbridge Road and Pelham Parkway and it is open Monday-Friday from 9-5.

Congressman Crowley stated that the issue he wished to speak about tonight is the census. He stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone is counted. He asked everyone to please answer the census when it is received. Congressman Crowley stated that if you do not respond they will have to send out enumerators to get you registered. He stated that the problem gets exacerbated when we are dealing with the immigration population. Congressman Crowley stated that this is a community, which does not speak English or may not be able to communicate easily. The inspectors would have to go out and register them.

This is where a problem arises, as the Census is not issuing photo ID cards to the enumerators. . He stated that this is a big problem, which he is going to address next week calling on the Census and asking why it is they are not issuing photo ID's. He stated that we all know the problems with people especially the elderly being broken into by phony gas readers and phony electric meter readers being let into their homes and apartments. Congressman Crowley asked everyone to please spread the word that this is their first opportunity to partake in the civic process, even if they are not citizens. It is an opportunity to show they are staying here. He also stated that we need to get an accurate count for two reasons. He stated that the formulas to distribute monies throughout the country are based on a population driven formula. He stated that as it stands right now New York State is going to lose one congressional district, and in all likelihood if we don't get the count up enough we will lose 2 congressional districts and they will go to Florida, Texas and California. He stated that he is not usually able to attend the board meetings as he is in Washington. He stated that this is a week off and he is getting to as many board meetings as he can. Congressman Crowley thanked the board for allowing him to be here tonight and stated that he would like to come back to another board meeting at a later date to talk about any concerns you have with federal government.

Congressman Crowley reported that \$7 million is being spend on the census. He stated that there are census jobs available. They are paying \$18 an hour for enumerators and \$21 an hour for supervisors. His office can be reached at 931-1400.

Congressman Crowley reported that he, Congressman Greg Meeks and Congressman Anthony Weiner (3 new members from the New York delegation) meet once a month with Congressman Fasella from Staten Island, Congressman John Sweeney from upstate New York and Congressman Tom Reynolds from Buffalo. He

stated that this is 3 democrats and 3 republicans, all freshman sitting down and talking to each other about what the needs of our communities are and trying to help each other. He stated that it has worked very well during his first year, and he hopes to continue. Congressman Crowley stated that he loves what he is doing.

Congressman Crowley stated that many houses of worship and senior centers are disseminating information on the census. He asked everyone to please talk to them.

A question was asked about taxes on items bought on the Internet. Congressman Crowley stated that presently if you buy over the Internet you are not paying sales tax of the state where you purchase the goods or the state where you live. He stated that there is a movement to prevent the collection of sales taxes and to allow the collection of sales taxes. He stated that the governors' offices in general have been reaching out to Washington to see what can be done on a national level to try to capture these taxes. Congressman Crowley stated that he did not know where it is now. It is starting to move. The Internet has brought with it a lot of great advances and one of them is that it maybe advanced beyond the ability to be taxed. He stated that the governors are working on this.

c. Ruth Hunt – Neighborhood Housing Services

Ms. Hunt stated that they were located on Gun Hill Road south of Boston Road. She stated that W.O.W. stands for Williamsbridge, Olinville Wakefield. She stated that they serve Board #12 and all the Bronx. Ms. Hunt stated that their mission is to create and preserve affordable housing. Ms. Hunt stated that flyers are available with folders. She also stated that they provide home improvement and loans are available, but you must be eligible. Ms. Hunt spoke about educational seminars given on buying homes.

d. Sharon Robinson – Case Manager for CASA Works

Ms. Robinson stated that she was a caseworker for CASA Works for Families. She stated that this is a national pilot study being conducted through the National Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Ms. Robinson stated that the program services substance-abusing mothers on welfare. She stated that they help move them from welfare to work. The program is located at 50 168th Street between Gerard and Walton Avenues. The facility is called WEBCO Program and offers substance abuse services to groups and individual treatment, help for woman in domestic violence situations, parenting classes. She also stated that they offer physical fitness classes, job readiness services that help move women from welfare to work programs. Ms. Robinson reported that the program has been around for 1 year.

II. Minutes

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Bob Potter and Dominick DeProspero – That the December Minutes be accepted as received.

Unanimously passed.

II. Chairman's Report – Rev. Leslie McHenry

Rev. McHenry acknowledged Donald Ranshte representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein and Thomas Lucania, representing Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano.

Donald reported that Assemblyman Klein was able to get 1.2 million last year from the State Assembly for decorative street lighting in his district. He reported that Lydig Avenue and White Plains Road have already been done, Morris Park and Allerton Avenues have been started and Williamsbridge Road is to be done in the future. He stated that this lighting is in the shopping areas.

Donald reported that both Assemblyman Klein and John Fratta have been working on the Allerton Coops. They have put together a package of complaints with services from the landlords and the city for the residence and the tenants of the coops. He stated that we are going to be sending them to DHCR and asking for a rent decrease in the future.

Rev. McHenry reported that the 49th Precinct and Housing Police were not here tonight. She stated that we are not getting the services we should be getting. John reported that he had spoken with Det. Valdespino on Wednesday. He also reported that a letter was sent to Captain Stewart. John stated that we have received no response as yet.

Rev. McHenry asked anyone who has the time to go to the senior centers to work with them in filling out the census forms. She stated that they will respond to a familiar face. If we don't get our people counted we will lose out on congressional seats and money.

Rev. McHenry reported that John Cifichiello, Chairman of the Parks Committee is not feeling well and wants to resign from the Parks Committee. We will not accept his resignation; he will not be at meetings for a while. She asked everyone to remember John in his or her prayers and send him a card.

IV. District Manger's Report – John A. Fratta

John reported that thanks to Congressional Crowley we had a meeting with HUD

on the problems that still exist at Pelham Parkway Houses that have not been rectified or changed. John reported that NYCHA still insists that they knew nothing about the mold. John reported that he had asked Congressman Crowley to bring HUD officials down here. He stated that we are supplying HUD with a list of apartments for unannounced inspections to try and force NYCHA to comply with the HUD regulations on warranty of habitability.

John reported that it was reported in the Bronx Times that the Pelham Parkway project will be delayed another year. He stated that the Board had no information on the last discussion with DOT that Dom Castore and I attended down town. Since then DOT has not discussed anything with us about this project. John reported that the guardrails are going up where the trees are not close to the roadway. He stated that we are waiting to see how they are going to handle the other trees. John reported that he had read in the Mayor's Management Report that the project was delayed another year. John reported that the Board had received complaints from people in the community on the guardrails, they were ugly, I can't walk my dog because I can't get over the guardrails.

Street Closing Application

1. Request from the Puerto Rican Information Inc. to close Unionport Road between Bronx Park East and Sagamore Avenue from July 12-16 from 5 P.M. to 11 P.M.

John reported that the Board's policy is not to approve multi day events.

Silvio stated that on behalf of the Morris Park Association we are against this event. Linda White stated that Van Nest is against this event. She stated that we don't know this group.

A Motion was made by Annette Marchitello, Seconded by Martin Sacewitz – That Community Board #11 deny this street closing.

Unanimously denied.

V. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio Mazzella reported that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed

VI. Committee Reports

A. Health and Social Services – Hazel Miura

Hazel reported that representatives of Riverdale Greens had come to the Health

and Social Services Committee meeting regarding the spraying that was done last summer, and they are here to make a presentation. She introduced Elizabeth Shanklin.

Ms. Shanklin spoke about the resolution that asks that the administration immediately institute a plan that it has proposed. She reported that on January 18th the Health Commissioner proposed a plan on paper. This stated that spraying would be done as a last resort. She stated that if the city will immediately institute its program to eliminate the larvae through non-toxic means for mosquito control. Ms. Shanklin reported that the Mayor gave 2.7 million for this. She stated that at this time the degree to which they are implementing this plan is not known, and there is no public education. Ms. Shanklin stated that her resolution requires that the city immediately use the money to institute a nontoxic means to prevent spraying. At the same time the resolution also requires the Health Commission to collect information from the hospitals and physicians of the city so that he can be in a position to make a responsible decision regarding. Ms. Shanklin reported that in October the Health commissioner admitted to the Health Committee of the City council that he was not asking hospitals and physicians to give him information about the adverse effects of spraying. In January, he stated that it was his department that was going to decide to spray. He also stated that his data showed no harmful effects of spraying on New Yorkers. Ms. Shanklin spoke about the affects of malathion on humans, insects and animals.

A Motion was made by Hazel Miura, Seconded by David Leavitt – That Community Board #11 accept the resolution as proposed by the Health Committee

Unanimously accepted.

Hazel reported that the Board had received a letter from Mr. Thomas A. Maul, Commissioner of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities that the proposed F.E.G.S. home at 2181 Muliner Avenue is being approved.

John reported that we are getting mixed signals from the landlord. He stated that the landlord demanded that the tenants move out immediately that he has sold the home and it is not going to be a group home.

John reported that United Cerebral Palsy has a proposal for a community residence at 1770 Stillwell Avenue. John reported that UCP has been meeting with the Chester Civic Association and there has been no opposition.

Vinnie stated that the only opposition that Chester Civic had was that the building conform to the houses in the area. He stated that the house will be set back as far as they can, and that no trees will be cut down.

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Bob Potter – That Community Board #11 go on record as approving this group home.

Unanimously approved.

A. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Liquor License

a. Mendicio, Inc. d/b/a/ Gran Café at 1056 Morris Park Avenue for on-premises consumption (NEW OWNERSHIP)

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Dominick DeProspero – That Community Board #11 notify the State Liquor Authority that it has no objections to the issuing of this liquor license.

Unanimously approved.

2. Livery Cab License

a. Plaza Town Cars – change of address from 1624 Stillwell Avenue to 2803 Williamsbridge Road

Joe reported that he had been out to look at the new location and it is a better bigger place.

Rev. McHenry told Joe that she wants them to know that the place will be monitored.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Linda White – That Community Board #11 approve of Plaza Town Cars relocation.

Unanimously approved.

3. Cabaret License

a. Stillwell Café at 1680 Stillwell Avenue (NEW)

John reported that this is the location of the old Bourbon Street owned by Tom Verini. He stated that Mr. Verini, Joe Thompson, Dom Castore and he had met to discuss Mr. Verini's plans for the location. John stated that Mr. Verini told them that it was going to be an upscale place. John stated that Mr. Verini showed them the plans and how people would enter and exit through the back. He stated that it would be a supper club with parking in the rear. John spoke about the problems that occurred as Bourbon Street with police being called many times. He then stated that after a second meeting with Mr. Verini he stated that it was not going to be a supper club but a cabaret with finger food. Joe Thompson stated that he had asked Mr. Verini if he was

every going to make this into a supper club and Mr. Verini said maybe sometime in the future, but not now. Joe stated that he went across the street to speak to the people who live at 1580 Pelham Parkway South who had lived through 3 years of Bourbon Street. Joe stated that they are against this. Joe reported that the Executive Committee had voted against this.

John reported that after Bourbon Street Mr. Verini had another group renting the property and it was going to be a private club for upscale African Americans. He stated that we had calls about prostitution, drugs, fights outside the place. John reported that the owner was arrested by the FBI for abduction.

John reported that when he met with Mr. Verini he told us that it was going to be an upscale supper club, and down the road he would make it into a cabaret. John stated that when we received this cabaret permit request so fast, Joe went back to talk to Mr. Verini. Mr. Verini said he never said that .I said it was going to be a bar/cabaret and down the road a supper club. John stated that he called Dom Castore he urged the board to knock it down. John reported that we sent in a rejection in December. He stated that we approved his liquor license based on it being an upscale supper club. When we realized what he was doing I called him and told him that the Executive Committee was not going to approve the cabaret license. John stated that Mr. Verini got very belligerent and stated that if it does not go through he would make it what he should have made it. His attorney called me a little later and said I heard that my client made an idiot out of himself. He asked if we would reconsider our decision.

Rev. McHenry welcomed back Dr. Patel.

Dr. Patel spoke about Bourbon Street and that a cabaret would definitely cause problems.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella - That Community Board #11 deny the request for a cabaret license.

Unanimously denied.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Madeline Saltaformaggio – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the State Liquor Authority rescinding its approval based on false information.

Unanimously approved.

C. Community Development and Budget Priorities – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Community Development Committee would be meeting on February 29th at 7:30 P.M. in the Board office concerning the budget.

D. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – Vincent Prezioso

Vinnie reported that the Highways Committee would be meeting with the Principal of P.S. 121 concerning speed bumps for Bouck and Throop Avenues as well as making both one way streets. He also spoke about the problem of double and triple parking.

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Marilyn Jamieson – That Community Board #11 go on record as requesting that Throop and Bouck Avenues be made one-way from Allerton Avenue to Adee Avenue, and that speed bumps be installed.

Passed with 1 abstention with cause by Pat Quaranta.

Vinnie asked that a letter be sent to the police asking them to keep the pressure up on double and triple parking.

John stated that Chief Rachlin's agents are giving out tickets. He stated that this is a safety issue.

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Bob Potter – That speed bumps be put in at P.S. 76 on Colden, Bronxwood and Adee Avenues.

Passed with 1 abstention with cause by Pat Quaranta.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about several letters that the Board and Senator Velella had sent to Commissioner Kilkenney concerning problems Community Board #11 is having with requests that have not been responded.

John spoke about the blinking light on Allerton and Laconia Avenues. He stated that the Board sent a letter to DOT on this. He stated at the last District Service Cabinet meeting DOT reported that no decision had been made as yet, and that they had no record on all other issues.

Jon reported that the Board had requested that the lights on Morris Park Avenue be staggered, but we have received no response.

Rev. McHenry stated that this should be discussed at the Executive meeting.

Rabbi Fuchs stated that he wants Commissioner Kilkenney at a Community Board meeting.

Linda White spoke about the potholes on the eastbound lane of the service road by BMHC.

Pat Quaranta told her that it was done today.

E. Education and Culture – Ruth Burko

Ruth reported that the Minutes had been distributed. She thanked Hazel for the very good job she did.

Hazel spoke about the computers at I.S. 135 and P.S. 83. She stated that they are not compatible with the programs they have.

Bob Potter spoke about the School Board meeting he attended on February 10th. He stated that the handouts will be copied.

Pat asked that a letter be sent to Kovaly requesting that the materials be sent to the parents and they have to sign for them

Ruth Burko reported that the Bronx Council on the Arts Artistic Community Awards of \$1500 will be awarded.

F. Parks and Playgrounds – Joseph Thompson

Joe and Dom discussed the bad effects of the spraying.

G. Youth – Linda White

Linda reported that the SYEP no longer exists. She reported that last year 80,000 kids applied for jobs and 40,000 were hired. Linda stated that Board 9 gets most of the jobs. Linda stated that we are getting the same money but it must follow the child all year round. Linda said that she is working to get a program to get some kids jobs.

Ken Gelnick spoke about a conference for Young Immigrants and their families. Linda said she will attend and possibly Hazel.

Linda reported that she received a request from Pelham Parkway Residents, Columbus High School working with the principal. She stated that the principal never came to another meeting. She stated that the meeting was with Ruth Burko and the Public Safety Committee, the Police. She stated that P.O. Goldenberg knows some gang heads.

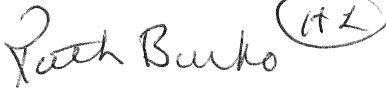
H. Public Safety – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Minutes had been distributed thanked to Hazel. He reported that burglary is up for January. Silvio stated that there were no police at our meetings and without them we can't get answers to our problems.

John stated that if he had to he would go to the Borough chief.

Rev. McHenry suggested that he be invited to the Executive meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
 (R)

Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2000

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	Rev. Leslie McHenry
Joseph Carozza	Joseph Milone
Dominick DeProspo	Hazel Miura
Dorrie Castro	Seymour Ostroga
Patrick Dolan	Dr. Mahendra Patel
Harain Figueroa	Robert Potter
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	Vincent Prezioso
Marilyne Jamieson	Pat Quaranta
Gerald Launer	Madeline Saltaformaggio
David Leavitt	Joseph Thompson
Annette Marchitello	Elaine Weisbrot
Silvio Mazzella	Linda White

ABSENT

Kwasi Afrifa	Kenneth Gelnick
Randal Allen	James Gisondi
James Cenera	Dexter Hendon
Priscilla Crowell	Keith Ramsey
Anthony DelGaudio	Joseph Reda
Emilian Eisdorfer	Martin Sacewicz

EXCUSED

Dominic Castore	Blanche Rifkin
John Cifichiello	

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Thomas Lucania– Representing Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Congressman Joseph Crowley
Donald Ranshte – Representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein
Tom Messina – Representing Congressman Joseph Crowley
Libby Locascio – Representing Senator Guy Velella

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

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

GUEST

Tim Tureski – Van Nest Library
Joseph Regina – Morris Park Local Development Corporation
Rosanna Resdina – Leake & Watts Service