



**COMMUNITY BOARD 11**  
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*Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.*  
*Chairman Albert D'Angelo*  
*District Manager Jeremy H. Warneke*

## **COMMITTEES**

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## **January 2019 District Manager's Report**

Yesterday, I attended a meeting of the Bronx Chairs, DMs, the BP's Office and the BP's City Charter Commission Appointee James Vacca at Community Board 10. We discussed proposals put together by the Charter Commission, which were derived from input from the public, as well as our own concerns and ideas. We talked about 1) giving the borough president's office more say, power or access in the street activity permit process, 2) the uselessness of the statement of needs, 3) the need for elected officials to support our budget priority requests, 4) how training can and should be more effective for board members, 5) the onus City Planning should be placing on ULURP applicants, and other items.

Last year, all 12 Bronx community boards were audited by the New York City Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Among the 12 boards, only four were deemed compliant with EEO policy. I'm proud to say that we were notified in December that our office was one among the four compliant ones.

A board member of ours, who is a federal employee currently without pay, asked me to get in touch with our Congresswoman's Office regarding the government shutdown. Expecting to speak with a staffer, our board member got a phone call from the Congresswoman herself instead, who then used her first speech on the House of Representatives' floor to tell his story:



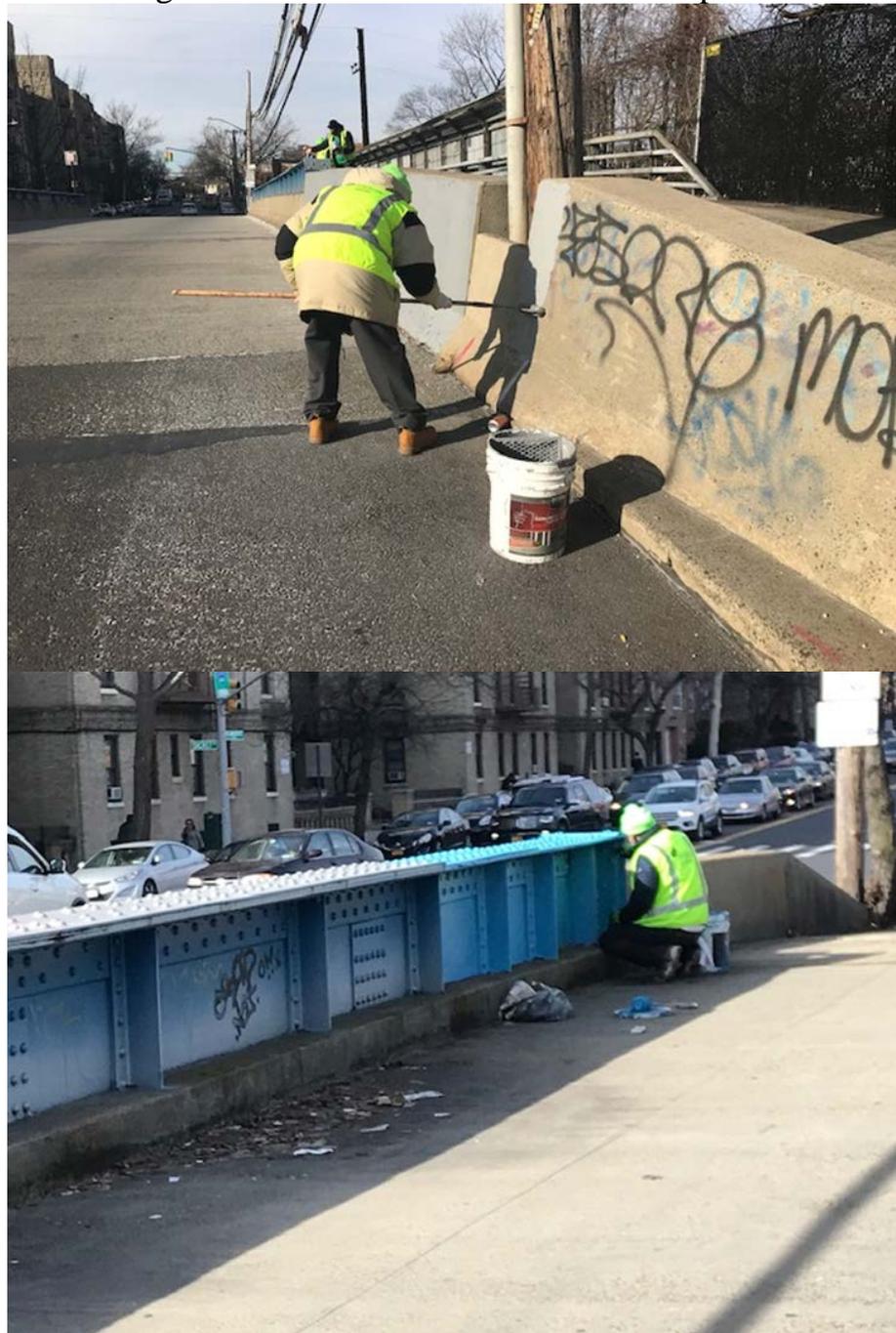
NowThis News misspelled Yahay's name, but I think you know who I'm talking about.

According to *Time* (magazine), Ocasio-Cortez's speech broke a C-SPAN record. Must have been something our board member said.

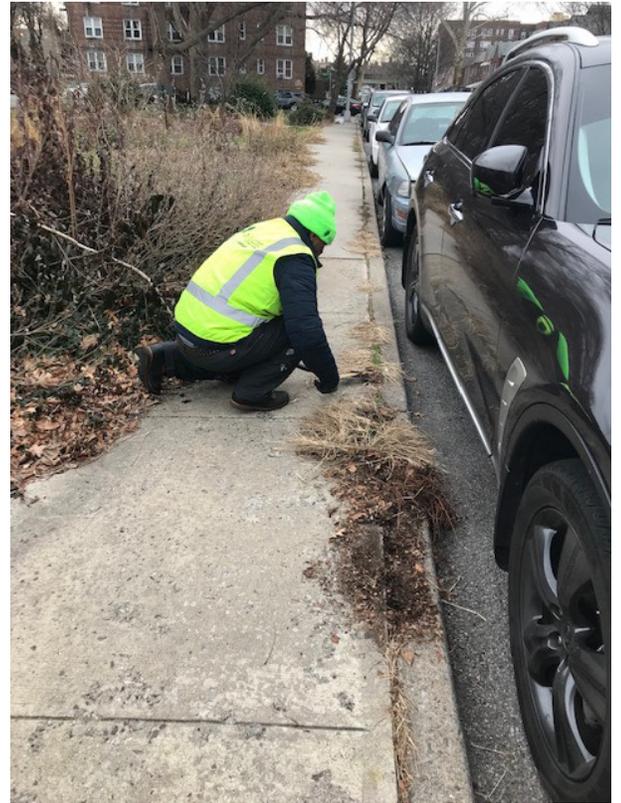
On Thursday, January 10, I performed a three-hour site visit with the Department of Sanitation, Fedcap, Council Members Torres and Gjonaj's Offices and the Parks Department. This was an extension of a series of successful meetings our Chairman and I had in the fall with these agencies, and others, regarding areas of responsibility.

Given the mandate by our Chairman to spend the \$42,500 grant we got from the City Council, I was able to identify four projects during our site visit, which I have subsequently contracted Fedcap for: graffiti and leaf and weed removal:

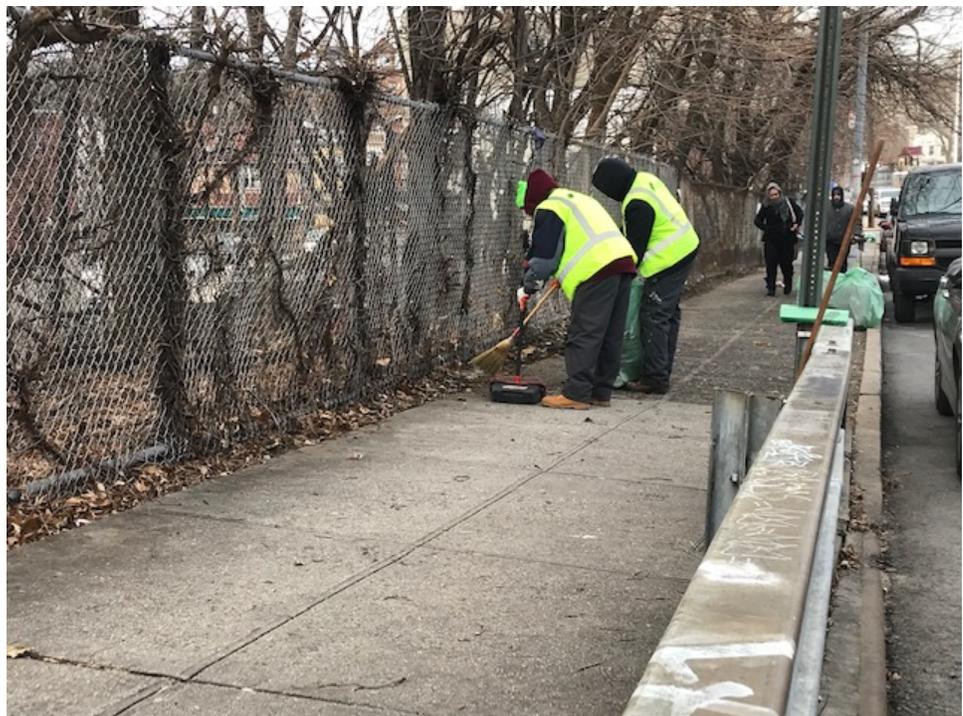
Williamsbridge Road between Sackett Ave and Poplar Street:



The Charles M. Lee Triangle at the intersection of Bogart and Paulding Avenues (our constituents in this area are very pleased with Fedcap's work):



Weeds, thorns and other pedestrian impediments removed on White Plains Road between Baker and East Tremont Avenues (our Sanitation Superintendent is very pleased with their work):



And the Unionport Road and White Plains Road Amtrak bridges by East Tremont Avenue (work yet to be completed).

On Friday, January 11, thanks to a request from a board member (Shrado), I identified three more locations for graffiti removal (work yet to be completed):

Northeast corner of Adam's Street and East Tremont Avenue:



This wall in front of 2155 East Tremont Avenue:



And underneath the Amtrak overpass at Bronxdale Avenue:



Wednesday, January 16, our Chairman, First Vice Chairman, John Fratta and I met with DOT and DDC to discuss the repaving of Pelham Parkway South. A day prior this, although this is subject to change, it was decided by our Chairman and First Vice Chairman that I would be taking over responsibility from John for the Pelham Parkway Reconstruction Project.

At the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, DDC and DOT reiterated their commitment to repaving the south side of Pelham Parkway. They said that when the current Reconstruction Project Liaison came to our Full Board meeting in October, he was not qualified to speak about the repaving of Phase I, which the contractor will be responsible for. Phase I is the south side. Phase II is the north side, i.e. the current project. The south side will be repaved following the completion of Phase II, which the City is currently projecting to be the summer of 2021.

As some of you know, a member of the public FOILed us for various records and documents, at least 30 in total. FOIL is the Freedom of Information Act Law, which requires us to hand over records within a reasonable time frame, 20 business days depending upon the scope of the request. Some of you aware of this request requested your

signatures not be distributed. One of the FOIL requests was for our sign in sheets.

Because of an information privacy law passed by the City Council in 2017, about which we have to provide periodic reports to the Mayor's Office, I asked the Mayor's Office if we need to disclose your signatures. They determined that we do not. Additionally, we don't have to disclose to the public, the reason you give us for why you are absent from any given meeting. Therefore, the FOIL request was honored but with your signatures and specific excusals redacted.

This month marks my eighth year anniversary as your District Manager, and I know it hasn't been easy for some of you, but please reflect on some of the positive changes that have occurred since 2011:

1. The creation of our first and now second NYC.gov website. (Our website prior to 2011 was the ConEd sponsored bronxmall.com site, which we did not maintain direct control of and which was greatly lacking in content.)
2. Staff that is capable of speaking Italian, Spanish, Albanian and, the most important one (*Not!*), German.
3. The creation and adoption of the liquor license questionnaire, street activity permit guidelines, and "Public Space Re-Naming/Street Co-Naming Application."
4. Staff learning how to copy and paste using the computer. (I joke. In part, but not really because I must add that the staff has learned a lot more than just copy and paste: the value of programs like Excel, what it means to Bcc someone, how to use a document scanner, 311...things that ultimately lead to fast and efficient results.)
5. Board member bios. (Trust me this has come in handy for more than just one board member and on numerous occasions.)
6. Getting our too-numerous-to-count broken, faded, missing and damaged street signs, signals and pavement markings repaired or replaced.
7. Getting the City and companies like Google to properly recognize and identify legitimate neighborhoods of ours such as Allerton.
8. Bringing in a slew of interns and volunteers: a minimum of 20 people have assisted us.
9. The renaming of the Van Nest Library to the more proper "Pelham Parkway/Van Nest."
10. Standardization and publication of meeting minutes, agendas, sign in sheets and other documents.