



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
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Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Chairman Albert D'Angelo
District Manager Jeremy H. Warneke

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- Leadership*
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April 2019 District Manager's Report

I asked State Senator Biaggi's Office when the Senator will be able to come to a CB11 full board meeting. They are hoping for this fall.

For those of you who saw an article in the Bronx Times called "Biaggi, Senate Trans. chair tour WS Station, discuss district's needs," the second to last paragraph said "Smaller quality of life issues such as graffiti and cleanliness at transportation hubs were mentioned by CB 11 district manager Jeremy Warneke."

This was a meeting organized by State Senator Biaggi's Office. Community Boards 2, 8, 7 and 10 and others such as the MTA were also present, and while I stated the concerns of some in our district regarding the Westchester Square subway station (which is located in CB10), I also spoke about more than just smaller quality of life issues. When it comes to the MTA in general, I spoke about excessive wait times, racism and—with Senator Biaggi one on one—Hong Kong.

Chairman of the State Senate Transportation Committee, Tim Kennedy, said during the meeting that he wanted the MTA to be the premier public transportation system of the world in five years. That prompted me to say to Senator Biaggi following the meeting: 'If you want to see a premier subway system, check out Hong Kong's.'

I followed up with her staff by sending the following text: "Please have Alessandra watch this video, <https://youtu.be/DsIPiKZORTM>, beginning around the 4:20 mark to see what I just talked to her about." In other words, at Hong Kong's Central Station, a glass barrier protects the tracks from being littered with garbage or people who fall, decide to jump or who get thrown onto the tracks.

A couple of board members complained about some of our new interns. Keep in mind that they are new, learning and are not getting paid by us. More importantly, if you know of someone needing office experience,

we'd be happy to take their resume and interview them for a potential internship.

At the last Leadership Committee meeting, I got complaints/inquiries about the following situation at 2225 Lodovick Avenue:



This is a temporary boiler, which has been on the street at this location for over a year. According to the Easco Boiler Corporation, this is not uncommon. The funding required to fix the permanent boiler tends to be an issue. I've reached out to the Community Action for Human Services, the owner of the property, which claims they're waiting on an inspection by the City Department of Buildings, which I've also reached out to and which informed me of the following violation, which has a court hearing currently set for May 31:

Overview for Complaint #:2279491 = RESOLVED

Complaint at: 2225 LODOVICK AVENUE BIN: [2051003](#) Borough: BRONX ZIP: 10469
Re: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN BOILER

Category Code: 58 BOILER - DEFECTIVE / INOPERATIVE / NO PERMIT

Assigned To: BOILER DIVISION

Priority: B

Received: 04/15/2019 12:29 **Block:** 4401 **Lot:** 40 **Community Board:** 211

Owner: COMMUNITY ACTION/HUMAN

Last Inspection: 04/15/2019 - - BY BADGE # 1780

Disposition: 04/16/2019 - A8 - ECB VIOLATION SERVED

ECB Violation #: 39002127J 39002129N

Comments: A-8 VIOLATION ISSUED

Earlier this month, I forwarded the following email on from the Bronx DOT Commissioner, Nivardo Lopez:

I am writing to inform your office that NYCDOT has scheduled the implementation of the Morris Park Avenue Safety Improvement Project, from Adams Street and Newport Ave, to begin during the week of April 28th. The installation will take approximately six (6) weeks to complete and we are distributing the attached flyer to all community stakeholders.

I've attached the flyer at the end of this document.

An email I sent to the Board earlier today:

If you are interested in meeting our new Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, please let me know [by 5pm this Friday, May 3] which of the following days work for you and which of the following do not:

Sat	11-May
Sun	12-May
Mon	13-May

Thu	23-May
Fri	24-May
Sat	25-May
Sun	26-May
Mon	27-May
Tue	28-May
Wed	29-May
Thu	30-May
Fri	31-May
Sat	1-Jun
Sun	2-Jun

May 23 is no longer available.

At our March 2019 Full Board meeting, the Board went into Executive Session and in effect kicked the public out. People took offense to my phrasing “kick the public out.” I apologize if you took offense. As stated in the Handbook for Community Board Members published by the City, the Open Meetings Law permits public bodies such as community boards “to close portions of their meetings (‘go into executive session’) when certain types of issues are to be discussed”:

The subjects that may be discussed in closed meetings are:

- ◆ matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;

- ◆ any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
- ◆ information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
- ◆ discussions regarding proposed, pending or future litigation;
- ◆ Medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

The Board clearly went into Executive Session to discuss the last bullet point.

A while ago, I created a public distribution email list. If you're not a board member, and you want to be on the list, please let me know by sending me an email at jwarneke@cb.nyc.gov.

A board member of ours posted the following on social media:

Whoever painted over the graffiti under the Morris Park 5 train station... THANK YOU





The location is the intersection of Lydig and Bogart Avenues. The complaint our office received was for Brady and Matthews Avenues, which I took pictures of prior to the cleanup and had Chris send to Gjonaj's Office. Gjonaj's Office contracted Fedcap to clean both properties. This is the result of an anonymous complaint Chris received.

As discussed since January, we contracted Fedcap to clean up certain parts of our district, and as discussed last month, graffiti has already returned here at E. Tremont and Adams Street:



As a result of the Leadership Committee meeting motion to commission murals in graffiti-plagued areas of our district, I reached out to a local artist, Lovie Pignata, who submitted the attached proposals (keep in mind that these are rough sketches and would look better in paint in person).

Lovie is responsible for this artistry on Sackett Avenue:



Left Panel: In 1908, the Morris Park Racecourse was rented out by the New York Aeronautical Society (Morris Park Aerodrome) and invited some of the world's aviation inventors to test their creations. According to the NYT it was the world's first established airfield. Pictured is Lawrence J. Lesh in glider flight.

Center panel The portrait in the center is of John Albert Morris for whom the Neighborhood is named.

Right panel: The figure in the foreground of the racetrack panel, is Morgan Powell, a more recent fixture in Bronx history who passed away in 2014. The photo I used as inspiration had an unnamed man. Morgan Powell's silhouette is included in all of my public artwork as his passion for the Bronx and extensive research of the history of people of color sparked my interest in Bronx history. Surrounding the photograph reproduction panels are turquoise and terra-cotta colored 'tiles' are inspired from the Morris Park train station (viewable from mural site) designed by Cass Gilbert, best known as the architect of the Woolworth building.

The Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance forwarded me an email from the East Bronx History Forum President, Rich Vitacco, re Amtrak property at White Plains Road northwest of the East Tremont Avenue bridge. I confirmed with City Planning that this is indeed Amtrak property. City Planning and I looked to see if the property has been sold. It's too early to tell. In the meantime, I did speak with Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's Office, which reached out to an Amtrak contact of theirs, in an attempt to find out from Amtrak what is going on.

Photo from Mr. Vitacco:



A photo I personally took of the accumulated litter/garbage:

