



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
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June 2019 District Manager's Report

Some of you may have heard of the following:

On Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at approximately 8:05AM the 49th Precinct received multiple calls for a female shot in the vicinity of 2442 Williamsbridge Road as well as several SHOTSPOTTER notifications for the same location. Upon arrival officers saw the victim, female in her 30s, suffering one gun shot wound to her arm. The shooter fled on foot and was described as a dark skinned male with a slim build wearing a dark hoodie and blue jeans. Preliminary investigation shows the victim was NOT in any verbal or physical confrontation and was NOT the intended target of the shooter. The victim was transported to Jacobi Hospital and is being treated for her wounds and is not likely to die from her injuries. The precinct detectives are currently interviewing witnesses and doing an extensive video canvass of the area. More information will be provided once it has been made available.

A former board member reached out to me in response. His child attends a nearby school. He said:

The other day when I asked my 5 year old what he did at school...he said [they] played lock down. He said lock down is the game where they lock all the doors, get under the tables and stay really quiet until lock down is over.

This unfortunately appears to be the new norm in this country.

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



As stated in April and May, this is a temporary boiler, which has been on the street at this location for over a year. In May, DOT issued Easco Boiler Corp a violation for lack of a valid permit. In June, DOT inspected the temp boiler again but found that it had “a valid permit X01 2019141A00 that expires 7/31/2019.”

We had 15 board members and 2 staffers show up to our private meeting with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) at the CB11 Office, though not everyone clearly appeared in the following photo:



Naureen Ahker

Following the meeting, I emailed the attendees, asking them how it was in their opinion. I got one verbal response and the following unedited, written responses:

1. On TV she comes across as a total airhead, when in fact I found her quite intelligent.
She answered everyone's questions and concerns and was not rushed with her answers.
I was impressed.
2. She answered & responded to all and seemed concerned. Have to see what happens. She stayed till between 6:30 & 6:45
3. I thought it was okay. She is a bright and articulate young woman.
Hopefully, she can get some things done for the community. We should invite her back.
4. I thought it was good. She sounded a lot smarter than the last time I heard her speak on TV.
5. In my opinion, the meeting didn't remain on track for everyone to address their individual concerns.
6. I will attend this evening's meeting at the Sanz to follow-up for my voice to be heard.
7. I thought the meeting went really really well! A lot was discussed and she seemed like she was taking notes. Looking forward to her getting back to us on the issues discussed.
8. I think the meeting went rather well.... Besides some of the same "canned" answers. A lot of issues were brought to her attention, so she can not say she doesn't know about it, to address it. Even though there were issues brought up that I don't feel she will fix anytime soon... There were other things brought up that can be addressed soon.... ie: community staff liaison.
9. It was a productive meeting. All the concerns that the board raised, even issues that were outside of her federal jurisdiction, such as state education regulations. She also did a great job navigating sensitive topics such as antisemitism, racism, political polarization and international relations in an open-minded and thought-provoking manner, listening to all sides - even those who didn't agree with her. She didn't leave until we completed our agenda, and promised to return.

Subsequent concerns have been raised about our Board's ability to have a private meeting with the Congresswoman.

According to the New York State Committee on Open Government, the Open Meetings Law (OML) becomes effective if a meeting is attended by a majority of board members. A quorum of CB11 was not present for the meeting, and no official actions were taken. Therefore, OML was not violated.

Lastly, it should be noted that the Congresswoman went through our agenda as prepared with the chance to ask additional questions at the end.

The last agenda I had sent her office prior to the meeting:

1. Postal Service
 - a. Local mail delivery issues
 - b. Heath and pension pre-financing driving up mail costs
2. Opening a Bronx office and focusing on local concerns such as Amtrak's property
3. Columbus Day
4. Middle East policy/statements, particularly as it relates to:
 - a. The Muslim travel ban
 - b. The War in Yemen
 - c. Israel
5. Plan for combating an increase in hate crimes against religious institutions
6. Plan for passing the DREAM Act and extending DACA
7. How AOC envisions the New Green Deal will be implemented in the Bronx

Following up on item 5, I was Cced on the following email:

Salaam Yahay,

This is a follow up to your request regarding funding for security upgrades to houses of worship. The Federal Emergency Management Agency makes funds available through state governments. Thus, NYS state disburses these funds through their grants portal. Here is what we learned from the Governor's office:

“The FY 2020 NYS Budget authorized an additional \$25 million for Nonprofit Security Grant Program. So I expect another RFP later this year. To prepare for that RFP, organizations interested in applying should make sure they are pre-qualified on the NYS Grants Gateway Portal: <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>. Once the RFP is issued, organizations will apply for the program through that portal.”

If you have any questions, I am happy to connect you with the Governor's office.

Jeremy – if you have contacts with any other houses of worship that might be interested in applying for these funds, please feel free to share with them, or connect me directly.

Our Chairman Al and I attended the 1st Yemeni American Day Parade on Rhinelander Avenue on Saturday, June 8, which was a wonderful event. To make up for our not being able to stick around for the group photo at the CB11 Office with AOC, Yahay and I posed for the following:



I'm a paid City of New York employee, but when it comes to Facebook, a lot of what I do is unpaid, off the clock. So, it's nice when I am Cced on an email to AI such as the following, which comes from a CB11 constituent:

I have been active in the Community Board 11 community for 5 years. Jeremy has been so helpful resolving issues I have presented. He has followed up on 311 complaints with results, has negotiated neighbor issues with a local church and parking issues, has been helpful in all that is requested. He has acted in a professional and courteous manner with every interaction.

I am especially pleased with his maintaining of the facebook page and his non partisan transparency of community issues.

Thank him for his exemplary service. I am looking forward to further, fruitful interactions.

On June 20, I took and sent Sanitation (DSNY) and the Dept. of Health (DOHMH) the following photo of 703 and 705 Van Nest Avenue:



To which the DSNY immediately responded with:

The contractor working on the houses left that material behind when their carting company removed a dumpster. They have been getting summonses. We will also assign it to a cleaning function and issue other violations until its cleaned.

And a couple of days later:

The garbage on the sidewalk was too much of an eyesore. We cleaned the area today. However the 2 house are still vacant and some contracting work may be going on. They still need to be checked for an applicable violations.

DOHMH said:

703, and 705 Van Nest Ave failed initial inspections and Commissioners order will be sent. The vacant lot adjacent to 703 Van Nest Ave also failed a Commissioners order will be sent to that owner as well. All locations failed the initial inspection for signs of rat activity.

I discovered that one of our interns has artistic talent. I asked her to see what she could do with the following website bio photo for board member Joanne Rubino consequently:



And got the following (the third artwork on the right is unfinished):



You may be asking yourself why. Well, when things run slow at the office, I look for ways to improve upon just about anything. The photo on our website for Joanne is not a professional photo. So, why not see what our interns can do?

You may recall seeing the following email from Montefiore at the end of May:

I hope this email finds you well. The Albert Einstein College of Medicine has scheduled its first ever "Lunch with Community Members," for the rising third year medical students on **Friday, June 7, 2019** from 12 – 1 PM at Lubin Hall. Ideally, we would like to have about 25 community representatives attend.

Each attendee will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the full group of medical students of about 200 (not an exact number). They would then go to an assigned table with the medical students where they will have a discussion on a range of topics including:

- Living in the Bronx
- Access to health care in the borough
- Health Care challenges
- Healthy eating

- Experience with medical students in health care settings

We would love to have CB 11 members participate in this event! Lunch will be provided.

My colleague from Board 9, the Chairman of CB12, I and others came to this event and spoke as a panel. When the question of what do you like and not like about Montefiore came up, I spoke very candidly to the students. I thanked the hospital for letting us have our meetings at Lubin Hall, but I also said how many of our board members and others have had problems with Montefiore. In fact, I said a former CB11 staffer's father died at Weiler, and I advised that former staffer to consult a lawyer. In other words, I told the students to be mindful about what they say to patients and family members, among other things.

New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi is scheduled to come to our September Full Board meeting. Someone pointed out to me that State Senator Jamaal Bailey has never come to a CB11 meeting. I think it would be nice for Senator Bailey to visit us as well.

If you were unable to attend the June 11 Pelham Parkway Reconstruction Town Hall, the meeting was video recorded and put on the “Minutes, Recordings & Reports” page of our website. These DM Reports appear there too to allow for transparency and public access.

It took more than a month, but Harriet's full-time status has finally been approved by downtown. Her new work hours starting Monday, July 1 are 8am to 4pm Monday-Friday. She'll be taking lunch every day from 12-1pm.