

## COMMUNITY BOARD 11 1741 COLDEN AVENUE BRONX, NY 10462 (718) 892-6262 www.nyc.gov/bxcb11

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Chairman Albert D'Angelo

District Manager Jeremy H. Warneke

## **COMMITTEES**

Leadership

Community
Development &
Budget Priorities

Economic Development

Education, Culture & Youth Services

Ethics & Disciplinary

Health & Social Services

Housing

Land Use

Parks & Recreation

Public Safety

Sanitation & Environmental Protection

Transportation

## October 22, 2020 District Manager's Report

I'm glad to learn that our Chairman, Mr. D'Angelo, created an ad hoc Equity Committee. I recommend the Committee explore inequities amongst staff, not just board members or the district.

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At the last Ethics Committee meeting, it seemed to me, and others in attendance, that the Committee members are poised to forward on every complaint they receive, regardless of validity. This is a mistake in my opinion.

I also believe the Ethics Committee should consider conducting its own business first before allowing the public to comment. To do so otherwise gives the impression that the Committee is not run by CB11 but the public.

At the last Executive Board meeting, it was clear to me that at least one member of the Board thought it was the staff's responsibility to call 911 for him. This is wrong. I told the board member as much, and the Police Department has since told me as much. CB11—one should remember—has a district of over 129,000 residents. Its staff serves not just CB11 board members but the public as well, and we should treat everyone equally. There should be no special treatment for board members, which is why I said what I did in my September DM Report regarding 311.

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I did not have a District Service Cabinet meeting this month, and I do not plan on having one next month. Until I can get Community Board members and support staff to be more self sufficient, I have too much on my plate. I cannot run every single committee meeting, for example, which is why I appreciate the board members and staff, who have assisted me with the Education, Ethics, Land Use, Parks, Public Safety and Transportation Committee meetings. Chris for example hosts Transportation. Paula Creary hosted the last Education Committee meeting. Harriet is now responsible for Parks and Housing. Yahay has been hosting Public Safety and Ethics. And Valerie Babb was host-in-training for Land Use. I would like more board members to volunteer to be a host-in-training for meetings.

I know board members enjoyed meeting in person for the Leadership Committee meeting this month. I also learned something of great technological value as a result. But I don't believe meeting in person again is worth the risk of transmitting COVID and hope Mr. Obeid and/or the Leadership Committee reconsiders.

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Reminder that we have four new board members. Three of them have bios that have been published on the CB11 website:

- 1. John Johnson
- 2. Naomi Pemberton
- 3. Richard Reynoso

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In September, a colleague of mine from another borough called the BxCB11 website "amazing."

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Two or more people have complained to me about my social media posts congratulating Veronica Castro, Hazel Miura and Yahay Obeid on their elections to the Executive Board of Community Board 11. The exact words I used were "Congratulations to Yahay Obeid on becoming CB11's first Muslim executive board member!" and "Delayed congrats to the first two Latinas to sit on BxCB11's Executive Board! Last year, Veronica Castro was elected Treasurer. This year, Hazel Miura became Secretary."

I eventually posted a correction in regards to my delayed congrats: "If it matters, Veronica Castro and Hazel Miura were not just the first Latinas elected to CB11's Executive Board. They are the first man or woman of Latin descent."

The types of complaints I got regarding these posts were that I wouldn't have congratulated someone like Yahay if he were Jewish, which is definitely not true. I most certainly would have congratulated him had he been the first Jew elected to the Executive Board.

I can go into detail on the other complaints I received, but let me just say that everyone should be aware of the following:

- 1. These three unique individuals (Veronica, Hazel and Yahay) were not elected by the Board for their ethnicities or religion.
- 2. All of three of them are highly qualified and capable members chosen for their abilities first.
- 3. All three ran unopposed for their positions.
- 4. In the case of Veronica, her ethnicity was so much of an afterthought that it took me well over a year to congratulate her, which is a good reminder of what it means to be a public servant. (Public service is often a thankless job that garners little to no praise, especially if you're a community board member, which is an unpaid position.)

- 5. It's nice to flaunt a little diversity, even if you don't think Veronica, Hazel or Yahay are good representatives of the Latin community or Islam.
- 6. My post congratulating Yahay has been my most popular since I first started publishing COVID-19 stats, getting likes from three state elected officials on Twitter and reaching over 4,800 people on Facebook with over 1,300 engagements and 14 shares.
- 7. I'm especially glad I congratulated Yahay because it prompted one member of the Jewish community to reach out to Mr. Obeid, which is what my job as District Manager is ultimately about: building bridges.
- 8. This unnamed Jewish community member is very familiar with CB11, remarking to me that Mr. Obeid "has to be a good guy" to get elected to such a position. (He couldn't be more correct!)
- 9. Last but not least, delayed congrats to Frano Zagreda for being the first Albanian elected to CB11's Executive Board! (This delay is six years and counting!)

From: District12 < District12@council.nyc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 1:43 PM

**Cc:** Welch, Robbie < <u>RWelch@council.nyc.gov</u>>; Ali, Faiza < <u>FAli@council.nyc.gov</u>>;

Carino, Carlos < <u>CCarino@council.nyc.gov</u>> **Subject:** Update from Council District 12

Dear Colleagues,

**Council District 12** continues to serve residents <u>remotely</u> with constituent services. Constituents may contact our offices at the below phone and email:

## **Council District 12 Constituent Hours of Operation:**

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Gun Hill Road District Office** 

**Tel:** (718) 684-5509

**Co-op City District Office** 

**Tel:** (347) 326-8652

**Email:** District12@council.nyc.gov

Please forward all communications (meeting notices, community updates, etc.) to **District12@council.nyc.gov**.

Feel free to forward this update to others (block associations, tenant association, etc.)

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of the community are met.

Thank you,

CD 12 Team

**New York City Council – Community Engagement Division** 

A board member expressed to me their interest in our Full Board meeting start and end times. Please see the following, which won't be updated unless you're really interested:

Bronx Community Board 11

2010-2021 Full Board Meeting Start and End Times

2020-2021 (FY2021)   NM   24-Sep   22-Oct   19-Nov   NM   28-Jan   25-Feb   25-Mar   22-Apr   27-May   24-Jun   Average*   Ilme Meeting Ended   NM   7:15 PM   NM   NM   NM   NM   NM   NM   NM													
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2019-2020 (FY2020)   NM   26-Sep   24-Oct   21-Nov   NM   21-Jan   27-Feb   NM   20-Apr   20-May   25-Jun   Average   Time Meeting Started   NM   7:07 PM   7:07 PM   7:07 PM   7:07 PM   NM   7:02 PM   7:00 PM   NM   7:08 PM   7:00 PM   7:10 PM   7:05 PM   Time Meeting Ended   NM   9:33 PM   8:57 PM   8:15 PM   NM   10:03 PM   8:52 PM   NM   9:23 PM   9:50 PM   10:10 PM   9:22 PM   Total Time (hrs:min)   NM   2:26   1:50   1:11   NM   3:01   1:52   NM   2:15   2:50   2:53   2:17     2018-2019 (FY2019)   NM   20-Sep   10-Oct   20-Nov   20-Dec   20-Jan   20-Feb   20-Mar   20-Apr   20-May   20-Jun   Average   Time Meeting Started   NM   7:09 PM   7:00 PM   7:09 PM   7:0	Time Meeting Ended	MM	11:04 PM			NM							11:04 PM
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Date last modified: 10/2/2020

TBD - to be determined

NM - no meeting

\*Public Hearing

NA - no recorded data

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