



**COMMUNITY BOARD 11**  
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**April 30, 2020 District Manager's Report**

On March 20, 2020, the CB11 Office closed as a result of the governor's "pause" order. The CB11 Office will remain closed until the order is lifted, which is not going to be anytime soon. Partial reopening of upstate New York counties is scheduled to begin on May 15. Reopening of downstate counties is yet to be determined.

In the meantime, the CB11 staff is and has been working from home, which has been a challenge on many fronts. First and primary challenge: technology.

Unfortunately, some people thought I was joking when I said during my February DM Report that we should prepare for the possibility of disruptions to our daily lives that could include school closings and working from home. The laptop I took home with me from the office is close to ten years old. While it works, it is slow, and while I am finally using a better one, there are still technology issues, which take up a lot of the staff's time. Teaching board members how to use our new meeting platform, Webex Meetings, for example, has taken time. It took me about three hours to help one board member last week, but while something like this is time consuming, it is a worthy, long-term investment.

There is of course a lot for the entire staff to learn as well. Webex is the third meeting platform we are using to conduct CB11 business. Privately, I have been using a fourth one, Zoom, but prior to the current crisis, none of the staff (with the exception of Chris and Webex) have used any of these four meeting platforms before.

The upside to some of this is that for those of you daring enough to try Webex or OfficeSuite HD Meeting, I shouldn't have to travel to your house to help you with your computer issues anymore. (I've had to do this for more than one board member in the past, which is time consuming, but again, it's an investment.)

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As some of you are aware/made me aware, Kings Harbor at 2000 East Gun Hill Road (in our district) had the second most known fatalities for any nursing home facility in New York State. As a result of this information, I

reached out to Kings Harbor and some of our elected officials and received the following 4/17 statement from Kings Harbor:

Kings Harbor is very proud of the care our staff is rendering. We are following all CDC and Department of Health recommendations and regulations, and are in constant communication with our residents' families and loved ones.

The numbers of deaths released needs to be taken into context. Kings Harbor is a 720-bed facility, many multiples the size of most Long-Term Care Facilities. Additionally, we have opened up two dedicated Covid Units to relieve the surge, and help our referring hospitals with Covid patients that do not require ventilator support. These numbers are included in our totals.

This is the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime, and we are all in this together.

It is important to note that at the bottom of the second page of [this list of fatalities provided by the State](#), it says: "Some nursing homes include presumed COVID-19 deaths as well as confirmed COVID-19 deaths. Future updates will separate the categories. **Any nursing homes reporting fewer than 5 deaths were excluded for privacy purposes.**"

According to [Lohud.com](#), the nursing home data was self-reported to the State by the individual nursing homes; it doesn't include cases where a resident died in a hospital or anywhere outside the nursing home facility; and:

Stephen Hanse, president and CEO of the Health Facilities Association and Center for Assisted Living trade groups in New York, criticized the state Health Department's response to the pandemic.

Hanse in a statement Friday focused on a controversial March 25 Health Department advisory that facilitated the transfer of COVID-19 patients from hospitals to nursing homes.

He said "concerns of long-term care providers were not fully recognized" when the Health Department issued the advisory. It prevented nursing homes from denying admission to a hospital patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection...

Another news article you should be aware of related to this issue: <https://nypost.com/2020/04/20/cuomo-didnt-know-coronavirus-patients-are-being-sent-back-to-nursing-homes/>.

Follow up 4/24 email from Kings Harbor:

Taking care of patients has been a full time job for all of us, so the statistics you request have not been compiled. What I do know is that we have admitted approaching 100 patients from the Montefiore system (Moses, Weiler, Wakefield) since the beginning of March. These were divided between new admissions, patients who were admitted to the hospital and then readmitted to us, and others patients who have been here before in the past who now wanted to return. Additionally these numbers do not include our residents who were sent to the ER and then returned to KH despite being Covid-19 positive. KH has also admitted dozens of patients from other surrounding hospitals including Jacobi, BronxLeb, Lawrence, Monte New Rochelle, NYPresby and others. It is always of utmost importance to remember we are a 720 bed facility

so absolute numbers of any question needs to be put into context. If percentages had been released, as opposed to just a number, Kings Harbor would not be on anybody's radar screen.

I am thrilled to say things have markedly quieted down. We had two department of health inspectors here yesterday, and unofficially we were told they were very impressed with what they saw. We only wish that was published in the newspaper.

We at KH have always had a long positive relationship with our community and the Community Board. We look forward to continuing that for years to come.

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Please be aware that at least two businesses in CB11 received violations for price gouging of items such as latex gloves and rubbing alcohol; some prices were also quoted verbally.

The City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) wants to remind everyone that:

“Price gouging is not just immoral – it is illegal. We will not tolerate price gouging and it is shameful for businesses to take advantage of consumers during a public health crisis,” said DCWP Commissioner Lorelei Salas. “If you have been overcharged, we urge you to file a complaint by calling 311.”

DCWP is actively inspecting stores based on consumer complaints. Businesses found to be overcharging consumers 10 percent or more for any personal or household good or service that is needed to prevent or limit the spread of or treat COVID-19 will be issued a violation. Examples of covered products include disinfectants, soap, cleaning products, diagnostic products and services, and medicines. Since March 5, DCWP has received more than 8,800 complaints and issued more than 4,400 violations for price gouging. Since March 25, DCWP has filed seven lawsuits against repeat offenders seeking up to \$194,500 in fines for 389 price gouging violations. DCWP encourages consumers who are overcharged to file a complaint at [nyc.gov/dcwp](http://nyc.gov/dcwp) or by contacting 311 and saying “overcharge.” Consumers who believe they were victimized by price gouging should keep their receipts and any information about the store where the transaction occurred, and file a complaint with DCWP. If the price gouging occurred while DCWP's regulations were in effect, DCWP can prosecute the illegal activity.

On March 5, the Commissioner declared face masks in short supply and that declaration was extended with the addition of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes on March 10. The declarations were made under the Rules of the City of New York (6 RCNY §5-38), which allows the commissioner to declare certain items temporarily in short supply for 30 days during extraordinary circumstances. On March 15, the Agency promulgated an emergency Rule under the City's Consumer Protection Law that makes price gouging illegal for any personal or household good or service that is needed to prevent or limit the spread of or treat new coronavirus (COVID-19). The Rule (NYC Administrative Code §20-701(b)) makes it illegal to increase prices by 10 percent or more during a 60 day period. The Rule can be extended once for an additional 60 days. The Rule covers any personal or household good or service—such as disinfectants, soap, and cleaning products, diagnostic products and services, medicines, and tissues—that is needed to prevent or limit the spread of or treat COVID-19. The fine for price gouging is up to \$500 per item or service. If businesses are paying more to obtain these items themselves, they must provide proof to DCWP and any increase must be comparable. If a business paid \$2 more per item, they cannot charge customers \$50 more.

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) protects and enhances the daily economic lives of New Yorkers to create thriving communities. DCWP licenses more than 75,000 businesses in more than 50 industries and enforces key consumer protection, licensing, and workplace laws that apply to countless more. By supporting businesses through equitable enforcement and access to resources and, by helping to resolve complaints, DCWP protects the marketplace from predatory practices and strives to create a culture of compliance. Through its community outreach and the work of its offices of Financial Empowerment and Labor Policy & Standards, DCWP empowers consumers and working families by providing the tools and resources they need to be educated consumers and to achieve financial health and work-life balance. DCWP also conducts research and advocates for public policy that furthers its work to support New York City's communities. For more information about DCWP and its work, call 311 or visit DCWP at [nyc.gov/dcwp](http://nyc.gov/dcwp) or on its social media sites, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

If a wholesaler is price gouging retail stores, the City needs to be apprised of this information asap.

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An article on Weiler aka Einstein Hospital, which I highly recommend you read: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/11/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-hospitals-bronx.html>.

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NYC's COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates seem to be going down. Yeah! It's not over yet though. There are still increases. Stay the course, people!

The latest stats I posted can be found here:

[Total hospitalizations](#)  
[Total number of positive COVID-19 cases for Bronx County by zip code](#)  
[Top 15 worst afflicted COVID-19 zip codes in New York City](#)

Please also be aware that I am still getting requests for stats broken down by deaths and/or community board. I asked the City again for this information, but more importantly, I asked for the City for a commitment to get us this information not immediately but in time.

Here is an article you may want to read on why men are dying globally, not just nationally, from COVID-19 more than women:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/07/coronavirus-hits-men-harder-evidence-risk>.

An equally important site to look at is the New York State's [COVID-19 fatalities page](#). The majority of those dying from COVID-19 had the underlying ailment hypertension followed by diabetes.

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The Mayor announced last week that all NYC scheduled or proposed street activity permit events from now until the end of June are canceled or will have to be rescheduled/postponed.

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An email our Chairman received recently, which I was Cced on:

Good afternoon Mr D'Angelo,

I am reaching [out] for two reasons. The first is to express as a CB11 resident for over 50 years, how much I appreciate Jeremy keeping our community accurately informed during this pandemic. Information is difficult to get and I appreciate his efforts.

The second reason for my email to you is to let you know that last night at 7:15 I witnessed a young man tamper with the USPS mailbox in front of my building. He walked over and put something long into the box and pulled out a white envelope. I witnessed this from my...window. He walked away very quickly after this. It is the mailbox on Olinville Avenue between Mace and Allerton. I did not call 911. To be honest I wasn't sure if I should call 911 for this type of crime during this time. I did not get a good look at his face. I can tell you that he was male and black.

Thank you and please be safe!

I thanked the emailer for his/her kind words, but I also made it clear that he/she should call 911 in the future when witnessing a crime in progress such as mail theft. I also asked the emailer to contact his/her sector NCOs about what he/she witnessed. Not sure which sector NCOs are yours? Peruse (not skim) [this webpage](#).

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Earlier this month, the City notified me of our office's first and second rounds of budgets cuts. As you may have heard, "New York City may lose a half-million jobs and run about \$10 billion short on tax revenue through mid-2021 because of the coronavirus outbreak" (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-15/nyc-may-lose-475-000-jobs-and-10-billion-in-taxes-report-says>). One way to help lessen the fallout is by cutting the budget city-wide.

The City is looking to cut all community board budgets by \$4,000 this fiscal year (which ends on June 30), and close to \$9,000 next fiscal year (which begins on July 1). Hopefully, there won't be anymore cuts, but don't hold your breath.

Reaching out to various organizations servicing our district and/or residents, I was told by the Executive Director of the Bronx House that more than budget cuts (the Bronx House receives City Council funding and many NYC grants), the possibility of not being able to run summer day camp is going to hurt the Bronx House the most.

A majority of HHC clinics and elective and unnecessary surgeries have stopped, but I did not hear this yet from my contact at Jacobi Medical Center.

From the Bronx Zoo: a lot of initiative funding has been reduced and/or cut.

The 49<sup>th</sup> NYPD Precinct:

we have not been told anything specifically as of yet. However, rumors are that there will be some deep cuts in the future. From my experience, I do not think any of these cuts will directly affect the 49 precinct. I believe most of the cuts will come in the form of reducing overtime in the NYPD's investigative unit. Furthermore, there will likely be a hiring freeze. However, do not hold me to this, but once I hear more I will let you know.

The Sanitation Department only knows of the following so far:

the [suspension of the curbside composting program](#) to allow the City to maintain emergency services and its core municipal services during the Covid-19 pandemic. The suspension of curbside composting will begin on **Monday, May 4, 2020 and is planned through June 30, 2021**. During this suspension, any food scraps and yard waste set out for composting will be collected as trash. Residents are encouraged to make compost on their own if they have the space to do so. Residents can learn how to compost at home at [nyc.gov/recyclingmaterials](http://nyc.gov/recyclingmaterials) and click "*Food Scraps + Yard Waste.*"

On April 24, the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) informed me that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sanitation District 11, which employs 67 workers, has had only one employee test positive for COVID-19, and that employee has already recovered.