



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*

March 2021 District Manager's Report

Attached as an addendum to my report is Chairman D'Angelo's [fourth letter to the City](#) regarding the proposed homeless shelter at 1682 Stillwell Avenue.

I have been in touch with some of our elected officials about this issue, and they have all expressed interest/support.

A project I had started back in 2013 was scanning and uploading all our Board's meeting minutes to the CB11 website, going as far back as 1980. Unfortunately, I was prevented from continuing this important project until recently, which is why if you look at the current minutes [page](#), there are many gaps, particularly between the years 2013 and 2016.

Why is or was doing this—scanning and uploading all these old minutes—important? Such a question to me is akin to asking why is history important. As most of you are aware, Community Board 11 has been around for a long time. Some board members, staff and others have also been around for a long time. I think understanding and respecting the Board's history is important, especially in order not to repeat history unnecessarily.

In more practical terms, it helps having a backup of our minutes. Should an unfortunate calamity strike our office such as a fire, we lose a big part of our history, and legally, we are required to retain copies of all our meeting minutes (electronic copies can supplant paper documents, and the CB11 website is backed up by the City Department of Information Technology server in Brooklyn). Scanning and uploading documents is also, as some of you have already acknowledged, the future. If you have not noticed, having our own physical office is not required for us to properly function.

In pursuit of putting the history of who has been the chairperson of each committee on the CB11 [website](#), meeting minutes are crucial. I must thank Harriet and Chris for their help in getting these old minutes hyperlinked correctly on the CB11 website.

Lastly, the minutes page of our website has been updated to now state the following:

New York State Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 106.3 states that with only one exception, “minutes of meetings of all public bodies shall be available to the public in accordance with the provisions of the freedom of information law within two weeks from the date of such meeting.” The State Committee on Open Government has interpreted this to mean that minutes must be made available *upon request* and not necessarily posted online.

Remember last summer when I said:

Because I think it is important that we better understand one another, especially those in our midst, especially now when race relations in this country seem to be at an all-time low, I asked three black residents of CB11, all of whom I admire and/or respect, the following three questions: “As a black American, do you feel safe in this country? And if not, why? Have you had any personal negative encounters with law enforcement or other authorities?”

It dawned on me that similar questions could be asked of other groups in CB11, the Asian community for example.

After being asked, one Chinese resident said:

I don't have any negative experience with the police in terms of safety around them. However I do feel unsafe from all the hate crime happening around the state. Last year at the start of the pandemic, I had experienced a racist assault when I was at a work field trip in Harlem. I had reported this incident and raised the hate crime issue at my job. They took it very seriously. Since then, I have tried to avoid using any public transportation and to stay low for both my health and safety.

Think we don't have an Asian community in CB11? Arguably, we don't, but the Morris Park Library is known for having the highest amount of circulating Chinese materials amongst all New York Public Library branches in the Bronx.

We have a new intern, Alysa Gonzalez, who:

is a second-year college student at Monroe College in the Bronx, where she majors in Human Services. At nine years old, she started baking sweets with her aunt, and ever since, baking has become a passion for her. The hobby makes her feel happy because it puts a smile on anyone's face. Alysa dreams of becoming a counselor for kids, who are struggling at home. Alysa has a heart of gold and enjoys spending time with loved ones, especially her son.