



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
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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*

January 2021 District Manager's Report

You may have heard that we had an interesting Housing Committee meeting this month. The video of that meeting and other ones have been posted to our YouTube [channel](#).

The following recent online articles have been generated regarding the proposed homeless shelter on Stillwell Avenue:

1. [Alternate site to Adult Men's Homeless Shelter 'Time Sensitive' - Parkchester Times | Parkchester News and Marketplace](#)
2. [100PercentBronx: Bronx CB 11 Chair Al D'Angelo Sends Alternate Site\(s\) to Mayor and DHS for Proposed Stillwell Avenue Adult Men's Shelter](#)
3. [CB 11 residents and elected officials do not want a shelter on Stillwell Ave. – Bronx Times \(bxtimes.com\)](#)
4. [Neighbors raise concerns over planned men's shelter in Morris Park \(news12.com\)](#)
5. [CB11 provides alternate locations for planned Stillwell Ave. shelter – Bronx Times \(bxtimes.com\)](#)

And for those of you who wanted to see the letters the CB11 (Community Board 11) Chairman sent to the Mayor regarding this shelter, see addendums [one](#) and [three](#) (signatures have been redacted).

How good is your vocabulary? Have you every taken an entrance exam such as the GRE, SAT...or ACT?

Emails such as the [addendum](#) can help you with your spelling, understanding of language—not just English—and test prep. Yes, they can flood your inbox, but for some of you, it may be worth it.

Don't like or want daily emails but still find learning or understanding the English language (which is officially a Germanic language) interesting? You can download the M-W.com app or another app with similar features such as the one from Dictionary.com. Both apps/websites have word games or quizzes too:

- <https://www.merriam-webster.com/word-games>

- <https://www.dictionary.com/games/quizzes>

Interested in learning a foreign language, not just Germanic ones? Don't pay lots of money for this stuff. Aside from checking out materials from the library and watching videos or lessons on YouTube, among other things, I recommend giving [Duolingo](#) a try. They have developed a lot more ads over the years, but it's still free.

Lastly, I cannot emphasize enough how important your understanding and use of English or another language can be. The more proficient you are and the more care you take in understanding and crafting words and sentences, the more credible you are.

The *BronxTimes* did three stories on some of our board members/former board members:

1. [John Johnson](#)
2. [Durrell Boahen](#)
3. [Dominick Schiano](#)

There are five businesses which are or were on my radar for outside dining structure compliance or the failure thereof. Remember that because of COVID, eating and drinking establishments are allowed to have self-certified, greater than usual, outdoor dining structures. DOT (the City Department of Transportation) is the agency tasked with ensuring rule and regulation compliance.

One business owner reached out to me a while ago about —for lack of a better word— harassment by DOT, asking me if CB11 got any complaints about her/his establishment. I don't recall receiving any about this establishment, which will remain anonymous.

In October, I got complaints about Patricia's on Morris Park Avenue. The complainant asked the CB11 Chairman and me to contact the business first, which we did. DOT, however, was still contacted (I'm not sure by who exactly). And when the complainant felt that nothing positive was happening in terms of compliance, they reached out to me again. The structure was removed the final week of January.

In November, I contacted the authorities within a day of receiving a serious complaint about Luke's Lounge on Hone Avenue. While the police were great with their response, I am still waiting from DOT for an update. Has anyone who has complained about Luke's Lounge received a serious response from DOT? I encouraged one complainant to file a 311 complaint against DOT for their failure to respond. Such a complaint is not only possible, it's called an agency complaint.

On December 23, 2020, I received the following complaint: “[Kirvens’ outdoor structure on Lydig Avenue] covers the front of at least 4 other stores and takes up at least 3 parking spaces. Traffic is already bad and this is not helping. This structure seems bigger than the bar itself.”

Because of a communication failure, I did not contact DOT about Kirvens until January 21, 2021.

On January 25, DOT responded with the following:

The Open Restaurants seating can only be as wide as a parking lane (8 ft) and can only extend the width of the restaurant or bar's storefront, unless they have written approval from their neighbors to extend to their storefronts.

Our inspectors issued a 24 hour notice to correct the following:

- unfilled plastic water barriers around structure.
- structure fully enclosed.
- no reflective tape installed.
- no snow sticks installed.

On January 27, I got the following complaint by a CB11 resident:

The size of the Kirvens bar street structure on Lydig was questioned at the 49th Precinct Community Council meeting last night, even though the owner of the business was not present at the meeting, and this is not something the NYPD regulates.

I wanted to let you know that we have checked with the owner, who says she has the appropriate permissions and permit, and has been inspected by DOT.

Community Councils should not be in the practice of harassing law-abiding local business owners, and, without having any researched evidence of non-compliance, asking city agencies to investigate them.

My immediate response: "Thanks for your email. Community Councils are not under our jurisdiction. Have you made your concerns known to the Police/Community Council?"

Their response:

Yes, I have, but I guess I didn't explain fully. It was stated at the 49th Precinct Community Council meeting last night that a request had been made to you to have DOT and FDNY investigate Kirvens outdoor dining structure.

This appears to have been done without 1) speaking with the business owner first and 2) researching to see if in fact the structure was not compliant. The complainers just thought it looked non-compliant, and felt entitled to complain to law enforcement about it. Dangerous behavior!

Following this back and forth, I received similar complaints or concerns from nine other individuals, which included more than one email from Kirvens' owner, Marisa Davis, and one email from the bar's general manager.

So that everyone is clear: contacting the owner of an establishment is not required for any complaint I receive. I usually abide, however, by the request of the complainant. In the

case of Kirvens, no one asked me to contact the business owner. And I have not contacted the FDNY or NYPD about Kirvens because I see no need to currently.

Ms. Davis spoke at CB11's January 2021 Full Board meeting gallery session about the perceived or alleged targeting of her business. Others also wanted to speak in the gallery about the same matter, but more than one speaker on a single topic in the gallery session is not productive. So, Ms. Davis alone was allowed to speak. Unfortunately, during her speech, she called two CB11 board members “nasty women,” which is a violation CB11's Conduct Statement:

Community Board 11 meetings should be held in a professional and hostile free environment.

The following guidelines are applicable to members of the public, Community Board 11, and Community Board 11 staff:

- Any personal attacks against a board member, staff member, member of the public, or elected official or their representative at any particular meeting will result in the individual being asked to leave the meeting and could result in the meeting's closure.
- Any inappropriate outburst during any meeting may result in the individual(s) being asked to leave. If outbursts or attacks continue, this may be considered disturbing the peace, and authorities may be summoned. If the meeting is held remotely, the person will be muted or expelled for the remainder.
- All public speakers must address and face Community Board 11 members with their concerns.
- Electioneering for a position other than an officer of the Community Board is prohibited
(<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb11/meetings/agendas.page>).

As a result of this attack, I had to interrupt Ms. Davis and inform her that her concerns are being handled by CB11's Ethics Committee, as per the recommendation of the Bronx Borough President's Office.

To prevent an attack like this in the future, I think multiple things need to happen. One board member has suggested recently that the CB11 By-Laws be amended to include our conduct statement. I not only like that idea, but I suggest we read out loud the conduct statement at the beginning of the February Full Board meeting as a reminder as to how everyone should conduct themselves. All full board and committee meetings should make reference—at a minimum—to the conduct statement, and all remote meetings should have the statement posted in the meeting chat.

I also suggest we take the conduct statement a step further, amending it to say that repeated violations of conduct—about which I've already received more than one complaint—can result in one's expulsion from future meetings.

Lastly, a clear process for gallery session speaker sign-ups at full board meetings should make it into the CB11 By-Laws. I think there should be a cut off for speaker registrations at least 31 hours in advance of full board meetings.

As I said at the end of the January Full Board meeting, we don't legally have to allow the public to speak at remote meetings currently. The Borough President's Office countered with a City requirement regarding the public's ability to speak under normal circumstances, but under normal circumstances, i.e. prior to COVID, community boards are not legally permitted to have remote meetings.

Allowing for public input is important. So, I am not suggesting preventing all public speech. Within reason, however, it should be limited. Having five or more people sign up or attempt to sign up to speak in the gallery less than 24 hours prior to a full board meeting is no longer tenable.

Did you know that prior to the pandemic, BxCB8 allowed five and only five gallery session speakers per full board meeting? It's in Article VIII of their still current bylaws:

Sec. 2 – The first portion of each Board meeting, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, shall be devoted to the Gallery Session. **No more than five speakers will be permitted at each Gallery Session and each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.**

Sec. 3 – Anyone wishing to speak must call the Board Office in advance, and state the topic to be covered. If the topic would ordinarily be handled by a committee of the Board, the Board Office will so advise the caller and recommend that the caller proceed instead to the next meeting of the relevant committee. A speaker insisting to be heard, despite the above advice, will be scheduled to speak but the matter raised may be immediately referred to committee by the Board.

Sec. 4 – Speakers will be placed on a list, on a first-come first-served basis. Persons calling the Board Office to seek speaking time on behalf of another, must be able to answer inquiries concerning the topic to be covered by the speaker, and may only reserve time for one such speaker.

Sec. 5 – Presentations should cover only matters of general interest, and not a personal problem (i.e., difficulties between an individual and a City agency) which is better resolved at the Board Office. Presentations should not be ad hominem, and rules of decorum will be enforced by the Chair.

Sec. 6 – The Board reserves the right, through its chair, to decide when an excessive number of speakers has signed up on a single topic, and to cancel (upon advance notice) the later speakers signed up on such topic, in order to reach other speakers who will allow for a variety of topics.

Sec. 7 – Board Members may ask questions of speakers, (during which time the 3 minute clock is stopped) but may not engage in discussions or statements during the time reserved for the gallery session (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb8/about/bylaws.page>).

As for the crux of Ms. Davis's complaint about unfair or untoward treatment/behaviour, it is—as I said before—being handled by CB11's Ethics & Disciplinary Committee.

The last business on my outdoor dining structure radar is Patsy's on Morris Park Avenue, for which I received my first complaint on January 28.

In December, I had sent out an email with information I had first sent out in 2013, after my mother was involved in a near fatal car accident. With the pandemic still in full force but hopefully waning, my "Things to Think About" email/social media post still seems relevant:

- 1) Know your blood type. Make sure your loved ones know.
- 2) Especially if you have kids, get a power of attorney and a will together. Make sure your loved and/or trusted ones have copies of said documents or make sure they have access to them.
- 3) Make sure your loved ones can access other pertinent information, when needed, such as contact info for your family and friends, insurance policy numbers, medications you are taking, etc.
- 4) Make sure you're insured. At all times.
- 5) Be very careful when and if you drive. Don't text. Don't speed. Don't drive at all maybe.
- 6) Most important of all, don't wait for something tragic to happen to do any of the suggestions above. You're only hurting yourself as well as your nearest and dearest ones.

Other information I have previously given out is to the right. The health care proxy is important, especially if you are single without next of kin such as a trustworthy parent or child living nearby.

I know I have put out more info than this in the past, such as recommending everyone have a bio, but let me end it here, only to add regarding bios, which can be used as obits among other, more positive publications: unless you've been around a while and/or have done

LETTERS

Legal moves

Dear editor,

As some of you are aware, my mother was in a near fatal car accident in December. Luckily, she's doing better. The problem my sisters and I initially faced however was caring for my mother's financial as well as medical well-being, i.e. she still has bills to be paid among other issues. Why does or should this concern you? You, a family member or friend could one day find him- or herself in a similar situation, and without a power of attorney, you are making it very difficult for yourself as well as your loved ones.

My youngest sister and I don't have any children. Both of my sisters and I have been advised however to get a power of attorney in order for our individual selves. Why? Here's one reason: "Studies show," according to the Social Security Administration, "that a 20-year-old worker has a 3-in-10 chance of becoming disabled before reaching full retirement age." Second reason: It was a nightmare having to get guardianship (the alternative power of attorney) for my mother (which my sisters and I got, but only through a miracle).

What is a power of attorney? It is, according to one form I found online, "an important document. As the 'principal,' you give the person whom you choose (your 'agent') authority to spend your money and sell or dispose of your property during your lifetime without telling you." Now, why would you do such a thing? In case you're incapacitated and therefore can't take care of yourself, as I just experienced and am still experiencing with my mother. (If you don't pay your bills, taxes and/or other debts, the collectors won't necessarily care why.)

Because not everyone is as fortunate as my mother, please consider getting a power of attorney for yourself and your loved ones (if you don't already have one). Remember that a will (which you should also have) is not equal to having a power of attorney. Before you attempt to fill out a power of attorney form, you may want to consult whom you trust about this, a professional attorney for example.

One other thing to consider: Having a health care proxy.

extensive family history research, you may not know or realize how bad, spiteful and/or ignorant people can be when it comes to writing an obit, especially on short notice.

Some concerns/proposals I sent to the CB11 By-Laws Committee:

1. Article IV, Section 5, Paragraph 2 of the BxCB11 By-Laws is always confusing for staff and board members alike and could use a touch up. My proposal (in better worded form if possible):
 - a. The Chairperson, ~~the~~ Vice Chairperson and ~~the~~ Secretary of the Board shall be elected every even year in June ~~2014 and every two (2) years thereafter~~. The Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms of the Board shall be elected every odd year in June ~~2014 to a one year term and another election shall take place in June 2015 for a two year term and every two (2) years thereafter~~. ~~The Sergeant at Arms of the Board shall be elected to a one year term commencing on July 1, 2013, to an additional one year term commencing on July 1, 2014 and every two (2) years thereafter.~~
 2. Article V, Section 1 says, “A description of each of the standing committees outlining its general areas of concern is attached as an appendix to these by-laws.” This is not true. There is no description of the Leadership Committee there. So, I propose moving Article V, Section 5 to the Committee Descriptions section at the end of the by-laws.
 3. Article V, Section 2 should say: With the exception of the Leadership Committee, ~~the~~ committee chairperson, co-chairperson and other committee members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Board Chairperson.
 4. The Leadership Committee hasn’t met in August since 2016. So, I suggest the description of the committee say “The Leadership Committee shall meet once a month between September and June, inclusive” versus “between August and June.”
 5. The Staff Resolution Committee seems obsolete with the advent of the Ethics & Disciplinary Committee.
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From: Matt Caulfield
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:43 PM
To: Warneke, Jeremy (CB) <jwarneke@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: Re: Dog Run Parks Committee formal resolution

Hi,
My name is Matt Caulfield. My wife Chun Chun and I are residents of Morris Park. We recently started a petition for a new dog run in Morris Park, with the proposed location being the Van Nest and Tomlinson corner of Loreto Park. So far we have 337 signatures, 273 online and 64 on paper. Supporters include the residents that live directly adjacent to the proposed site as well as many business owners in Morris Park and members of CB11 to name a few key groups. Here is a link to the online petition: www.change.org/morrisparkdogrun

A little background on how we got here:

This idea is grass roots. It did not start with our personal desire for a dog run, only an observation that one corner of Loreto park isn't pulling its weight in terms of community engagement.

Before the idea of a petition, this observation inspired us to do some informal outreach to park users and neighbors. We asked people how much activity they have observed in the last 3-5 years in the proposed corner of the park. Everyone told us their perception was little to no activity. Some would joke, unless you mean illicit activity, smoking weed, drinking, breaking bottles etc.

We looked around and wondered if there could be a way to better bring people from the community together in that space. With all of the dogs around, a dog run was the first thing that came to mind.

The more we thought about it, especially with the minimal infrastructure changes needed, the more it made sense, so we started asking people what they thought about a dog run. Everyone's reaction was positive. I was encouraged to bring the idea up in the CB11 Budget Committee meeting. Again a positive response and the committee is who encouraged us to start the petition. As mentioned, as of now, there are 336 signees. The Petition has been active for 10 days. I presented our progress to the Parks Committee on Tuesday January 26th and received more words of encouragement and hopefully won over some people that may have had some preconceived notions of our motivations.

Petition Proposal:

This proposed dog park can primarily address two problems in our community.

1. There are many dogs in the Morris Park section of the Bronx and it is difficult to socialize them with other dogs because there is not a dog park within walking distance for most people. No designated space for dogs leads to dog waste on sidewalks and in street tree planters because unfortunately not everyone picks up after their pet. *A centrally located dog run will create a convenient place for dog owners to relieve their pets, as well as socialize them.*
2. As reported in many communities Morris Park residents can struggle with feelings of loneliness and isolation, particularly our many seniors. Dog parks help build a routine and sense of community. *Dogs bring comfort to their humans who might tend to isolate and serve as an ice breaker for strangers to interact.*

The proposed location for this dog run is in Loreto Park.

Loreto Park is a New York City park that sits on one full city block in the heart of the Morris Park section of the Bronx.

We are gathering support to repurpose the southeast corner of the park near Van Nest Ave and Tomlinson Ave to use as a dog run.

Here are some reasons the space will work well as a dog run:

- The space is currently underused
- There are lots of dogs in the neighborhood that could benefit from exercise and socialization.
- There are no other dog runs within walking distance
- The space is already inclosed with adequate fencing on 3 sides
- There are already benches for people to sit.
- The existing concrete bocce ball court can remain as an obstacle for dogs to run around.
- The area is shaded by trees to help dogs and people stay cool in the summer
- There is water access close by
- Increase foot traffic in Morris Park Business Improvement District
- Positive environment for people to meet and form community

Opposition:

Now that the petition has been circulating for a number of days and has made the news, we have heard some opposition.

To my knowledge between 10 and 15 people in the community have publicly expressed that "oldtimers" (their word) use the courts all the time in the warmer months. We are very interested in this notion, as most people we talk to would disagree. Including some Italian senior citizens.

So far the little bit of opposition, sadly, seems unfounded:

We would love the opportunity to listen to the oldtimers speak for themselves. My understanding from a BX Times news article from 2008 is that members of the San Gennaro Senior Center initiated a request to renovate the courts, so I assume they would also be some of the people using the court the most. Sadly the Senior Center does not seem to be in operation any longer. We have started asking long-time residents if they know anyone that still plays or if we can contact anyone that might. We are still coming up empty. **Please, if you know people that likes to play bocce in Loreto, please connect us.**

\$10K. A rough construction cost estimate for minimum work needed to make the space a functional dog run

There are already 8ft.+ high fences on three sides of the area. The only gap in the fence perimeter is 20ft wide. **The proposal has always called for leaving the bocce court intact.**

We reached out to a contractor who has recently done work for the Parks Department, described what we need and asked for a rough quote. They said a single 20' long fence, 4ft high, with a double gate should run about \$10K including prevailing wages and everything required of them by the Parks Department.

There will most likely be city fees on top of that, but I am hoping that in this climate of waving codes for outdoor dining we might be able to expedite this and get it done with little red tape as this project encourages healthy, outdoor community building.

Support of the Community Board 11

We are asking for a formal resolution of support from CB11. This formal resolution is essential for bringing this proposal to the Parks Department.

With support of CB11 we will be looking for commitment of funds to present to the Parks Department. We are hoping with support of the community and some commitment of funds, the Parks Department can approach the contractor currently doing the major capital project renovation and come to an agreement with them, considering they will already be rebuilding the fenceline around that section of the park.

Thank you!
Matt and Chun

I've added to the "Board Member, Staff & Office Location History" page of BxCB11's website a new section called [Committee Chairs, -Present](#), which may contain a few errors. This skeleton of a section will be dramatically updated within the next week or so. This is to provide more transparency as well as more CB11 history.

Once updated, the information will hopefully surprise many of you.

Committee Chairs, -Present

Community Development & Budget Priorities

- Andrea Siegel, 2019-Present
- Joanne Russo-Rubino, 2018
- Dr. Mahendra Patel, -2018
- Silvio Mazzella

Economic Development

- Joseph A. Thompson, 2019-Present
- Dominick Schiano, 2016-2019
- David Leavitt, -2016

Education, Culture & Youth Services

- Diane Norris, -Present

Ethics & Disciplinary (Est. 2020)

- John Johnson, January 27, 2021-Present
- Yahay Obeid, 2020-Present

Health & Social Services

- Joseph Bacote, -Present

Housing

- Hazel Miura, 2019-Present
- Janice Walcott, 2012-2019
- Hazel Miura

Land Use

- Kenneth Gelnick, 2017-Present
- Joseph A. McManus, -2017

Parks & Recreation

- Patricia A. Charles, -Present

Public Safety

- Veronica Castro, 2020-Present
- Yahay Obeid, 2017-2020
- Martin Morris, 2015-2017
- Joseph Reda, 2012-2015

Sanitation & Environmental Protection

- Tony Signorile, 2012-Present

Transportation (formerly Highways, Traffic and Transportation)

- Frano Zagreda, 2018-Present
- Vincent Prezioso, 2012-2018

By-Laws (non-standing)

- David Leavitt, -Present

Equity Committee (non-standing)

- Durrell Boahen, 2020-Present

Nominations & Elections Committee (non-standing)

- Edit Shkreli, 2020