



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10462
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Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Chairman Albert D'Angelo
District Manager Jeremy H. Warneke

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District Manager's Report
 April 2022

In February, I relayed the MTA's decision to finally test additional safety measures in the subway via a [pilot program](#). This was done in response to Michelle Alyssa Go's [murder](#), but as I [noted](#) in January, this is long overdue.

In February, I also recommended everyone read this *Bronx Times* [article](#) regarding Jacobi Medical Center.

Another *Bronx Times* [article](#) worth reading is in regards to the Kingsland Avenue group home, which was [rejected](#) by the Leadership Committee in April.

Related to that are the following emails:

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB) <jwarneke@cb.nyc.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:56 AM
Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: Re: 2436 Kingsland Avenue, Bronx, NY Recommendation

Guten Morgen:

Related to my email yesterday, this (https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=399772185488775&id=100063679908308) has always stuck out in my mind.

Also, although I wanted to point out similarities to past complaints from the public with recent ones, I'm not saying that the Kingsland Avenue folks are on par (not entirely) with the extreme examples cited below and above.

Jeremy

District Manager
 Community Board 11
 Bronx, New York
www.nyc.gov/bxcb11

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB) <jwarneke@cb.nyc.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022, 6:35 PM

To request any special accommodations, please call us at (718) 892-6262 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or event.



Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: RE: 2436 Kingsland Avenue, Bronx, NY Recommendation

Hey, Board Members:

As discussed briefly last night, one of you made me aware of the following news article when it first came out: [Kingsland Avenue group home a no-go after state rejection due to 'over saturation' in CB11 neighborhood – Bronx Times \(bxtimes.com\)](#). If you haven't read it already, I recommend doing so. Someone tried to blame us Monday night for members of the public who "may regret the things they said" at the April 14 Leadership Committee meeting because what they said "did not reflect well on them or the community at large."

Let's be clear about this. Our meetings are open to the public. Even if they weren't, people should be mindful of what they do and say to others. You never know who is watching or documenting you, especially nowadays with the advancement of technology and social media. I mean, when I say Community Board 11 meetings are open to the public, that means news reporters may be present as well, and if they're not, they can still watch the publicly available recordings. Once we go back to meeting in person, video recordings by the Board will largely end, but that doesn't stop the public from recording us, as long as their actions do not inhibit the meetings they are recording.

I will say more on mindfulness in another email. In the meantime, I want to inform or remind you all on the uniqueness of the recent group home proposal. As long as the staff can remember (we're talking about as far back as the 1980s), Community Board 11 has never had the ability to outright reject a group home. So, don't expect what happened this month with Kingsland Avenue to be replicated anytime soon, if ever. (I can expound upon this, if necessary.)

Another news article to be aware of: [Community Input Caused the Housing Crisis - The Atlantic](#).

One person I shared this article with responded by saying "writing from the ivory tower." My response: "yes and no."

Think about this please. When's the last time the community showed up en masse to one of our meetings in favor of something? The largest recorded meeting attendance we have ever had (600 to 1,000 people) was in opposition to a proposed drug treatment facility and a rumored drug treatment facility.

Returning to the subject of group homes, I've never seen the public as a whole being in favor of them. Many of the arguments presented in opposition to Kingsland Avenue were similar to past arguments: Increased traffic concerns, concerns for the safety of children... Despite this and the fact that we rarely have had any problems with any of our group homes (and we have or had more group homes than most, if not all, of the other Bronx community boards), I think the Leadership Committee made the right decision in rejecting the Kingsland Avenue proposal. (I can expound upon this too, if necessary.)

I want to be clear with everyone. I'm not complaining just to complain. I want people (the public especially) to be more mindful of what they do and say.

Before the White Plains Road homeless shelter got nixed, a CB11 constituent threatened to burn it down. Arson is never a recommended course of action, and the past may be a good indicator why. During a public meeting regarding a proposed group home for intellectually disabled

individuals on Wallace Avenue, someone said that one of our American-born-and-raised staffers should “Go back to Russia where [they] came from.” Another member of the public said: “I don’t want my kids to catch it.” Catch what exactly? An intellectual disability? There were traffic concerns with the Wallace Avenue home and other unpleasantries were stated publicly (the disabled were vilified as “insane and drug addicts” who were going to “rape a community”). Long story short, Community Board 11 voted to reject the site, and to top the matter off, the home was eventually firebombed. None of this stopped New York State from approving a group home for this location, which—to my knowledge--has never caused Community Board 11 a problem in all of the years the building has been occupied.

Have a good weekend!

Jeremy

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB)
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 5:11 PM
Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: FW: 2436 Kingsland Avenue, Bronx, NY Recommendation

FYI:

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB)
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 5:09 PM
To: 'info@opwdd.ny.gov' <info@opwdd.ny.gov>
Cc: 'larry.domenech@opwdd.ny.gov' <larry.domenech@opwdd.ny.gov>; Pesante, Lisa (OPWDD) <lisa.pesante@opwdd.ny.gov>; 'Theresa Manuel' <tmanuel@CPOFNYS.ORG>
Subject: 2436 Kingsland Avenue, Bronx, NY Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see the attached and the following:

April 18, 2022

Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner
Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229
info@opwdd.ny.gov

Dear Commissioner Neifeld:

On March 8, 2022, Community Board 11 was contacted on behalf of UCPANYS (United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Inc.) d\b\ a Constructive Partnerships Unlimited regarding a group home relocation for 2436 Kingsland Avenue.

On April 7, 2022, the Health & Social Services and Housing Committees of Community Board 11 met with UCPANYS regarding the proposed group home. Normally, these matters are then voted on by the Full Board of Community Board 11, but because of the 40-day window in which the Community Board had to respond, Community Board 11 held an emergency meeting on April 14, 2022, in which the Leadership Committee of the Board unanimously voted to reject the proposal based on your agency's same reasoning for denial: oversaturation in the area.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Warneke

Cc: UCPANYS d\b\ a Constructive Partnerships Unlimited
Larry Domenech and Lisa Pesante, OPWDD

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 2:28 PM
Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: Recent news articles
Importance: High

Hey, Board Members:

Five recent news articles you should be aware of:

1. Remediation at former trucking site pushes timeline for 200-bed men's shelter in Westchester Square to 2024 (<https://www.bxtimes.com/proposed-shelter-will-need-remediation/>)
2. City Cancels Bronx Homeless Shelter Project that Faced Fierce Community Opposition (<https://www.thecity.nyc/bronx/2022/3/22/22992051/bronx-homeless-shelter-cancelled>)
3. NYC borough presidents want to offer virtual meetings post-pandemic (<https://nypost.com/2022/03/22/nyc-borough-presidents-want-to-offer-virtual-meetings-post-pandemic/>)
4. [DSS pulls plans for White Plains Road 'bingo hall' shelter following community pushback – Bronx Times \(bxtimes.com\)](https://www.bxtimes.com/white-plains-road-shelter-proposal/)
5. Letter: CB11 did the right thing with its handling of White Plains Road shelter proposal (<https://www.bxtimes.com/white-plains-road-shelter-proposal/>)

For the second article, there are some factual errors with it. That petition created by our Vice Chair, for example, was created in 2021, while de Blasio was still Mayor. Hence the line "Yahay

Obeid started this petition to Mayor of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.” I can say other things such as not enough credit is probably given to the public and, in particular, Council Member Feliz for getting the City of New York to reconsider the shelter, but this aside, I think the article is interesting in regards to the alleged owner of 2028 White Plains Road.

For article number three, does the Board have a perspective on this? I know some people are not happy about the article. I mean, there is a need for in-person meetings (I haven’t met some of you in person yet), but I don’t think there is a need for us to meet in person half of the year, let alone 365.

For number five, my letter to the editor, I want to take the opportunity to expound upon my last sentence regarding our elected officials. As I told *The City* reporter, Claudia, I think CM Feliz was the linchpin to getting the City of New York to reconsider 2028 White Plains Road. As for my recognition of Ocasio-Cortez, I included her because she/her office was the only one to my knowledge seriously entertaining our Chairman’s request to provide a position in writing regarding the homeless shelter. Therefore, she was also asking the City questions, which it probably didn’t want to answer.

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB)
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 11:28 AM
Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: RE: Commanding Officer Assignment Pilot Program

Morning, Board Members:

If you haven’t heard, I got bad news and good news for you. The bad news: the Commanding Officer of the 49th Precinct DI Natiw has left us. (Last I heard, he’s retiring.) That’s bad because he was a good precinct commander.

The good news: fellow military veteran, Gareth Kentish, is the new precinct commander. If you recall the emails below, he was one of the five people I interviewed back in December. And I’m happy to say that he, an impressive individual, was my first pick. He has experience working in our district, and his last assignment was the 47th Precinct, which is immediately north of us in Community Board 12.

Picture of the change in command: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=383705110428816&id=100063679908308 (Natiw is on the left, Kentish right).

Sincerely,

Jeremy

District Manager
Community Board 11
Bronx, New York
www.nyc.gov/bxcb11

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB)
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 3:19 PM
Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: RE: Commanding Officer Assignment Pilot Program
Importance: High

To clarify the email below, if you didn't receive an email directly from the Borough President's Office about this, that means you weren't selected to serve on the interview committee.

From: Warneke, Jeremy (CB)
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 2:17 PM
Cc: Lasky, Harriet (CB) <hlasky@cb.nyc.gov>; Kirka, Chris (CB) <ckirka@cb.nyc.gov>
Subject: Commanding Officer Assignment Pilot Program

Afternoon, Board Members:

In November, I received the following email from the Bronx Borough President's Office:

The NYPD has implemented a new program, Commanding Officer Appointment Program (COAP), that allows for community input in the selection of precinct commanders once a vacancy occurs at a Precinct or a PSA is announced. A vacancy has been announced for the 49th Precinct. The Borough President has been asked to create the panels or committees to assist in the selection of the next precinct commander.

You have been selected to participate in the committee due to the role you play as a leader within the confines of the 49.

The committee is made up of 8-9 members and will need to be cleared by NYPD. Once the committee is complete, interviews will take place in person. They require 4 hours as they usually have 4 candidates allowing for an hour each. The interviews will take place no later than December 9th, 2021 between the hours of 12pm and 4pm. The date for the 49 candidates is December 8, 12pm. Transportation will be provided to and from 1 Police Plaza [1PP].

You may have heard about this pilot program because of this and/or other news articles: <https://huntspointexpress.com/2021/11/22/community-board-welcomes-new-41st-precinct-police-chief-after-contentious-selection-process/>.

On December 8, the 49 Precinct Commander Committee interviewed five candidates, all of which were outstanding. Unfortunately, however, I received this email today from 1PP:

Due to the transition in leadership within the New York City Police Department, all operations related to the Commanding Officer Assignment Pilot Program have been postponed. Unfortunately all operations include the selection of a new commanding officer for the 49 Precinct. An email notification will be sent when the program resumes.

My response:

Thanks for your email. Please let whomever know that regardless of who is selected to become the next 49 Precinct Commander, I think the Commanding Officer Assignment Pilot Program was a great idea and experience.

Sincerely,

Jeremy

District Manager
Community Board 11