



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwen Thomas Steed <input type="checkbox"/> Rosalie Leslie <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Alvarado <input type="checkbox"/> Denise Marlin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Hill
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman Kutnowsky & Betty Arce

Minutes:

- I) Introductions**
 - a) The meeting started at 6:40 PM**
 - b) Attendance taken**
 - c) Reading of Guidelines for ZOOM video/teleconference Meetings**
- II) Review of previous minutes (If applicable)**
 - a) Minutes amended to reflect Rosalie Leslie was in attendance. Minutes approved with that adjustment.**
- III) Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)**
- IV) New Business**
 - a) Sanitation Issues**
 - b) Chair gave her email, wihake@gmail.com, requesting board members and community members in attendance to be the eyes on the community regarding areas that need clean up, including photos.**
 - c) Steve Caruso from DSNY was the presenter. Topics covered:**
 - 1) Violations that were issued to a family with Covid can be removed if they go to OATH and show documentation that they were too ill and unable to clean up their property.**



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- 2) **Good News: More Organic drop off sites will be added to our area. Check the website.**
- 3) **More good news: E Waste-DSNY is partnering with the private vendor, Erie. We can select a site and host it like a pop-up event in CB7!**
- 4) **Sirio Guerino and committee chair were recognized for all their help and passion in cleaning up the community.**
- 5) **Mr. Caruso spoke about his follow-up with several vendors on Bainbridge Avenue about dirty sidewalks. Some were not as receptive while others open to being educated and compliant.**
- 6) **Mr. Cauros described The Open Store Fronts program in response to complaints about some merchants in commercial areas extending their displays far onto the sidewalk, making walking difficult. Stores may apply to receive permission to conduct activity on sidewalks and open streets. The participants are allowed an additional foot (5 feet as opposed to 4 feet) but maintain a distance of 8 feet from the display to the curb. There have been complaints about stores that display items and produce on the sidewalks that become too crowded, especially for the wheel chair bound, walkers, strollers and anyone requiring access to the sidewalks. We were informed that DOT maintains a database of participating stores.**
- 7) **COVID illness has severely impacted the DSNY staff. The absence rate since January has been around 25%. This has obviously impaired services to the community.**
- 8) **Disposal of certain types of trash and recyclables:**
 - **Cardboard boxes should be broken down and tied up with twine not tape.**
 - **For Bulk Collections such as couches, etc. call 311 for pick-up.**
 - **CFC Items such as refrigerators & air-conditioners**



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- **Call to 311 to schedule the removal of the Freon.**
 - **The item will be tagged and picked up on the next collection day**
- 9) **A vacant lot on Decatur Avenue has become an eyesore. It may be city owned so follow up will be conducted to confirm and appropriate actions taken to clean it up. Mr. Caruso reported that if the lot is privately owned, DSNY may clean it up at the owner's expense.**
- 10) **Cedar Avenue has a few lot garbage complaints. Victor Saldana reported The Cedar Avenue Block Association is planning bi-monthly clean-ups linking exercise with picking up trash. DSNY will provide the necessary equipment and supplies for these events.**
- 11) **Mr. Saldana also repeated request for help with a State owned lot that has trees in need of trimming or removed because they pose a danger to neighboring lots and side walks. Mr. Caruso would follow up with his counterpart at the State level and bring this matter to their attention.**
- 12) **Barbara Stronczer reported that the Bedford Park underpass needed cleaning. It was not clear who has jurisdiction over this site. Mr. Caruso provided the name of the Bronx Borough Director at the Mayor's Office in Community Affairs Unit. Surey Miranda, who may be able to help.**
- 13) **Barbara Stronczer reported that the Bedford-Mosholu Community Association would like to see alternate side parking restored to address the trash that accumulates in the gutters.**
- 14) **Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky raised the issue about produce vendors operating over the underpass on the Grand Concourse and Bedford Park and whether there may be alternative locations for these vendors who are serving a need to community residents. However Mr. Caruso informed that Consumer**



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Affairs regulates vendors.

- 15) Sirio Guerino asked about Adopt a basket rules. He informed of a store owner interested in adding a basket in front of his store but the program only allows for the adoption of an existing basket and baskets cannot be located in the middle of the block.**
- 16) Victor Saldana requested clarification on a new or proposed city law that would require new construction to have containerized garbage disposal. This applies to new buildings with 300 or more units. It would also provide for more frequent collections. The committee chair said she would provide more information to share on the status of this bill.**
- 17) The topic of Pop-up car washes was brought up, with concerns about their environmental impact and use of hydrants to draw water. The item will be discussed at a future meeting with the appropriate agencies.**

- V) Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021**
- VI) Discussion on next agenda**
- a) DEP – Update**
 - b) Open Hydrants**
- VII) Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.**