



COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD # 11, THE BRONX
Bronx Municipal Hospital Center
Nurses Residence - Room 11N22
Bronx, New York 10461
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Dominic Castore,
Chairman

Fernando Ferrer,
Borough President

Thomas Lucania,
District Manager

COMMITTEES

Community Development &
Budget Priorities

Economic Development

Education & Culture

Health & Social Services

Highways, Traffic &
Transportation

Housing

Land Use

Parks & Playgrounds

Public Safety

Sanitation & Environmental
Protection

Youth Services Planning

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993

IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, MARY QUEEN OF PEACE HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 P.M. by Dominic Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Mort Twersky

Mr. Twersky stated that he has established a citizens group called CAPP (Citizens concerned About Pelham Parkway) in the hope that they can stem the decline of Pelham Parkway. He stated that 110 persons from the Pelham Parkway community attended an emergency meeting on November 8th to discuss the rash of mail box thefts that have been taking place on the first and third day of the month for the last three months. Mr. Twersky stated that a representative from the post office was there to speak to the residents. He also stated that two weeks ago they had discussions with the post office personnel on securing a viable postal police presence hopefully, as early as December first. He stated that since the meeting many people have signed up to patrol the area. Mr. Twersky stated that they would keep the board informed of what is happening.

b. Harold Glosser

Mr. Glosser stated that he was here tonight for two reasons. The first was rats on Pelham Parkway. He stated that there is a nest of rats on Williamsbridge Road in the center lane 20 feet opposite the tree on the parkway.

Mr. Glosser stated that the flag on the top of the Liberty building is badly tattered.

c. Mabel Ostroga

Mrs. Ostroga spoke about stray dogs in the area going into people's gardens.

d. Ms. Claudette Law - 2385 Williamsbridge Road

Ms. Law stated that she did not know that there was a place where people could come and talk about problems in the community until she spoke with Harriet. Ms. Law stated that she lives in the Pelham Parkway Houses, between Williamsbridge Road and Paulding Avenue. She stated that she has an outside apartment facing east. Ms. Law stated that she has

lived in this apartment for thirty years, but for the past eight years, there has been a problem with the heat. She stated that they are getting less and less heat. Ms. Law said that there was no heat today and no heat yesterday. She stated that on Monday when it was 70 we had a little bit of heat. She stated that she was tired of having to go to bed with socks and a sweater on and also walking around the house with a wool scarf as well as socks and a sweater. Ms. Law stated that she lives on the top floor in a six story building, and that half of the building gets heat and half does not. She stated that she has called the heat department several times.

Thomas stated that he had met yesterday with the Manager of Pelham Parkway Houses, Mr. Ruiz. He stated that not only had Ms. Law complained to the board, but he had also received a complaint from another tenant who lives on the same floor as Ms. Law. He stated that housing had come to check the heat in this tenant's apartment, but that since she had a number of heaters going they did not get a cold reading. Thomas stated that since then she has been hospitalized and he has not been able to speak with her. He stated that he should have an answer in a day or so. Thomas stated that it is possibly something in the system, and said that he would get back to Ms. Law.

II. Guest Presentation by the New York City Transit Authority

Handout attached.

Mr. Garrett spoke in brief about what they hoped to achieve with this community outreach effort. He introduced Ted Orosz.

Mr. Orosz stated that he was the Manager of the Bronx/Manhattan Bus Service. Mr. Orosz said that it has been a while since he was at this community board. He stated that he had worked with the board on other projects a few years ago. Mr. Orosz stated that this was a slightly different program for the NYCTA. He said that as a whole they are trying different ways of doing things. He referred to the information that was distributed. This meeting is the first in a series of meetings in the community to prepare a plan for increased bus service to the North Bronx.

Mr. Orosz stated that the NYCTA needs to find ways to make ridership available to people who want to go to Westchester for shopping or for medical appointments.

Ken Desmond spoke about subway service. He stated that they did not have as much flexibility in routing trains as they have with buses.

Questions were asked by several board members:

Joe Milone stated that he takes the #5 train every morning. He stated that a few years ago at that bottle neck there was major construction going on. He stated that he still doesn't know what it did, 2 years of construction and the problem has only gotten worse.

Joe said that for the last 3 months it has taken him an average of an hour and twenty minutes to an hour and a half and beyond to get from Pelham Parkway to Wall Street. He stated that he can be stuck in the tunnel for 15 minutes or longer, and no announcement is made as to what the delay is. He suggested that the conductor announce what the problem is.

Joe stated that there is an anti-graffiti program on the Dyre Avenue where any reported graffiti is supposed to be removed within 72 hours. He stated that at the Pelham Parkway Station it is now 2 weeks and the graffiti is still there. Joe said that this is an eyesore and does not promote ridership. He also stated that when he gets on the train at Pelham Parkway there are no seats.

Joe stated that when he leaves work at ten to four he is home by five o'clock. He also spoke about problems with the wait at 180th Street for the shuttle.

Lenard Garrett stated that riders should call their District Manager with complaints about graffiti, dirty stations, etc. He stated that he can be reached at 694-5136.

Rhoda Gogatz stated that she lives on the north side of the Pelham Parkway. She stated that trying to cross to the south side is difficult because of the bus which runs along White Plains Road going south. She stated that every morning there is a traffic jam because the driver after discharging and loading passengers at the Pelham Parkway/White Plains Road bus stop waits 2 lights before going on his way.

Rhoda also asked when escalators would be installed at the Pelham Parkway Station.

Gerald Launer stated that he also takes the #5 train daily. He stated that for some reason on Fridays he waits 20 minutes for a #5 going north. Gerald also stated that for the last 2 months there have been at least 2 disruptions on the tracks, and nobody tells you where to go.

Frank asked how the survey was conducted. He stated that a lot of people do not understand the #5 subway service pattern. He said that the survey states that 37% did not understand the #5 subway service pattern, and that 7.7% thought they understood it but that they did not.

Mr. Desmond stated that it was their impression that the #5 service is confusing people because at some times during the day if you get on in Manhattan all #5s are going to Dyre Avenue. At other times of the day some of the 5s are going to Dyre Avenue and some are going to White Plains Road. At other times of the day you have to change at 180th Street for a #5 shuttle up to Dyre Avenue. Mr. Desmond stated that this survey was done by phone. He stated that they found out that most people did not understand the #5 patterns.

Frank spoke about the buses that meet with the #5 Dyre Avenue line at Gun Hill Road. He stated that buses come in 1 or 2 at a time in the morning for people wanting to get on at Dyre Avenue. He stated that the trains are packed by the time the train gets to Pelham Parkway and Morris Park Avenue. Frank said that they need to work on getting more cars to accommodate the buses that are bringing people to Gun Hill Road to catch the #5 train.

Frank spoke about the condition of the Pelham Parkway station. He stated that the station is never washed. Frank stated that the 125th Street station is hosed down every day.

Lenard Garrett spoke, and stated that all that stations are supposed to be cleaned every night, and heavy duty cleaning once a week.

Bob Potter asked when the buses are going to convert to the bus pass system. He stated that if you don't have a token or exact change you can't get on the bus.

Ted Orosz spoke about the credit card system. He said that it is working in the subways, but will take time to be implemented for both subway and buses.

Scott Roveto asked about the north side in reference to the buses and about the installation of concrete bus pads.

Mr. Desmond stated that street repaving is not their job, however bus pads are part of most street reconstruction jobs which the city undertakes.

Rabbi Fuchs thanked the representatives from the MTA for coming to the meeting and giving this presentation. He spoke about a letter that Michael Bialek of Beth Abraham Hospital had sent to the MTA asking for an extension of the time that the last bus leaves from in front of the hospital. He stated that presently the last bus leaves at 11:04 P.M., and that this is no good for employees who get off at 11:00 P.M.

Mr. Orosz said that he was sure that the letter was sent, but he did not receive it. He stated that it is easier to move buses around than trains. He asked if he could get a copy of the letter.

Rabbi Fuchs stated that 2 years ago Community Board #11 held a meeting at Bronx House concerning the #22 bus on Boston Road. He stated that the situation still exists where the buses park on Boston Road while they are waiting for their next trip, others park by Hoopers idling which allows fumes into the air. He stated that this also creates a traffic situation.

Ted Orosz said that except for the overnight bus there are no #22s that end at Pelham Parkway, they all go over to Fordham Road.

John Cifichiello complained that the #8 bus runs every hour on Sundays.

Mr. Orosz stated that he hoped that it was not running every hour. As to transfers with Westchester buses, he stated that they are working on it with Westchester County, but it takes time.

Seymour Ostroga asked about the MTA's relations with the Americans with Disability Act.

III. Minutes

A Motion was made by Lewis Goldstein, seconded by Al Locascio - That the Minutes be accepted as received.

Unanimously passed.

IV. Chairman's Report - Dominic Castore

Dom reported that George Medici had resigned from the board.

Dom reported that Ray Locascio, a former board member is now a member of Congressman Mantan's staff.

At this point Dom asked Ralph Lanzilli to speak about the hiring of the Office Aide.

Ralph thanked the Screening Committee for their help in choosing a candidate for the Office Aide Position. He stated that the board received 60 resumes. He stated that after interviewing 8 candidates they choose Margaret Guglielmo. Ralph introduced Margaret to the board.

Margaret stated that she was very happy to be part of the staff, and that everyone has been wonderful.

V. District Manager's Report - Thomas Lucania

Thomas reported that at last month's Gallery Session it was brought to the board's attention that liquor was being sold to minors at 2137 White Plains Road. Thomas stated that the Police Department sent a team there and arrested 1 person and confiscated gambling machines. He stated that he has learned that they have been closed.

Thomas reported that last month the residents who live on the Olinville Avenue side of Zimmerman Playground submitted a petition requesting the removal of the benches on the outside of the park. He stated that a letter and a copy of this petition were sent to Commissioner Ryan. We are awaiting a response.

Thomas also reported that at last month's meeting the subject of Kazimiroff Boulevard was brought up. He stated that they had an on-site meeting with Scott Roveto and Pat DeGasperis of the Department of Highways along with staff of Community Board #7. Thomas stated that some planning is being done on Kazimiroff Boulevard.

Thomas reported that he has been working with the Tenants Asso-

ciation of the Allerton Coops regarding the gates that are locked. He stated that after a visit from Buildings and HPD the property owner has been told that the gates cannot be chained because it prevents an access point for emergencies. Thomas stated that they will remain open until management provides keys to all the tenants.

Thomas reported that he had met with representatives of the Methadone Clinic along with Dom Castore and John Cummings regarding the loiters from the program. He stated some progress has been made in identifying some of people who hang out. He stated that it will be noted in their charts. Thomas elaborated on how this demerit systems effects their stay in the program.

Thomas reported that "No Standing" signs have been installed on the curb coming out of the hospital to help traffic coming out of the hospital.

Thomas stated that a letter was sent to the Director of Security at the hospital requesting that the Eastchester gates be kept open during business hours to help alleviate the commercial traffic using the Morris Park gate.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Alfred Locascio

Al reported that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed to the Board members in their packet.

VI. Borough President's Report - Annette Marchitello

Annette announced that the Lo Jack Program which is a stolen vehicle recovery system is scheduled to begin May, 1994.

Annette read the following report from Borough President Ferrer:

I. Lo Jack Program

The Police Department sent a request for proposal to seven firms in 1992 to establish an automatic stolen vehicle recovery system. Only one vendor the Lo Jack Corporation of Dedham, Massachusetts, responded to the RFP.

The City reached a concession agreement with the Lo Jack Corporation for five years with an option for another five years.

The \$500,000 concession fee will be placed into an agency trust account and be drawn out at a rate of \$100,000 per year. Once 10,000 units are sold an additional \$10 per vehicle fee will be paid to the City.

Motorist who choose to participate in the Stolen Vehicle Program will pay a one time fee of \$600.00 per vehicle. For that fee a transmitter will be installed in the vehicle in a concealed location.

When vehicles carrying the transmitter are stolen and the theft

is reported to the police, a link between the Police Department computer and the Lo Jack computer will trigger the transmission of a signal activating the transmitter in the stolen vehicle.

Police patrol cars equipped with tracking devices will be able to detect the signal and locate the vehicle. The Lo Jack Corporation will install tracking devices in police vehicles throughout the City and will install six antennas at sites around the City.

The current recovery rate for stolen vehicles in the City is 57%.

In July 1992, Governor Cuomo signed into law a measure that reduces theft insurance premiums for those motorists who participate in a stolen vehicle recovery system.

The 43rd Precinct in CB #9 has the Lo Jack program. It is reported that theft of stolen cars have declined some 20%.

II. Recycling by NYCHA & HPD Buildings

There have been reports by some Sanitation representatives at the DSC meetings that NYCHA and HPD buildings are exempt from recycling pursuant to Local Law #19 of 1989.

The Borough President's Director of Environmental Services researched this statement. According to the Director of Recycling Implementation for the New York City Department of Sanitation NYCHS's housing sites and buildings under the management of HPD are mandated to recycle according to the law.

III. New Libraries Coalition To Strengthen Community Relations

The Coalition of Bronx Branch Libraries, initiated last month by the Office of Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer and that of the Coordinator of Bronx Branches, Mary Elizabeth Wendt, will serve as a support and information exchange organization for the borough's 34 Bronx Branch Libraries, as well as for the diverse communities which surround them.

Among the goals of the Coalition, as discussed at the group's first meeting at the Borough President's Offices, is the development of an increased community information, programming and support network, including community support groups at every Branch Library; advocacy, and a borough wide community recognition program.

"Our libraries have so much to offer, but they, are still one of most publicly under recognized community resources," Ferrer said.

For more information about library services if you are interested in forming a much-needed community support group for your library, please contact your local branch librarian.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Economic Development Thomas Lucania

1. Alcohol Beverage Control Licenses

a. Dustin's Cafe, Inc. - 1484 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption (NEW)

b. Best for Less Liquors - 992 Morris Park Avenue for off-premises consumption (NEW)

c. RA Garden, Inc. - New York Botanical Garden for on-premises consumption (NEW)

d. Gleason's Cafe - 2040 Eastchester Road (formerly Sully's Cafe) for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

Thomas stated that there were no objections to any of these licenses.

A Motion was made by Rhoda Gogatz, Seconded by Ralph Lanzilli - That Community Board #11 notify the State Liquor Authority that it has objection to the granting of these new and renewal licenses.

Passed unanimously.

B. Health - Thomas Lucania

The following report was distributed to the board members:

Hyperbaric Chamber at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center

The dedication took place on October 26th and over 200 people were present. Representatives from the Fire Department, the U.S. Navy, Police Department and regional Poison Control staff, including representatives from the Borough President's Office as well as the media attended.

This six-patient hyperbaric oxygen pressure chamber can be used to help victims of carbon monoxide poisoning, smoke inhalation, and for divers and tunnel workers, who suffer from the bends. Patients will be taken here from all over the tri-state area. The nearest similar equipment is in Philadelphia.

Blanche attended the dedication of this 12 ton chamber which is located adjacent to the emergency room, and said that it is really something.

Day Care Playground

This playground, will be called a "playgarden" will be located on the lawn outside of Van Etten Hospital. Planting is already taking place and a building permit has been obtained. This outdoor playground will have outstanding play equipment. The money was obtained by private donations. We hope to have the dedication of the "Playgar-

den" before the cold weather sets it.

C. Highways, Traffic and Transportation - Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

Rabbi Fuchs thanked all those who had attended the meeting on Kazimiroff Boulevard.

Rabbi Fuchs reported that a study is going to be done on making Lurting Avenue traffic one way.

Thomas reported that Senator Velella had received a petition from residents who live on Lurting Avenue between Pelham Parkway South and Lydig Avenue regarding the traffic patterns in that area. He stated that Traffic wants to sit down with the residents, the elected officials and the board first.

Rabbi Fuchs asked that the board sent a letter on the fact that the board is not getting enough new trains.

D. Land Use - Kenneth Gelnick

Ken reported that the Community Board has received the certified ULURP for the Eastchester Road rezoning. He stated that the property is located on Eastchester Road between Mace and Waring Avenues. Ken stated that the property owner proposes to establish a C1-2 overlay in an R3-3 district, to construct a two story building with parking in the rear and underground, for approximately 80 cars. He stated that the building will be used for stores and offices.

Ken stated that the Community Board will hold a public hearing on the issues and vote on the application at its December meeting.

E. Parks and Playgrounds - John Cifichiello

John reported that people are feeding the pigeons. He stated that this is causing a rat problem.

Scott Roveto asked why there are less swings in the parks.

Thomas explained that due to federal guide lines a certain distance is required between swings.

Joe Milone reported that the fence on the Van Nest side of Loretto Park was broken.

Thomas stated that this was already called in.

Rhoda asked if the board could get more P.E.P. officers to White Plains Road and Pelham Parkway to ticket the residents who feed the pigeons.

Thomas stated that this item is on the DSC agenda for the next meeting.

F. Sanitation - Ralph Lanzilli

Ralph reported that the board has still not received word on the site for the combined sewer overflow project. He stated that the state has not approved the Bronx State site as yet.

Ralph reported that in the packet the board members received was information on recycling for commercial establishments.

G. Youth - Richard Mancuso

Rich reported that Linda White was not here tonight. He reported that last night was the Youth Recognition evening. He thanked the Community Board, the Youth Services Committee and the Morris Park Community Association for their help in making this a successful event. Rich stated that 100 people attended, and that 25 students were honored. He stated that Bronx Net was there, and that the event was profiled in the Bronx Times Reporter. Rich stated that he hoped to make this an annual event.

Rich reported that he and Thomas had met with Frank Melia, Joseph DeJesus, Superintendent of Bronx High Schools, police, and tenant association representatives at Columbus High School on Monday to discuss security and truancy in the school.

Rich reported that the Fair Share Allocation RFPs should be available in two weeks.

Rich reported that the evening programs at Aging in America and at Columbus High School will hopefully be running 5 nights a week. He stated that they will have basketball, girls volley ball and arts and crafts. Rich stated that the tentative date is early December.

H. Public Safety - Joseph Reda

The following crime statistics for October were distributed:

	1992	1993	% Change
Robbery	76	66	13.2 Down
Burglary	110	127	15.5 Up
Grand Larceny Auto	193	180	5.7 Down
Murder	2	1	
Rape	0	1	

YEAR-TO-DATE

Robbery	610	571	6.3 Down
Burglary	1122	1113	.8 Down
Grand Larceny Auto	1823	1502	17.6 Down
Murder	13	10	23.0 Down
Rape	19	29	52.6 Up

ARRESTS

Robbery	26	7
Burglary	10	10

Joe reported that there will be a 49th Precinct Council meeting on December 9th at the Knights of Columbus.

Joe reported that the VIN etching program is being done on Saturdays from 1-5 P.M. at Courtesy Lincoln on Boston Road and Waring Avenue.

I. Screening Committee - Ralph Lanzilli

Ralph reported that resumes for the Community Associate position are being accepted through November 19th. He stated that the Screening Committee will review the resumes and set up interviews in early December. Ralph stated that they hoped to have a name to present to the full board at its December meeting.

Dom reported that there will be a meeting in December because of the time clock for the ULURP which begins November 10th and ends January 10th.

IV. Old Business

Seymour Ostroga praised the Community Board for its vote to deny the installation of public toilets on Pelham Parkway at the last meeting.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Gisondi". To the right of the signature is a small circular stamp containing the number "12".

James Gisondi,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 1993

PRESENT

Dominic Castore	(1)(1)	David Leavitt	(1)(1)
John Cifichiello	(0)(0)	Alfred Locascio	(2)(5)
Anthony DelGaudio	(2)(3)	Leslie McHenry	(1)(3)
Patrick Dolan	(2)(3)	Joseph Milone	(1)(3)
Mauro Fanelli	(1)(3)	Frank Muccioli	(2)(4)
Harain Figueroa	(0)(1)	Seymour Ostroga	(2)(1)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(1)(5)	Robert Potter	(1)(2)
Kenneth Gelnick	(2)(5)	William Ricevuto	(1)(1)
Rhoda Gogatz	(1)(5)	Joseph Reda	(2)(2)
Lewis Goldstein	(1)(4)	Scott Roveto	(1)(1)
Ralph Lanzilli	(2)(1)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(0)(2)
Gerald Launer	(1)(2)	Mark Shkreli	(0)(1)

ABSENT

Lory Alcalá	(3)(5)	William Liblick	(4)(5)
Dr. Mary Acker	(3)(8)	Pat Quaranta	(2)(6)
Robert Black	(3)(8)	William Ricevuto	(1)(1)
Ruth Burko	(1)(4)	Blanche Rifkin	(2)(1)
Patricia Crowell	(2)(0)	Robert Torres	(2)(5)
Emil Eisdorfer	(2)(4)	Linda White	(3)(1)
James Gisondi	(1)(4)	Lisa Winters	(2)(6)
Simeon Goldstein	(1)(1)		

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Pat Brown - Representing Congressman Eliot Engel
Ray Locascio - Representing Congressman Thomas Manton
Libbi Locascio - Representing Assemblyman George Friedman

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

Thomas Lucania, District Manager - Community Board #11
Harriet Lasky, Secretary - Community Board #11
Richard Mancuso, Youth Coordinator - Community Board #11
Annette Marchitello - Representing Borough President Fernando Ferrer
Jack Sodden - Borough President Fernando Ferrer's Office
Ted Orosz - New York City Transit Authority
Ken Desmond - New York City Transit Authority
Lenard Garrett - New York City Transit Authority

*Numbers in parenthesis denotes absences from September 1993
Number in **BOLD** denotes absences from September 1992-June 1993