



COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD #11, THE BRONX  
 JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER  
 NURSES RESIDENCE-ROOM 11N22  
 (718) 892-6262 FAX (718) 892-1861



Dominic Castore,  
 Chairman

Fernando Ferrer,  
 Borough President

John Fratta,  
 District Manager

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1996

IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, QUEEN OF PEACE HALL

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 P.M. by Dominic Castore, Chairman

I. Gallery Session

a. Rhoda Gogatz

Rhoda stated that seven years ago Tom Brown, District Manager of Community Board #11 passed away. She stated that Ruth Bernstein, a former board member died in December. Rhoda stated that she was the only board member to attend the funeral.

b. Cesare Passudetti - Allerton Branch Library

Cesare announced that all branch libraries are connected to Internet.

c. Howard Tannenbaum

Mr. Tannenbaum spoke about crime. He stated that a minimum sentence needs to be established for crimes on senior citizens or the handicapped.

d. Dawnn Pemberton

Ms. Pemberton spoke about a situation at Pelham Parkway between Bronx Park East Boston Road and Olinville Avenue. She stated that the grade in the street is gone.

Ms. Pemberton thanked the Board for moving its meeting last month, and hoped that they would continue to vary the meeting sites.

e. Mabel Ostroga

Mrs. Ostroga stated that on January 9th she had an accident in her house. She stated that she called for an ambulance, but they never came. Mrs. Ostroga stated that the 49th Precinct came, and she thanked them.

II. Minutes

A Motion was made by Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Rhoda Gogatz -  
That the November Minutes be approved as received.

Passed.

### III. Chairman's Report - Dominic Castore

Dom reported that the board had received a letter of resignation from Dr. Mary Acker and from Robert Torres, who is now a judge.

Dom reported that Community Board #11 was audited by the Comptroller's Office. He stated that the board received a copy of their findings and we had no major infractions. John has implemented the recommendations of the Comptroller's Office to assure adherence to all city directives. He has also asked the Borough President's Office for monthly time and leave balances for all staff.

### IV. District Manager's Report - John Fratta

John reported that he was successful in getting a holiday embargo on the Boston Road project. He stated that there was resistance from the contractor, but with the help of our elected officials it was accomplished. John thanked them for their help.

Water main replacement for another week.

John reported that he had met with Chief S. of Traffic. Officers now coming from 49th Precinct, 8 officers. Should come from Manhattan.

John reported that the Board had sent a letter to Commissioner Bratton requesting that the precinct lines of Bronx Park East be changed to the 49th Precinct. He stated that it looks good, and that we should have an answer in a month.

John reported that he had taken a tour with Sanitation today of the district. He stated that he went to the Van Nest area and all streets were done. John stated that the problem we are having now is people are digging their cars out and throwing the ice back into the street. John stated that Sanitation did a great job, but that ice is still a problem.

John reported that Home Depot was approved by the City Council and City Planning Commission. He stated that the Borough President is putting together a Task Force to monitor construction and traffic. John stated that Mauro Fanelli, John Cifichiello and Ruth Burko will be on this committee. No response to Borough President on names.

### V. Borough President's Report - Linda Loeb

As the report was lengthy Linda submitted it to Harriet.

The Borough President wishes all members a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year. He looks forward to a continued working relationship with you to bring the residents of this borough better service. He looks to you to bring issues to his attention so that he can use the auspices of his Administration to address them.

## REAPPOINTMENT FOR 1996

The Community Board is urged to review the attendance of all board members and your By-Laws to access the problem of excessive absences.

**Reminder:** The following people are up for reappointment in 1996 and they are submit their applications by February 15, 1996.

Blanche Comras Rifkin  
John Cifichiello  
Lorraine Cortes-Vasquez  
Anthony DelGaudio  
Laura Fischman  
Kenneth Gelnick  
Simeon Goldstein  
Rhoda Gogatz  
Dexter Hendon  
Silvio Mazzella

Lori Motta  
Seymour Ostroga  
Robert Potter  
Pat Quaranta  
William Ricevuto  
Mary Rogan  
Patrick Torney  
Mordechai Twersky  
Linda White  
Lisa Winters

## BOROUGH PRESIDENT FERNANDO FERRER ISSUED A STATEMENT IN REACTION TO GOVERNOR PATAKI'S PROPOSAL TO SHIFT \$100 MILLION IN LOTTERY REVENUE

He was astounded at Governor Pataki's misguided proposal to shift \$100 million in lottery revenue explicitly earmarked for education so as to reduce property taxes is a direct attack on New York City and its one million public school children.

By applying education funds to property taxes, New York City--where a high percentage of the residents are renters and not homeowners--will once again be struck with the short end of the state aid to education stick. Our schools are shortchanged by an inequitable state funding formula that allows a greater percentage of the funds to flow to the suburbs and upstate even though New York City comprises a larger portion of the student body. New York City Schools are already staggering from the loss of \$750 million. Further cuts will topple the delicate balance teachers and administrators are trying to maintain in the classroom.

He calls on the Mayor to vigorously oppose the governor's misdirected plan and fight for additional money for education, not less!

## FERRER ASKS DA TO PROBE NYCHA PAINT CONTRACT

Borough President Fernando Ferrer called upon Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau to investigate the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) awarding of a \$2 million no-bid contract to a company headed by a political loyalist of the mayor.

The contract, awarded to Hi-Tech Worldwide, Inc., called for applying fire retardant paint to Housing Authority stairwells, where a series of deadly flash fires has occurred. Hi-Tech Worldwide, Inc. is owned by Karan Kuman, a reported Giuliani political campaign organizer and a member of the same transition panel that chose NYCHA Chairmen Ruben Franco.

In a letter to the District Attorney, Ferrer declared, "It is indeed a matter more sinister than merely ethical lapses of judgment when an awardee, Karan Kuman, ...a relative newcomer to the industry, reportedly received a nearly \$2 million non-competitive contract via a telephone bid.

"The idea that the Housing Authority, ...in 'consultation with Executive Office', would reduce an emergency measure of life and death to an act of political patronage is outrageous".

Ferrer, who has called for NYCHA chairman Ruben Franco's resignation, accused the Housing Authority of "seriously jeopardizing the safety and welfare of thousands of New Yorkers," by its failure to redress the flammable qualities of oil-based paint that had been applied in New York City Housing Authority stairwells.

According to Ferrer, the tragic death of two residents at the Frederick Douglas Houses in Harlem on November 5th has underscored the city's dangerous and reckless lack of action despite ample and direct evidence of such "flash fires" at NYCHA facilities during the previous 18 months.

"The safety of the people of this city, and the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers living in Housing Authority facilities, must be the primary concern of all those sworn to serve and protect it," Ferrer wrote. "Accordingly, I respectfully request that your office investigate the foregoing circumstances to determine whether criminal or other inappropriate conduct has occurred."

#### ALL SIGNS POINTING TO A CLEANER BRONX -2200 "DON'T DUMP ON THE BRONX" SIGNS TO GO UP IN THE BOROUGH

Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, Bronx Borough Commissioner Leon Heyward and Deputy Borough Commissioner William Baier of the Department of Transportation unveiled the new "Don't Dump On The Bronx" signs, which will be placed on all major arterial roadways, streets and vacant lots in The Bronx.

Ferrer launched "Don't Dump On The Bronx", a grass-roots, anti-litter crusade, two years ago to promote greater public awareness of sanitary conditions in The Bronx. The initiative has since taken on greater significance because of devastating sanitation budget cuts and the "Grime Wave" that has resulted.

Over 2200 signs have been manufactured and paid for from the Borough President's capital budget.

#### BRONX SENIOR CITIZENS MAKE FREE WORLDWIDE HOLIDAY CALLS

Nearly 200 Bronx senior citizens made free long distance calls to their loved ones and friends at a Bronx Annual Holiday Calls Program held at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. The program, in its sixth year, was sponsored by Borough President Fernando Ferrer, the Teleport Communications Group and the Bronx Health and Human Services Development Corporation.

Limited to one hour to make all of their calls, many senior citizens came in with a long list of numbers to dial. They all had a fun time, talking for free with someone from afar.

## VII. Committee Reports

### A. Land Use - Kenneth Gelnick

1. BSA 181-95 BZ - Application by the Montefiore Medical Center to enlarge the Emergency room at the Jack Weiler Hospital, relocate the parking spaces and install an MRI machine.

Ken stated that a lengthy public hearing had been held on this earlier tonight.

A Motion was made by Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Robert Potter - Resolved that Community Board #11 approve of the enlargement of the Emergency Room at the Jack Weiler Hospital, along with the relocation of the parking spaces and the installation of an MRI machine with the condition that a Task Force be formed to study and find a solution to the parking problems generated by the hospitals in our district

The vote was 31 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. Rhoda Gogatz voted against, and Seymour Ostroga abstained.

Motion passed.

### B. Economic Development - Simeon Goldstein

#### 1. Alcohol Beverage Control License Renewals

a. J&H Wine & Liquor d/b/a/ Price Liquor - 693 Allerton Avenue for off-premises consumption

A Motion was made by Simeon Goldstein, Seconded by Leslie McHenry - That Community Board #11 notify the State Liquor Authority that it has no objection to the renewal of this license.

Passed.

b. Pasta Pasta - 2023 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption

A Motion was made by Simeon Goldstein, Seconded by Rhoda Gogatz - That Community Board #11 notify the State Liquor Authority that it has no objections to the renewal of this license.

Passed.

### C. Parks and Playgrounds - John Cifichiello

John spoke about the recent snow fall. He stated that homeowners should not use salt on the sidewalks as it kills the plants.

### D. Housing - Leslie McHenry

Leslie reported that the Housing Committee had met at the Pelham Parkway Houses with John Fratta. She spoke about the fires that have occurred in the stairwells of housing developments. Leslie stated that Chief Wolfe attended this meeting to discuss fires in the stairwells.

Leslie reported that since the meeting young people have been hired at Parkside Houses to patrol the high rise buildings. She stated that they patrol Thursday-Sunday.

Leslie stated that the report that the City has suspended the painting of stairwells is not true. She stated that she would follow up on this next month.

E. Sanitation and Environmental Protection - Ralph Lanzilli

Ralph reported that a letter from DEP was distributed. (ATTACHED).

Ralph reported that homeowners and businesses are reminded that it is illegal to shovel snow into the street. You will receive a ticket if you do. Snow should be piled on the sidewalk.

Homeowner and businesses are required to shovel the snow three hours after it stops falling. Snow **must** be shoveled all the way to the curb. Owners of corner houses are required to shovel the snow to create a path at the corners.

Linda White thanked the Board for getting Sanitation to clean on Van Buren and Addams Streets where the homeowner had no fuel and trucks could not get down for a delivery.

F. Health and Social Services - Blanche Rifkin

Blanche stated that she had a petition for a bill sponsored by Senator Velella regarding the Blood Safety Act. She asked everyone to sign it.

G. Education and Culture - Ruth Burko

Ruth thanked Cesare Passudetti for informing the board that the libraries are now connected to Inter Net. She also thanked Bob Potter for attending the School Board meeting in November.

H. Highways, Traffic and Transportation - Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

A Motion was made by Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, Seconded by Rhoda Gogatz - Resolved that Community Board #11 not approve any new or expansion of hospitals unless parking is included.

Passed

Rabbi Fuchs reported that phase one of the escalator work on White Plains Road is completed.

John reported that he had received a call from DOT 3 weeks ago stating that the TA has applied for a permit to close Pelham Parkway

for the next phase of this work. He stated that a meeting on this did not take place, but that Pelham Parkway was closed.

#### I. Public Safety - Joseph Reda

Joe reported that Captain Romaine was transferred as of Friday. The new commander, Captain Shortell comes for police headquarters.

#### Crime Statistics for December 1995

|                    | <u>1995</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>%Change</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Robbery            | 49          | 61          | 19.7 Down      |
| Burglary           | 80          | 91          | 12.1 Down      |
| Grand Larceny Auto | 128         | 117         | 9.4 Up         |
| Murder             | 5           | 2           | 150.0 Up       |
| Rape               | 2           | 2           | SAME           |

#### YEAR-TO-DATE

|                    |      |      |           |
|--------------------|------|------|-----------|
| Robbery            | 570  | 748  | 23.8 Down |
| Burglary           | 1052 | 1244 | 15.4 Down |
| Grand Larceny Auto | 1480 | 1910 | 22.5 Down |
| Murder             | 11   | 22   | 50.0 Down |
| Rape               | 30   | 42   | 28.6 Down |

#### ARRESTS

|                    |     |      |            |
|--------------------|-----|------|------------|
| Robbery            | 7   | 12   | 41.7 Down  |
| Burglary           | 6   | 11   | 45.5 Down  |
| Grand Larceny Auto | 6   | 8    | 25.0 Down  |
| Murder             | 2   | 4    | 50.0 Down  |
| Rape               | 1   | 0    | 100.0 Down |
| Total Felonies     | 362 | 394  | 8.1 Down   |
| Total Complaints   | 949 | 1101 | 13.8 Down  |

Joe reported that the Fire Department has free smoke detectors. He said to call 718-694-2343 or 48.

Rabbi Fuchs asked that the Board send a letter inviting Captain Shortell to the February board meeting.

#### J. Employee Relations

1. Merit Increase for District Manager
2. Merit Increase for Office Staff

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:40 P.M. and returned at 9:50 P.M.

A Motion was made by Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Linda White - That Community Board #11 give a merit increase of 9% to John Fratta, and a 3% merit increase to Harriet, Susan and Margaret.

Unanimously passed.

Harriet thanked the board on behalf of Susan, Margaret and herself.

VIII. Old Business

Rhoda asked about naming a street for Ruth Bernstein. Dom told her that this must go through the Councilman.

Leslie commended Bob Potter for reported a gas smell to Con Ed which averted a potential problem.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko 

Ruth Burko,  
Secretary



ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 1996

PRESENT

|                         |        |                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Ruth Burko              | (0)(4) | Silvio Mazzella         | (0)(0) |
| Dominic Castore         | (0)(6) | Leslie McHenry          | (0)(1) |
| John Cifichiello        | (0)(0) | Joseph Milone           | (1)(8) |
| Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez | (2)(7) | Lori Motta              | (3)(7) |
| Priscilla Crowell       | (1)(4) | Hazel Miura             | (0)(1) |
| Patrick Dolan           | (2)(5) | Seymour Ostroga         | (0)(0) |
| Emilian Eisdorfer       | (0)(8) | Dr. Mahendra Patel      | (1)(0) |
| Mauro Fanelli           | (1)(4) | Robert Potter           | (0)(5) |
| Laura Fischman          | (4)(5) | Joseph Reda             | (1)(6) |
| Rabbi Moshe Fuchs       | (0)(7) | William Ricevuto        | (3)(6) |
| Kenneth Gelnick         | (2)(5) | Blanche Comras Rifkin   | (0)(3) |
| Rhoda Gogatz            | (1)(0) | Madeline Saltaformaggio | (1)(1) |
| Simeon Goldstein        | (0)(1) | Mark Shkreli            | (0)(3) |
| Dexter Hendon           | (4)(2) | Joseph Thompson         | (1)(0) |
| Ralph Lanzilli          | (0)(7) | Linda White             | (0)(5) |
| Gerald Launer           | (1)(7) | Lisa Winters            | (2)(6) |
| David Leavitt           | (1)(4) |                         |        |

ABSENT

|                   |        |                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Anthony DelGaudio | (4)(4) | Mary Rogan        | (5)(6) |
| Harain Figueroa   | (3)(2) | Patrick Torney    | (6)(7) |
| Milagros Guzman   | (5)(1) | Mordechai Twersky | (5)(4) |
| Frank Muccioli    | (5)(0) | Elaine Weisbrot   | (3)(0) |
| Pat Quaranta      | (5)(4) |                   |        |

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Korman - Representing Councilman Michael DeMarco

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager

Harriet Lasky, Secretary

Linda Loeb - Borough President Fernando Ferrer's Office

Xiomara Chang- Bronx Office of City Planning

Frank J. Naglieri - Battalian 20

P.O. Samuel Perez - 49th Precinct Youth Officer+

\*Numbers in parenthesis denotes absences from August 1995 including public hearings

Numbers in **BOLD** denotes absences from September 1994-June 1995 including public hearings.