



**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD #11, THE BRONX
JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER
NURSES RESIDENCE - ROOM 11N22
BRONX, NEW YORK 10461
(718) 892-6262 FAX (718) 892-1861**



**Dominic Castore
Chairman**

**Fernando Ferrer
Borough President**

**John Fratta
District Manager**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1997

COMMITTEES

IN CALVARY HOSPITAL

- 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 8:00 PM by Dominic Castore, Chairperson.

I. Gallery Session

a. Helen Brandt

Ms. Brandt spoke about the Dyre Avenue #5 train. She stated that she had come to the board last year and said that she had spoken to Anthony Caressa, the line superintendent about the fact that there was no heat in many of the trains and that the trains stopped between Morris Park and 180th Street. Ms. Brandt said that the train would stop three, four or as much as seven times. She stated that he got the heat back and the stopping of the trains ended.

Ms. Brandt stated that she called Mr. Caressa yesterday about the GAP train that does not exist. Ms. Brandt stated that Mr. Caressa told her that three years ago he asked the MTA for a train to keep until needed (in the evening if needed for the #2 or #5 train between 4 and 9 P.M.) If there was a problem with the train coming from downtown you could take some other train to 180th street and there would be a shuttle to take you wherever the train needed to go. Ms. Brandt stated that this GAP train ran for 2 1/2 years and was cut last summer due to budget cuts. Ms. Brandt stated that in the summer it is very bad as the temperature in the station gets to 100 . She stated that she was told that there has been a drop in ridership on the Dyre Avenue line. Ms. Brandt stated that she wondered who took this survey and when? How old is the survey? What criteria are they using? How many people are needed to get better service? She asked that the board see about getting this train back.

Dom told Ms. Brandt that John Fratta would look into it.

b. Keith Ramsey, President of the Eastchester Gardens Tenants Association.

Mr. Ramsey reported that the community center at Eastchester Gardens is being renovated. He stated that the kids have been taken from the community center that is being renovated to the senior center (which is operated by RAIN). Mr. Ramsey stated that housing leases this space to RAIN. He stated that RAIN does not want the kids in the center. Mr. Ramsey stated that the center is locked up at 4:00. He also stated that the kids have access to a very small space, and that the staff is constantly watching them. He spoke about pictures of Black history that were removed from the wall. Mr. Ramsey stated that he was told that this space is leased to RAIN for \$1 a year. He further stated that if RAIN cannot coexist with the people who live in this development then they have to go back to their Boston Road where their main office is. Mr. Ramsey asked the board to find out if housing can deny a tenant the right to put a wire out the window for his modem. He stated that housing said that he could not do this. He said that CableVision runs wires.

Leslie said that she would set up a meeting of the Housing Committee with Keith and NYCA.

II. Minutes

A Motion was made by Blanche Rifkin, Seconded by Rhoda Gogatz
- That the Minutes be accepted as received.

Unanimously passed.

III. Chairman's Report - Dominic Castore

Dom congratulated Maritza Rodriguez and Stephen Holtz on the birth of their son.

Dom read a letter from Church of Saint Francis Xavier thanking the John and Susan for their help in getting the "No Parking" signs removed on Van Nest Avenue by the Church.

IV. Treasurer's Report - Silvio Mazzella

Silvio stated that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed.

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

John reported on a house trailer on Hering Avenue which was hooked up with electrical wires. He stated that no one knew what agency had jurisdiction. He stated that the 49th Precinct issued parking summonses because it was on the street, even though it was on cinder blocks. John stated that he spoke to Xiomara Chang of

City Planning. He stated that she told him that the 49th had the authority to tow him away. John stated that after Con Edison cut the electric off the owner decided to move the trailer.

John reported that he was still working closely with NYCHA, but that there were still some serious problems in Pelham Parkway Houses. He stated that the manager at Parkside Houses is working very closely with the community board.

John reported that the Boston Road reconstruction project is finished. He stated that they are waiting for the planting of trees which will take place in the spring. John said that there are problems on Twaites Place. He stated that DOT needs to put up more signage, which should be done soon.

Rhoda spoke about the curbs on Pelham Parkway North Service Road to Waring Avenue. She stated that since the tarring the curbs are higher than before.

John stated that he was told that the grade is up to code.

Dexter asked for an update on the Hunt Avenue Rhinelander situation. John stated that the board had submitted this as a budget request. He stated that DOT will build the zebra area up. He stated that they are supposed to put up signs stating that parking is allowed up to the zebra lines. He stated that it has not been done yet as a contract has to be let for this.

VI. Borough President's Report - Linda Loeb

Linda reported that two groups in Community Board #11 received Adult Literacy grant awards. They are P.S. 105 and Congregation Sons of Israel.

As the report was long Linda submitted it to the Secretary.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

Mayor Giuliani is due to release a new series of budget proposals, both for the expense budget and the Capital budget sometime this month. This budget is certain to include cuts to all of the programs that you as community board members have an interest in. The Office of Bronx Borough President Ferrer will be reviewing these cuts and will comment on them as soon as possible. The Charter states that the budget should be released on January 15, 1997. However, this budget often comes out later than the stated date of January 15th.

FERRER: CURRICULUM, NOT CONTROL, IS CORNERSTONE OF EDUCATION

The public debate over the future of our public schools has been focused on control and governance when it should be about

improving education, Borough President Ferrer said at the City Club.

In fact, Ferrer said, improving the quality of teaching and learning for the city's one million plus children attending public school are "conspicuous by their absence in the debate about public education".

"Dominating the conversation about fixing our schools is the issue of control," Ferrer told the gathering at the National Arts Club in Manhattan. "There is a governance problem, but it's not about mayoral control. It's about accountability on all levels. And most importantly, it's about common sense. It's about making the system work for our children."

Ferrer, in a 20 minute speech, outlined five distinct priorities for the reform of New York's Public Schools.

Fix the governance problem by focussing on accountability;

Enhance safety and security so that students, parents, faculty and staff are both reassured and free to focus on education;

Reform pedagogy in ways known to work;

Update our facilities to the challenges of the '90s.

Ferrer embraced Chancellor Rudy Crew's call for a citywide curriculum and academic standards.

"The Chancellor, with the central Board of Education, must remain autonomous and politically insulated," said Ferrer.

In addition, further steps must include:

Maintaining the autonomy of Central Board;

Strengthening the executive power of the Chancellor;

Empowering district superintendents and principals, holding them accountable to the Chancellor for student performance, who is, in turn, accountable to the Board of Education.

"Our schools will not succeed without active support of parents," said Ferrer. "Parents must be actively involved and empowered to participate in decisions at the school level, where their involvement is more meaningful to their children."

It included:

Legislate role in governance of their child's school;

Provide reasonable school choice, administered fairly and openly;

Develop opportunities for meaningful parent volunteer involvement;

Offer on-site before and after school care as needed by working families;

Adopt "community-school" models pioneered by the Children's Aid Society in Washington Heights whereby buildings are open early and late in order that third parties may provide off hours recreational programs, medical, dental and nutritional services, and adult courses designed to improve employability.

Ferrer also called for common sense approach to dealing with special education that would include stopping the classifying of discipline problem students as special ed candidates; stop classifying slow learners as special ed students but give them in class enrichment; and cease confusing the needs of immigrant students with special ed classes; and end the practice of full time placements in most cases; and reallocate resources from excessive testing and evaluation to actual instruction.

Ferrer pointed out that the pupil to counselor ration was 598 in the years 1987-1988 but that figure is up to 980 this year. "All this being said, the absolute cornerstone of effective education remains effective teaching," said Ferrer. "It is curriculum--not control--that is the heart of the matter."

FERRER URGES CLINTON TO HALT FURTHER MEDICAID CUTS

Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer urged President William Clinton to reconsider any additional budget cuts proposed on Medicaid, since it would have a catastrophic impact on the delivery of health care service to the poor and working families throughout the city of New York.

Ferrer reminded the President that the new welfare reform law would result in the loss of Medicaid benefits to certain populations in New York State and would most certainly impose on State and local governments the burden of providing health care to those no longer eligible for federal benefits.

"Several health care providers in The Bronx have calculated that while the Medicaid cuts mandated by the new welfare law might yield short term gains, the long term implications for the public health and public purse are not good. More dollars will be spent on emergency medical services rather than for primary and preventive care," wrote Ferrer.

**FERRER GIVES CO-OP CITY SHOPPING PROJECT YELLOW LIGHT; SAYS CITY
MUST PROCEED WITH TRAFFIC PLAN**

Borough President Fernando Ferrer gave his tentative approval for a new 140,000 square foot Co-op City shopping center on the condition that the developers, Rosenshein Associates, implement measures to ease traffic in the area and prohibit fast food restaurant from the space.

By tacking on these stipulations, Ferrer believes he has created an environment that residents, community leaders, the city, local public officials and developers can all live with.

The Borough President went the extra mile to secure commitments that traffic problems would be addressed. Rosenshein has committed to installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Given and Peachtree Avenue, installation of "No Left Turn" signs at the exit on Co-op City Boulevard, placement of directional signs inside the parking lot and construction improvements.

The Borough President also convinced the city's Economic Development Corp. (EDC) to obligate Prestige Properties, the manager of Bay Plaza, to make traffic related improvements that would enhance the quality of life for the entire Co-op City area, rather than just the Rosenshein project.

"We have given considerable thought to community concerns," Ferrer said. "Residents and community leaders have raised legitimate issues about the project's potential negative impact on their quality of life."

The City Planning Commission (CPC) will hold a public hearing on the matter and vote on the proposal within the next 60 days. Ferrer will set up a monitoring committee to ensure that all commitments are made.

BRONX FAMILY RECEIVES BEST GIFT OF ALL: A HOME OF THEIR OWN

After being denied shelter at the city's Emergency Assistance Unit (EAU) in The Bronx, eight year old Precious Feliciano has received the best give of all--a home of her own.

You remember Precious. The New York Post reported earlier how local cops had serenaded the little girl who suffers from spinal muscular atrophy. That's all behind them now. Today, the family moved into an apartment. Borough President Ferrer agreed, "No one deserves to live like people do in most city shelters, or for that matter, to be turned away to live on the streets.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ADVISORY OPINIONS

Opinion from the Chair of a Community Board asking for clarification as to the circumstances under which members of a community board or their business associates may represent private interest before the community board (Opinion on file)

VII. Committee Reports

A. Alcohol Beverage Control License - Joseph Thompson

1. Side Streets Back Street - 1330 Blondell Avenue for on-premises liquor (NEW) (catering facility)

After much discussion the vote on this was tabled until the next meeting.

B. Land Use - Kenneth Gelnick

1. 179-96 BZ - 1108-1100 Allerton Avenue - Application by the owners of Sal & Dom's Pastry Shop for a variance to permit the enlargement of a nonconforming bakery, and the change in use from a retail bakery with a production area limited to 750 square feet to a bakery with no limit on the size of the production area.

Ken stated that there was a public hearing held on this earlier this evening and there were no objections.

A Motion was made by Kenneth Gelnick, Seconded by Robert Potter - That Community Board #11 approve of this variance for Sal & Dom's.

Those present and voting in favor of the Motion were: Ruth Burko; Dominic Castore; James Cerner; John Cifichiello; Priscilla Crowell; Anthony DelGaudio; Emilian Eisdorfer; Mauro Fanelli; Harain Figueroa; Rabbi Moshe Fuchs; Kenneth Gelnick; Rhoda Gogatz; Dexter Hendon; Gerald Launer; David Leavitt; Annette Marchitello; Silvio Mazzella; Leslie McHenry; Joseph Milone; Hazel Miura; Seymour Ostroga; Dr. Mahendra Patel; Robert Potter; Blanche Comras Rifkin; Maritza Rodriguez; Madeline Saltaformaggio; Mark Shkreli; Joseph Thompson and Lisa Winters.

The Motion passed unanimously with 29 in favor.

2. C900527 MMX - Application by John Treanor and the Department of City Planning for an amendment to the City Map involving the elimination of:

McAlpin Avenue from Eastchester Road to Waters Place; Waters Avenue from Waters Place to Chesbrough Avenue; and Chesbrough Avenue (dead-end street) from its terminus to Waters Avenue, and the adjustment of legal grade necessitated thereby, and any acquisition or disposal of real property related thereto, within Community District 11.

Ken reported that the Committee had some reservations about granting this variance as they were worried about adult entertainment coming in. John Fratta stated that he had spoken to Xiomara Chang of City Planning Commission who is here tonight at the public hearing, and she informed him that this could not take place as they are within 500 feet of a residential area.

A Motion was made by Kenneth Gelnick, Seconded by Madeline Saltaformaggio - That Community Board #11 approve of the elimination of these streets.

Those present and voting in favor of the Motion were: Ruth Burko; Dominic Castore; James Cernera; John Cifichiello; Priscilla Crowell; Anthony DelGaudio; Emilian Eisdorfer; Mauro Fanelli; Harain Figueroa; Rabbi Moshe Fuchs; Kenneth Gelnick; Rhoda Gogatz; Dexter Hendon; Gerald Launer; David Leavitt; Annette Marchitello; Silvio Mazzella; Leslie McHenry; Joseph Milone; Hazel Miura; Seymour Ostroga; Dr. Mahendra Patel; Robert Potter; Blanche Comras Rifkin; Maritza Rodriguez; Madeline Saltaformaggio; Mark Shkreli; Joseph Thompson and Lisa Winters.

The Motion passed with 29 in favor.

3. C960166MMX - Application by the owners of Nick's Auto Service Inc. 1826 Eastchester Road for an amendment to the City Map involving the elimination, discontinuance and closing of Ives Street (a dead-end street) - extending from its terminus to Eastchester Road, and the adjustment of legal grade necessitated thereby, and any acquisition of real property related thereto, within Community District 11.

Ken reported that a public hearing had been held on this variance earlier this evening, and there was no opposition.

A Motion was made by Kenneth Gelnick, Seconded by Mauro Fanelli - That Community Board #11 approve of this variance for Ives Street.

Those present and voting in favor were: Ruth Burko; Dominic Castore; James Cernera; John Cifichiello; Priscilla Crowell; Anthony DelGaudio; Emilian Eisdorfer; Mauro Fanelli; Harain Figueroa; Rabbi Moshe Fuchs; Kenneth Gelnick; Rhoda Gogatz; Dexter Hendon; Gerald Launer; David Leavitt; Annette Marchitello; Silvio Mazzella; Leslie McHenry; Joseph Milone; Hazel Miura; Seymour Ostroga; Dr. Mahendra Patel; Robert Potter; Blanche Comras Rifkin; Maritza Rodriguez; Madeline Saltaformaggio; Mark Shkreli; Joseph Thompson and Lisa Winters.

The Motion passed with 29 in favor.

C. Highways, Traffic and Transportation - Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

Rabbi Fuchs reported that his committee had met on Monday. He stated that Mr. Muhammad Tallis was there from DOT. Rabbi Fuchs stated that he would like to invite Mr. Talas to the February meeting. Rabbi Fuchs stated that he was told that we would need petitions from the residents on Pelham Parkway North from Seymour to Stillwell Avenue in order to get the no parking anytime signs. He stated that he has been requesting this for ten years. Rabbi Fuchs stated that it has become a picnic area in the summer and a parking lot for the workers at Jacobi Hospital.

Rabbi Fuchs stated that Mr. Talas want to be sure that the community wants no parking on Pelham Parkway North Service Road from Seymour Avenue to Eastchester Road, and that they will not come back to him after it is done and complain.

Dom asked the Rabbi who if he was going to take care of the petitions and he stated that Lou Salvati of Chester Civic was going to do it.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about the need for a cut through on Stillwell Avenue on the south side behind Eastchester Road. He stated that this would get rid of the bottleneck that happens in front of the 49th Precinct to the Hutch and New England Thruway. Rabbi Fuchs also said that what might need to be done is to make Stillwell Avenue one-way north.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about the rush hour problems at Williamsbridge Road and Pelham Parkway South. He said that it might be better to make another street go south as Lurting Avenue does.

John said that we could make Tomlinson Avenue one-way going south. He stated that this is a street that we reversed years ago. John said that the other option is to make Haight Avenue one-way. He stated that the Community Board already received a petition for urging us not to do this.

Rabbi Fuchs thanked the committee for a fine turnout.

D. Parks and Playgrounds - John Cifichiello

John reminded everyone not to use salt on the sidewalks when it snows use sand. He stated that it destroys the bushes.

John read a letter from the Office of Management and Budget stated that the request from the Botanical Garden for \$1,616,634 for the construction of a parking lost near the West Gate entrance of the Garden was approved.

E. Sanitation and Environmental Protection - Anthony DelGaudio

Tony read from a letter addressed to Borough President Ferrer concerning the cleaning of several areas in the Bronx. He stated

that the Gun Hill Road-White Plains Road Station plaza is in our area.

Tony reported that the cleanliness of streets had gone from 67.7% in December of 1995 to 92.2% in December of 1996.

John stated that this is due to the reinstatement of the 18" law.

F. Health & Social Services - Blanche Rifkin

Blanche reported that on February 12 6-9 P.M. there will be an annual budget meeting to held in the auditorium of Jacobi Medical Center. She also reported that the Kings Harbor meeting scheduled for January 16th has been rescheduled for February 19th at the Pelham Bay Diner from 6-8.

Blanche reported that there will be a Town Hall meeting on January 23rd at 8:00 P.M. at I.S. 135, at 2441 Wallace Avenue. She stated that Mayor Giuliani will be there.

Blanche announced that Montefiore Hospital has been honored with the National Award for Improving the Quality of Life in the Bronx.

Blanche reported that Jacobi Hospital has been faced with problems of theft of computers and equipment. Several staff members were arrested.

Blanche reported that the policeman whose leg was amputated is doing well. He is being transferred to Burke for rehabilitation.

Blanche reported that Bronx Psychiatric Hospital had some security problems which they are addressing.

G. Housing - Leslie McHenry

Leslie reported that she had attended a meeting at Parkside Houses last evening. She stated that Mrs. Bellaby who lives at 2955 White Plains Road had told her "that John Fratta is the best DM you every had. There was a situation going on in that building where there was prostitution going on and he took care of it".

Leslie reported that Mrs. Judy Passaro of Pelham Parkway Houses had submitted a sample of the water from her apartment. She also read a letter from Mrs. Passaro relating the help that John had given her in connection with the problem of mold in her apartment which had been going on for 8 years without housing authority doing anything about it.

Leslie reported that the superintendent at Pelham Parkway Houses has been transferred. The new superintendent as of

yesterday is Dennis Desmond.

H. Education and Culture - Ruth Burko

Ruth announced that there will be a free concert series presentation by Colin Jacobsen, Leo Suzuki and Edward Arron at the Allerton Library on February 1st at 1:30. She also announced that free classes in English were being offered at the Van Nest Library.

Ruth announced that School District 11 has a total population of 26,847 students (24,898 in General Education, 1,596 in Part Time Special Education and 1,949 in Full Time Special Education) had a total budget for FY'95-96 which amounts to \$7,678 per student.

Robert Potter reported that he had attended the School Board meeting on December 3rd. He stated that they voted to raise the salary of the Secretary and change the title to Executive Secretary to Community Boards with a salary of \$31,091.

J. Public Safety

As Joe Reda was not present, Dom stated that the crime stats for December would be included in the Minutes.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Robbery	45	49	- 8.16
Burglary	61	80	- 23.75
G.L.A.	118	120	- 7.81
Murder	0	5	- 100.00
Rape	2	2	-----

	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>		
Robbery	490	570	- 14.04
Burglary	754	1,052	- 28.33
G.L.A.	1,236	1,480	- 16.49
Murder	9	11	- 18.18
Rape	28	30	- 6.67

	<u>ARRESTS</u>		
Robbery	17	7	+ 58.90
Burglary	3	6	- 50.00
G.L.A.	2	6	- 66.67
Murder	0	2	- 100.00
Rape	1	1	-----
TOTAL FELONIES	327	362	- 9.70
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	926	949	- 2.40


K. Removal of Board members

The board went into Executive Session at 9:04 P.M. and returned to business at 9:10 P.M.

A Motion was made by Rhoda Gogatz, Seconded by Leslie McHenry
- That Community Board notify Lorraine Cortez-Vasquez, Frank Muccioli and Mordechai Twersky that they were being removed from the board for excessive absences, with copies to Borough President Fernando Ferrer and the elected officials.

Unanimously passed.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, 
Ruth Burko

Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING JANUARY 16, 1997

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	(0) (2)	Annette Marchitello	(4) (0)
Dominic Castore	(2) (0)	Silvio Mazzella	(0) (0)
James Cernera	(2) (0)	Leslie McHenry	(0) (3)
John Cifichiello	(2) (4)	Joseph Milone	(1) (2)
Priscilla Crowell	(3) (8)	Hazel Miura	(1) (4)
Anthony DelGaudio	(3) (5)	Seymour Ostroga	(0) (0)
Emilian Eisdorfer	(5) (5)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(0) (1)
Mauro Fanelli	(6) (2)	Robert Potter	(1) (2)
Harain Figueroa	(1) (5)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(5) (4)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(1) (3)	Maritza Rodriguez	(6) (0)
Kenneth Gelnick	(0) (5)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(0) (3)
Rhoda Gogatz	(4) (2)	Mark Shkreli	(2) (3)
Dexter Hendon	(4) (5)	Joseph Thompson	(0) (1)
Gerald Launer	(3) (7)	Lisa Winters	(4) (4)
David Leavitt	(1) (3)		

ABSENT

Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez	(8) (8)	William Ricevuto Jr.	(6) (7)
Patrick Dolan	(3) (5)	Mordechai Twersky	(8) (9)
Frank Muccioli	(8) (13)	Elaine Weisbrot	(2) (6)
Pat Quaranta	(4) (7)	Linda White	(5) (1)
Joseph Reda	(5) (4)		

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Korman - Representing Councilman Michael DeMarco
Stephen Holtz - Representing Councilwoman Lucy Cruz

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Libbie Locascio - Representing Senator Guy Velella

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A. Fratta, District Manager
Harriet Lasky, Secretary
Linda Loeb, Borough President Fernando Ferrer's Office
P.O. Nick Stanich - 49th Precinct Community Affairs

GUESTS

Horace H. Harrison - Allerton Branch Library

*Numbers in parenthesis denotes absences from September 1996 including public hearings.
Number in **BOLD** denotes absences from August 1995 through June 1996 including public hearings.