



COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
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Dominic Castore
Chairman

Fernando Ferrer
Borough President

John A. Fratta
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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1999 IN
THE PATIENT ACTIVITY CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM 1 OF CALVARY
HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Rev. Leslie McHenry, First Vice Chair.

I. Gallery Session

a. Robert Nolan

Mr. Nolan stated that he was not here in his capacity as a Representative of the Borough President, but rather on a personal matter. He thanked the Board for approving the addition of the name Judge Benjamin F. Nolan Way on Williamsbridge Road from Pelham Parkway South to Williamsbridge Road at the June meeting. Mr. Nolan stated that his father was known and respected for his love of country, family, community and church. He stated that it has been 3 years since his dad passed away.

Mr. Nolan reported that on Tuesday, he and his brother James, as well as Parks Committee Chair Councilman Foster and John Fratta were at the City Council hearings where the request for this additional sign was unanimously accepted. Mr. Nolan reported that it is now in the hands of the Mayor. He stated that on or before March 17th the Mayor should sign it in the Blue Room.

b. Abe Habenstreit – Einstein College of Medicine

Mr. Habenstreit stated that he was the Director of Public Affairs. He stated that last month the Board had approved the BSA application with concerns about parking. Mr. Habenstreit reported that the College and the Hospital were looking into the parking problems. He stated that Einstein is committed to alleviating the parking problems. Mr. Habenstreit stated that next week they will be meeting with the Morris Park Association and will report back to the Board.

c. Peter Semczwk – Montefiore – Einstein Hospital

Mr. Semczwk reported that Einstein has decided to close the Tenbroeck Avenue entrance beginning April 1st for the weekends. He stated that traffic will be rerouted to the front of the hospital. Mr. Semczwk stated that the cost of parking is \$6.00. He said that someone parking to visit a patient will not have to pay again if they go out. The fee will be for all day parking.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke. He stated that he has been the Chairman of the Highways Committee for 10 years. Rabbi Fuchs stated that Albert Einstein has too many parking spots for Doctors Only. He stated that we are doing a study to remove spots. Rabbi Fuchs asked Mr. Semczwk what the hospital is doing to create more parking spots, and to make sure that staff uses them.

Mr. Habenstreit said that he is glad the Committee is looking into lots. He stated that we are looking into more parking for employees. He stated that anyone finding a car parked in their driveway should call the precinct.

Mr. Semczwk spoke about the valet service that the hospital offers. He stated that they park 150 cars there.

Rabbi Fuchs asked about a by-weekly plan for employees.

Joe Reda stated that Einstein owns the lot on Sackett Avenue and Eastchester Road. He asked why the Tenbroeck Avenue entrance could not be closed during the week at 6 P.M.

Mr. Semczwk stated that he would look into if that is what is in the agreement.

Mr. Habenstreit spoke about the construction at the lot. He stated that once the construction is complete the lot will be able to be fully used.

Joe Milone spoke about Westchester Square Hospital. He stated that the lot there has lifts which double the amount of cars that can be parked.

Mr. Semczwk said that he would look into it. He also stated that the lot is 95% full from 1-3 P.M.

d. Solomon Adelaja – Chairman Community Affairs United African Congress U.S.A.

Mr. Adelaja stated that he was here to address the Board since the death of

Amadou Diallo. He stated that he was seeking justice Mr. Adelaja stated that he would like to meet with Captain Stewart and John Fratta. Mr. Adelaja stated that he was going from Board to Board. He stated that if we come and meet with officers of the 49th Precinct so that the police can understand the culture of those newly arrived from Africa. He also stated that no Africans are making policy decisions.

Mr. Adelaja thanked Rabbi Fuchs and the District Manager for their help in getting a pothole taken care. He also stated that he would like to come to meetings.

John Fratta stated that he would get in touch with Mr. Adelaja next week.

e. Thomas Schechter

Mr. Schechter spoke about the double parking at P.S. 97 at Mace and Seymour Avenues. He also spoke about kids being assaulted in the school. Mr. Schechter stated that he had made a report to the police, but he never received a copy of the report.

John told Mr. Schechter to call him in the office on Friday.

f. Mabel Ostroga

Mrs. Ostroga spoke about medical alert bracelets and how they can help you. She stated that she had booklets for anyone interested in obtaining one.

f. John Cummings – 1743 Seminole Avenue

Mr. Cummings stated that he was here representing the residents of Seminole Avenue. He stated that he had submitted a petition from the residents of Seminole Avenue requesting speed reducers and Stop signs. Mr. Cummings asked where they were on the list. He also stated that we were assured that the Methadone Clinic was moving out of Van Etten, but they are still there.

Mr. Cummings spoke about the Health Care Waste Company, which removes medical waste from the hospital. He stated that they use the bus stop to park the empty trailers. Mr. Cummings stated that they load the full containers on Morris Park and Seminole Avenues in the bus stop and people have to get on the bus in the middle of the street.

John spoke about the speed reducers. He stated that they are doing the schools first. He stated that Traffic wasn't sure how they were affected by snow. John stated that he is waiting for a response on the Stop sign.

John reported that the Methadone Clinic is moving to Bronx State. He stated

that he had a meeting with them next week and that the move should take place soon

John said that he would look into the waste disposal issue.

g. Barbara Falgiano

Mrs. Falgiano spoke about the Isabella Carting Company. She stated that there is a smell from the garbage in her house due to the trucks. Mrs. Falgiano stated that she had seen two rats last night.

John stated that the Board had approved the renewal of the BSA application last month as no one spoke against it. John said that there were no speakers against this, and that the Board never received any notice of problems. He stated that he had learned that the residents had been complaining to the City and the Morris Park Association. John stated that we track complaints in the office. He stated that we are following up on this. John reported that he was there at 5:30 A.M. on Tuesday. He stated that there were no smells. John stated that he was also there today, and there were no smells. John stated that he notified the Health, Sanitation, Sanitation Enforcement and DEP to do inspections. John reported that the Board cannot rescind the approval unless we have something concrete from an agency. He stated that we know that we have rats on Sackett Avenue coming from Amtrak.

John reported that he would be at the public hearing on March 21st, and if we have backup we can do something. John also reported that Isabella Carting is willing to meet with the residents and the Board at a meeting at the Morris Park Avenue.

John explained that the Board is only advisory. He stated that in 9 out of 10 times we are overruled unless we have concrete facts.

Rev. McHenry stated that she was there today, and there was no smell as of 2:00 P.M. She stated that we want to work with the homeowners, Morris Park Association and Isabella Carting. Rev. McHenry stated that she had look around the site and there were no rat droppings.

Mr. Isabella spoke. He stated that 2 trucks come out at 9:00 P.M. and return at 8:00 A.M. Mr. Isabella invited anyone to come and look at the garage. He stated that he dumps every truck every day and every truck is cleaned before they return to the garage.

John reported that if we have something concrete by the March 21st public hearing we will ask BSA to revoke the permit. John stated that we need to set up a meeting. He also stated that one garbage truck has cardboard in it and the other truck

has regular garbage.

h. Irwin Weinberg

Mr. Weinberg spoke about the fact the Forestry cut branches on Astor and Young Avenues and let them there. He stated that he was told that the mechanical sweepers are not in use on these streets because the Board asked for it not to be there. He stated that he wrote a letter and was told that it was because there is no alternate side parking on these streets.

John explained that only ASP streets or streets where there are meters and therefore there is no parking between 8-9 A.M. get swept. He stated that homeowners and businesses must sweep 18 inches into the street. John stated that our streets are 92% clean and this is due to the 18-inch law.

i. Nancy Fallo

Mrs. Fallo reported that fumes come into their homes. She stated that the problem is with the drivers. They park their trucks on the side of the houses and leave their motors running. She stated that Mr. Isabella has asked them not to park where there are houses. She stated that some will park where there are no houses and others do not.

John said that he would be there when the trucks leave and come back. He stated that he would set up a meeting and see if we can resolve these problems.

Al Locascio reported that there is a law in effect that you cannot run your motor for more than three minutes while standing still.

White Plains Road Business Management . Go on record as being against the muni meters.

III. Minutes

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

Unanimously accepted.

IV. Chairman's Report - Rev. Leslie McHenry

John reported that Joe Reda had become the grandfather of triplets, 2

boys and a girl. He also reported that Det. Valdespino and his wife are the proud parents of a baby girl.

John reported that Joe Orlando, the CEO of Jacobi Hospital had a heart attack yesterday. He is in Einstein Hospital.

Rev. McHenry reported that the Nominations Committee will consist of Joseph Thompson, Chairman, Dorrie Castro, Madeline Saltaformaggio and Dr. Patel.

Rev. McHenry reported that Madeline's sister had passed away.

Rev. McHenry reminded the Chairs and Co-Chairs that it is important that they attend the Executive Committee to set the Agenda for the Board meeting and the Committee meeting. She stated that they also have to make arrangements to pick up they key. Rev. McHenry commended the people who come to meetings. She stated that some Committees meet the same day because some of their members are on both committees, such as Education and Health, Highways and Public Safety.

V. District Manager's Report - John A Fratta

John stated that he has made a decision to make the Board office more mobile. He stated that people don't know that the Board exists so they are calling city agencies instead. John stated that he would pick an area of the community and get a room and be there between the hours of 1-4 once a week to accept complaints from the community. John stated that we will advertise this in the newspapers.

A. Street Activity Permits

1. Application by Barbara McBride to close Britton Street between Barker and Allerton Avenues on July 17th from 12-9 AM for Senior Citizens event of 2 blocks (NEW)

John suggested that a vote on this application be tabled until we can meet with the applicant and the police.

2. Application by Dominic Lasorsa on behalf of the 2400 Block of Kingsland Avenue to close Kingsland Avenue between Waring and Mace Avenues on August 14, 1999 from 11:30 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. for a Block Party.

John reported that there have been no problems with this permit. There was a little controversy last year, but we worked it out.

A Motion was made by Rhoda Gogatz, Seconded by Vincent Prezioso – That Community Board #11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we approve of this street closing.

Passed.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed. Anyone having questions can call the Board office.

VII. Borough President's Report – Linda Loeb

Linda read part of the report from the Borough President as follows:

Borough President Fernando Ferrer has asked me to share the following information with you:

As everyone is aware, the shooting of Bronx resident Amadou Diallo by four plainclothes police officers has been front-page news and the first topic of conversation since it happened on February 4th. I wanted to make each Chairperson aware of statements made by the Borough President made in media interviews and other conversations.

While there are many questions that still need answers, one thing is certain – regardless of the situation, 41 bullets is an excessive number. Immediately following the shooting, the Borough President met with Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson. The Borough President welcomed the D.A.'s call for an immediate criminal investigation and awaits the conclusions of the Grand Jury hearing. In addition, the Borough President also met with representatives of the Police Department, local business leaders and on Wednesday met with nearly 100 members of the local Clergy in order to get feedback and input on ways to ensure that such senseless tragedies do not happen in the future.

In the wake of this tragedy, the city must move forward to correct the failures in training and supervision, and the failure to adopt certain policies for the police department. Three reports on Police/Community Relations were issued following the Louima incident in 1997. They contained recommendations for concrete reforms to the New York Police Department. The city should immediately implement many of these reforms, some of which the Borough President would like to highlight.

In order to strengthen the training our student officers receive, an independent commission should be established to perform a top-to-bottom review of the NYPD

Training Academy. The Training Academy must expose student officers to the "diverse and changing nature of the City's communities," and challenge them to become aware of feeling and biases that influence their behavior. The field-training component of the Academy should be expanded from three months to six, and, at the borough and precinct orientation, cultural diversity training should be enhanced.

Police officers must understand and respect the community they serve, The first step towards that understanding is a comprehensive employment policy designed to create a police force that reflects the racial diversity of the city. Also, the NYPD should implement a strategy to continuously measure police-community relations and hold precinct and unity commanders accountable.

The Civilian Complaint Review Board must be strengthened and returned to its independent investigation status. In addition, as the police department grows, the budget of the CCRB must also increase so that the Board can adequately carry out its responsibilities.

On Friday, February 19th, Borough President Ferrer addressed the New York Police Department recruits at Fordham University. These are some of the major points:

The community you are serving, as well as the entire city, is in pain over the horrible and tragic death of fellow Bronx resident Amadou Diallo.

Today, I wait as does the entire city for answers to what happened that day when 4 plain clothes officers fired 41 bullets at Mr. Diallo. Being a Police Officer is a tough job and it is not for everyone. The job will be even tougher following the incidents of the past couple of years –from Louima to Diallo. When you take that badge and gun, you take on an awesome responsibility.

The overwhelming number of people support the police. They want their streets to be safe, they want guns out of the hands of criminals.

People want the police officers serving them to be an important part of their community. That can only come with mutual respect and understanding.

The residents of the Bronx know that the overwhelming number of police officers are decent, hardworking public servants. And Police Officers serving the community need to know that the overwhelming number of Bronx residents are hardworking, law abiding families.

The Bronx, like many other areas of New York City, is a borough where a majority of its citizens are people of color and for whom many of them English is not the language that is spoken at home.

A critical part of a Police Officer's job is to learn and understand and love the people that they are there to serve and protect. If a Police Officer can give a community that kind of respect, the community will, in turn, give the Police office the same kind of respect.

Linda submitted the rest of the report to Harriet.

1. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT FERANDO FERRER TODAY ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY REGARDING NYPD'S ANNOUNCED EFFORT TO RECRUIT CITY RESIDENTS
2. BOROUGH PRESIDENT FERNANDO FERRER TODAY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO THE SHOOTING OF AMADOU DIALLO

Linda reported that the administration has released the preliminary budget for FY'2000. She stated that Borough President Ferrer is concerned about the cuts in Culture, Youth and library services. She stated that he has become vocal in trying to see that these reductions do not become part of the final budget.

Linda reported that the Census count is coming up. She stated that it is imported that everyone be counted.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Alcohol Beverage Control Licenses

- a. Pasta Pasta – 2023 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Gerald Launer – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the State Liquor Authority stating that we have no objections to the renewal of this license.

Passed

- b. Bravo Restaurant – 2233 Boston Road for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

Joe reported that in 1997 their license was up for renewal, but they never came to us. He stated that they have the same license which means they are operating Without a license. He stated that people take liquor out of the establishment. Joe

asked that this be tabled until we can get more information.

Rhoda suggested that a letter be sent to the State Liquor Authority about this.

B. Health and Social Services - Hazel Miura

Hazel reported that on March 18th there will be a groundbreaking for the Institute for Special Education. She also reported that the Community Service Society is offering free training to people to go to different organizations and help people with entitlements.

Hazel reported that the Department of Immigration will no longer accept personal checks.

Hazel reported that Aging in America has opened an Adult Day Care on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

C. Housing – Leslie McHenry

Leslie reported that the Housing Committee will meet on Monday. She stated that will discuss the number of section 8 tenants moving into private homes. She stated that this is creating problems.

Leslie reported that she is looking into having a Housing Fair again with people from different agencies such as the Exemption and Star program. She stated that the deadline is March 15th.

D. Education and Culture – Ruth Burko

Ruth reported that her report had been distributed. She stated that the Committee had met last night. Ruth reported that the problem at I.S. 135 had been solved with the thermostat and fuel.

Ruth reported on a problem of gangs at Columbus High School. She stated that Marilyne Jamieson and Robert Potter will do an onsite inspection with John and then meet with Columbus personnel.

Ruth reported that the Borough President has requested Safe School Routes. She stated that only 105 has submitted one.

John reported that we are trying to get the Office of School Safety to come to an Education meeting. Anyone wishing to attend should. John stated that the schools are not as organized as before. He also stated that St. Catherine's should be included in

the Safe School Routes.

Rhoda stated that there were no police visible during the day.

John stated that Columbus is the only school to have a police officer there all day. He stated that the scooter car is there at dismissal time. He stated that kids are taking their fights a block or two from the school.

E. Parks and Recreation – John Cifichiello

John reported that he had received a request from the Morris Park Athletic Club for better, taller lights by the hockey field and a storage bin for supplies and equipment.

John reported that State Parks are doing well citywide due to Commissioner Stern. He spoke about the proposal by the Mayor to sell off community gardens. He stated that 600 are to be sold through auction. John stated that Borough President Ferrer is against this.

John reported that Mazzai Park has been granted 1/2 million dollars for repairs.

A Motion was made by John Cifichiello, Seconded by Pat Dolan – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the Mayor stating that we want to go on record as being against the auction of these community gardens.

Passed.

F. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that a proposal came to the Committee from the Department of Traffic to install meters around Jacobi and Einstein Hospital. He stated that he and John Fratta went for a walk with Bill Paterson of DOT. Vinny stated that the Board is against this. Vinny stated that the Board will hold a public hearing on this proposal at the March meeting.

John reported that on the tour we stated that we were not against the installation of meters where there are no private homes, such as around businesses and medical centers.

Leslie recommended that the Board members attend the Highways meeting so they can get information and be prepared for the Board meeting.

Annette Marchitello spoke about meters that suddenly appeared in front of multiple dwellings.

Hazel reported that the speed reducers at P.S. 89 and P.S. 96 are not working.

John reported that for some reason Connie Reilly our representative from Traffic was sent to Queens. He stated that she has not been replaced. John stated that Commissioner Kilkenny is looking into the speed reducers. He stated that they are supposed to look at the slope and see if they can be repaired.

Hazel asked about the light at Waring Avenue and Boston Road it is only 1-1/2 minutes long. John stated that this was already sent in.

F. Public Safety – Joseph Reda

Stats for January, 1999

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Robbery	32	49	Down 34.69
Burglary	39	48	Down 18.75
Grand Larceny Auto	88	70	Up 25.71
Murder	0	1	Down 100.00
Rape	3	5	Down 40.00

	<u>Year-To-Date</u>		
Robbery	32	49	Down 34.69
Burglary	39	48	Down 18.75
Grand Larceny Auto	88	70	Up 25.71
Murder	0	1	Down 100.00
Rape	3	5	Down 40.00

	<u>Arrests</u>		
Robbery	10	25	Down 60.00
Burglary	4	7	Down 42.86
Grand Larceny Auto	4	9	Down 55.56
Murder	1	2	Down 50.00
Rape	1	1	-----

Total Felonies	234	311	Down 24.76
Total Complaints	791	954	Down 17.09

Joe reported that the Precinct lost 10 seasoned officers. He stated that we will be getting 11 rookies that need to be trained. Joe said that these seasoned officers are going to the GLA team.

John reported that every year we yell about more officers at the Precinct. He

stated that the total number of officers are lower than when we first asked for more police. John said that we 110 officers in the Precinct.

Joe stated that the 49th Precinct is listed as a holding police on its books. He stated that 11 are on narcotics detail.

A Motion was made by Joseph Reda, Seconded by Rhoda Gogatz and Linda White – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the Mayor and the Police Commissioner asking that they address the issue of more police for the Precinct.

Rhoda asked that a copy of the letter be sent to the newspapers and Speaker Peter Vallone.

Robert Potter said that this week the City Council suddenly realized that many precincts were being short changed. He asked that a copy of this letter be sent to Councilman Peter Vallone.

Linda stated that at 7:00 A.M. Peter Vallone said that Queens precincts were the Worst hit.

Passed.

H. Community Development and Budget Priorities – Silvio Mazzella

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Joseph Carozza – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the Mayor expressing our opposition to the proposed budget cuts in libraries and youth programs.

Unanimously passed.

I. Youth - Linda White

Linda reported that she had good news and bad news. The good news is that There will be census jobs available. Call 888-325-7783 for more information. You must take a test to see if your are qualified. She stated that the tests are given every two hours. You must bring your social security card and birth certificate. She stated that a driver's license is okay. Linda stated that the salary is \$26 per hour for supervisors. You will be notified within 3-5 week after testing if your are accepted.

Linda spoke about the Community Food Resource. She stated that they provide meals for children. She stated that groups can feed youth up to the age of 18.

Linda reported on Mr. Holland's Opus. She stated that she had contracted the

program which is for underprivileged. Linda stated that they will be sending her the paper work.

Linda reported that the Bad News was that the proposed budget cuts to Youth Services is 19.7%. She stated that \$600,000,000 more or less will be from non-Programs, and 5.6 million for Councilmanic and Borough President funds.

Linda Loeb reported that the cuts would be to the Beacons and not to the Programs themselves.

Linda White reported that P.S. 89 and P.S. 83 had asked for Beacons. She stated that the people get the paperwork but not the money. Linda stated that where can the kids go.

Linda reported that she had spoken at the Youth meeting that there is a program at NIDC. She stated that the kids talk about their fears and the cops talk to the. Linda reported that Aging in America still has a program. She stated that it runs twice a week. The next meeting will be held on March 22nd at 7:30 P.M.

John reported that the Board was informed that starting in April a new Pathmark will be constructed. He stated that it will be 56,000 square feet. John said that it is as of right as it will be on the old Castle Oil property. John stated that they do not need our approval, but that Forrest Ratner wants to meet with the Executive Committee. He stated that we are concerned about traffic, and economic development.

A Motion was made by Joseph Reda, Seconded by Bob Potter – That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT FEBRUARY 25, 1999 MEETING

PRESENT

Ruth Burko
John Cifichiello
Priscilla Crowell
Patrick Dolan
Harain Figueroa
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs
James Gisondi
Rhoda Gogatz
Marilyne Jamieson
Gerald Launer
Annette Marchitello
Rev. Leslie McHenry

Joseph Milone
Hazel Miura
Seymour Ostroga
Dr. Mahendra Patel
Robert Potter
Vincent Prezioso
Pat Quaranta
Joseph Reda
Joseph Thompson
Elaine Weisbrot
Linda White

ABSENT

Kwasi Afrifa
Randal Allen
Joseph Carozza
Dorinda Castro
James Cenera
Anthony DelGaudio

Emilian Eisdorfer
Kenneth Gelnick
Dexter Hendon
David Leavitt
Madeline Saltaformaggio

EXCUSED

Dominic Castore
Dominick DeProspo

Silvio Mazzella
Blanche Comras Rifkin

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Marilyn Klein – Representing Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Thomas Massina – Representing Congressman Joseph Crowley
Donald Ranshte – Representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein
Libbi Locascio – Representing Senator Guy Velella

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager
Harriet Lasky, Secretary
Susan Nolan, Community Coordinator
Linda Loeb, Borough President Fernando Ferrer's Office

GUESTS

Horace H. Harrison – Allerton Branch Library
Mary Elizabeth Wendt – New York Public Library Bronx Borough Office
Douglas Berger – White Plains Road/Pelham Parkway B.I.D.