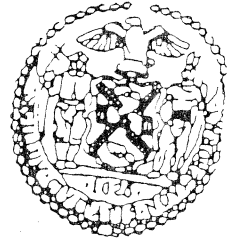


**COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
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COMMUNITY BOARD WEBSITE**

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**Dominic Castore
Chairman**

**Adolfo Carrion, Jr.
Borough President**

**John A. Fratta
District Manager**

COMMITTEES

- Community Development & Budget priorities
- Economic Development
- Education & Culture
- Health & Social Services
- Highways, Traffic & Transportation
- Housing
- Information & Technology
- Land Use
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Public Safety
- Sanitation & Environmental Protection
- Youth

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006 IN
NURSES RESIDENCE CONFERENCE ROOM 2 OF
BRONX MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Dom Castore, Chairman.

Dom introduced Chris Fugazzi, the Executive Director of Emergency Medicine and Trauma Surgical Services at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center.

Mr. Fugazzi stated that he was here tonight because Hanna Nelson could not attend. He stated that he has been involved with the new construction at BMHC since its planning with Joe Orlando.

Mr. Fugazzi reported that the first patients began using the new building on December 6, 2005 and that the operating room opened on October 24, 2006.

He gave a brief description of how the 344 hospital beds are used: 256 medical surgical beds; 88 behavioral health beds, 12 coronary care unit beds; 12 surgical ICU beds; 8 burn unit bed; 8 pediatric ICU beds and 24 rehabilitation beds. Mr. Fugazzi stated that obstetric services and neonatal ICU were left in the old building as these areas have been renovated in the last 5 years.

Mr. Fugazzi spoke about in increase in emergency room beds; the 3 massive trauma beds as well as the IT cable work that has been done.

Mr. Fugazzi reported that if physicians want to practice at BMHC which was previously a closed medical group they can sign an agreement and you can be admitted here.

Mr. Fugazzi stated that they are not finished with construction. Funding for another 30 beds has been received. He also reported medical surgery was left on 5 South, but this will be moved in the next 6 months.

Al D'Angelo asked about the impact of the closing of Westchester Square Hospital would have on BMHC.

Mr. Fugazzi stated that the patients who presently use Westchester Square would be using the Weiler Emergency Room. Those coming by ambulance would come to Jacobi, while others would go to Sound Shore. He stated that they are prepared to handle this.

CeCe Haas asked if BMHC is looking to hire the people who would lose the jobs at Westchester Square.

Mr. Fugazzi stated that BMHC is always looking for RNs and clinical staff. He stated that the salaries offered are competitive with the voluntary hospitals.

II. Gallery Session

a. Renee Kottler – District Librarian of the NY Public Library

Ms. Kottler introduced Sandy Henry the branch librarian of the Morris Park Library.

Ms. Henry reported that people are very happy to see the library open. She spoke about a program at the library on the history of Morris Park on Saturday as well as several programs for children. Ms. Henry distributed flyers and told open computer classes in January.

John reported that people are waiting in line before the library opens. He stated that it is well used by the community.

Al spoke about children in the library between 3-4 PM causing problems. He also stated that the computers do not have blocks on them and children can go into any sites they want to. He stated that there is no security guard.

John reported that he had a meeting with Captain Collins and the Community Affairs officer Craig Ravitch along with Ben Soccodato, Principal of P.S. 83. He stated that Mr. Soccodato has been visiting the library, and when a child acts up the name is given to him and he calls the parents. John reported that the guard was only there while the library was waiting for the sprinkler system to be installed. He stated that we feel that there is a need for a guard in every library. John stated that there is a block on the children's computers. He stated that the library cannot prevent adults from accessing any site. They are waiting for privacy screens which prevent anyone from seeing what an adult is viewing.

b. Michelle Calderon

Ms. Calderon spoke about the poor lighting on Burke and Arnow Avenues along White Plains Road. She also spoke 3000 White Plains. She stated that the area needs to be cleaning. Ms. Calderon also asked about the board's boundaries.

John stated that this is Community Board 12. He stated that he would notify them to have it cleaned. He also told Ms. Calderon that she could go on the website at <http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov> and click on community boards to see the boundaries.

c. Helen Brandt

Ms. Brandt reported that the city is gradually closing its public housing projects. She stated that they will be privatized.

Ms. Brandt spoke about the city spending 13 billion dollars on school renovations and new buildings. She stated that half is city money and half is state money. She stated that she hoped we got our fair share in the Bronx and this district.

Ms. Brandt spoke about the garbage she sees on Lydig Avenue and White Plains Road on Sundays. She spoke about the white plastic bags that are placed next to the waste baskets on every block. Ms. Brandt also spoke about the superintendent at 2121 Matthews Avenue who puts the trash out on Sundays at 12 Noon.

John spoke about Westchester Square Hospital. He stated that no hospital has been closed. It is only a recommendation by the state.

Ms. Brandt stated that Governor Pataki is ready to sign the bill in January and it would be closed a year later.

John stated that no NYCHA development has been privatized. He stated that Community Board 11 will be getting one new school built in our area besides the one on Bronxdale Avenue. John stated that the money will also be used to upgrade our existing schools. He stated that our Education Committee and our elected officials will not allow the Bronx to be short changed.

John spoke about Lydig Avenue. He stated that it is disgusting. John stated that there have been a number of sweeps done with Sanitation, Consumer Affairs and the Health Departments. He said that a number of summonses were given out at that time.

John reported that we are going for a zero visibility on White Plains Road. He stated that no selling will be allowed outside the stores. John also spoke about the white bags. He stated that they are picked up by litter basket.

John reported that in multiple dwellings enforcement is going to start going through garbage bags and if there is mixed garbage the owner will get a violation for not recycling properly.

Pat Dolan spoke about Westchester Square closing and asked that the Board take a position on this tonight.

b. Keith Ramsey introduced Monica Alexander the new Director for Eastchester Gardens Center.

Ms. Alexander read a poem The Goose and explained how this related to people. She stated that they have partnerships with Inwood House which has a teen program operating out of the Center. Runs from 2-7 PM and an after school program that runs from 3--6 PM We are also partnered with City Harvest. Ms. Alexander reported that Pastor Gooding has an intergeneration basketball tournament at the center. R.A.I.N has a senior center here. Ms. Alexander stated that she had the Certificate of Occupancy changed to allow for 160 children, and the hours have been expanded to 7 PM.

Ms. Alexander reported that the DA's office visited and they were very impressed with our infrastructure and programs offered to teens and for after school.

Ms. Alexander stated that the programs available are: homework assistance, math, reading, tutoring dance, karate, game room and computers as well as music. She invited everyone to visit the center.

John stated that he was very happy to hear that the center is being used. He asked Ms. Alexander if there were any programs run during the day. Ms. Alexander

stated that there were no programs during the day, though she was trying to run a Tai Chi program for the seniors during the day.

John spoke about the need for the students at Sports Profession High School to practice He asked if they could use the gym. Ms. Alexander said that it was possible.

c. Monica Berry – Parkside Houses

Ms. Berry reported that Parkside Houses is presently under the 49th Precinct. She stated previously it was under PSA8. Ms. Berry stated that under Captain Smith everything went smooth. We now have a new Captain and we are not receiving the same services. There are 4 developments in our district: Parkside Houses, Pelham Parkway Houses, Eastchester Houses and 2440 Boston Road.

Ms. Berry spoke about NYCHA providing millions of dollars that goes to the NYC police department in order to provide services to these developments. She stated that police officers are provided to do perimeter checks, verticals, walk the grounds and come into the management offices when they are needed.

Ms. Berry reported that she has a meeting with the Captain on Friday to resolve these issues.

John reported that the Captain is revamping coverage. He told Ms. Berry that after Friday's meeting if she is still not happy to call him.

Monica reported that 4 police officers were assigned to the housing authority, but now they have been assigned. She also spoke about Parkside Playground and said that there is no lighting at the park. Previously the lighting came from a warehouse, but when the building was refurbished the lights were removed and so it is very dark. Monica stated that she would be sending a letter to the Parks Department and reaching out to the elected officials for help.

Monica spoke about the illegal dumping on Bronx Park East by contractors. John stated that he knew about it.

Monica spoke about the children's community center on Bronx Park East. She stated that they police presence during the time the children are released at 6 PM and when the after school program ends at 9:30 PM. The school program children are 6-12 and the after school children are 13-18.

John stated that after he spoke with her he called the Park Commissioner to schedule an onsite meeting. He stated that he would let her know when the meeting is scheduled.

Joe Carfora stated that he had spoken to Parks about the lights and they felt that this attract unwanted activity.

John asked if the park was closed at night and Monica said that it was not. She spoke about the fact that there were no gates on the park.

d. Greg Kisloff – Pelham Parkway South Neighborhood Association

Greg stated that the Association is working hard on graffiti removal with support from Councilman Vacca, the 49th Precinct and the Board. He spoke about the litter on Lydig Avenue and stated that they may need additional garbage cans and/or additional pick ups. He asked for a meeting with the Sanitation Supervisor. He also spoke about Pelham Parkway South Service Road where there are overgrown weeds and a ponding problem. The ponding condition is on Muliner Avenue, intersection of Brady Avenue.

He stated that when it rains water collects on both sides. Greg asked to meet with DOT and DEP. He spoke about grease or stains on the sidewalks. He stated that he would like to have them power washed.

John said that the City does not power wash streets.

John reported that yesterday he attended a meeting with the Deputy Borough President about interagency responsibilities along with Sanitation, Parks and DOT

John reported that the Board would be getting a presentation on the Pelham Parkway project. He stated that it is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008. John said that it will be a massive project and take 4 years. Two years on each side.

Greg asked about have the area on Pelham Parkway South which was not included in the Indian Village rezoning rezoned. Greg stated that they want to preserve the zoning the way it is now.

Joe Thompson stated that North Fork Bank is willing to help with clean up. John stated that Commerce Bank is also willing to help.

Greg spoke about vehicle and pedestrian safety issues that were addressed on the tour of the Pelham Parkway station.

e. Christina Muligan

Ms. Muligan stated that she recently purchased a co-op in Brady Court. She spoke about the 5 construction sites going on within a 5 block area. She stated that the air is not cleaned, and she had reported it to 311 and the Department of Buildings. Ms. Muligan spoke about an empty lot on the corner of Wallace and Antin Place. She stated that there is garbage all over the sidewalk.

John said he would look into it.

f. Isolina Lirano – Health Plus

Ms. Lirano read a list of services available and distributed brochures.

g. Violetto Tate

Ms. Tate spoke about the traffic lights. She stated that no one respects the yield signs and the need for video cameras on all lights.

Leslie spoke about community being respectful of people in most of our neighborhoods.

III. Minutes

A Motion was made by Sandra Unger, Seconded by Diane Norris – That the Minutes of the September 28th and October 26th meetings be accepted as received.
PASSED.

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

John reported that there was a mistake on the calendar. The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21st in the Nurses Residence at 6PM. He stated that we will have our holiday party followed by the meeting. He thanked Jacobi for allowing us to use this space. He also thanked Einstein for allowing us to use their space.

John reported that he met with DDC and they are preparing to start on the Pelham Parkway project in the summer of 2008. He stated that the most difficult part

of the project will take place on the north side where a 24 inch trunk main has to be installed.

John reported that he met with libraries, and that the Morris Park branch is well used.

John reported that the developer who wants to put up housing on Williamsbridge and Boston Road wants to meet with us again. He wants put in 140 units. He said that the developer claims that they have school construction authority agreeing with them on putting the school in. He stated that in his discussion with SCA they are not saying this. John said that he will have SCA at that meeting.

Bob stated that at the Education Department it was reported that the high School for Visual Arts is trying to be the only school in that building. He stated that we do not want to lose the other school.

John stated that this is an item for the Education Committee. He stated that we are trying to revamp the way the Board functions. From now on at the beginning of each month he will speak to the Chairs and go over issues we have for them. This way when we send out the notices that there will be a meeting there will be an agenda. John also asked anyone who calls the office to limit their conversations to no more than 5 minutes.

V. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that applications are available for Community Board membership. He stated that he had some with him or you can go on line and download it at www.boro.pres.nyc.gov. He stated that applications are also available at the Borough President's office or at the Board office.

Andy reported that the Borough President in conjunction with Verizon wireless is asking anyone who has a cell phone that they are no longer using to donate it. He stated that they will be given to women under domestic violence for emergencies. The phones, all makes can be dropped off at the 49th Precinct, the Borough Presidents office or Verizon at 153 East Fordham Road.

VI Committee Reports

A. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Alcohol Control Beverage Licenses

a. Mama Maria – 900 Morris Park Avenue (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the SLA that we have no objection to the granting of this license renewal. **Passed**

b. Rush Lounge – 1905 White Plains Road

Joe stated that he has not been able to contact anyone.

John reported that the Board is getting a lot of complaints that it is going to become a disco.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Vinny Prezioso – That a vote on this location be tabled until next month. **PASSED**

B. Education and Culture – Ruth Burko

Ruth reported that the Minutes had been distributed. She also reported that the Committee had met 2 weeks ago. Ruth stated that there were guests from Sports Profession at the meeting. She spoke about Bronx Visual Arts wanting to be the only school at the Antin Place site.

Diane Norris reported that she had attended the Teacher's Conference at the Sheridan Hotel and stated that it was very informative.

C. Land Use – Joseph McManus

Joe reported that there was no meeting in November. He thanked his Committee members for the work they did this year. Joe asked that the Board look into rezoning of Pelham Parkway South. He stated that he knew that John was working on this.

John said that he would have City Planning come to a meeting.

D. Housing – Rev. Leslie McHenry

Leslie reported that the Minutes were distributed. She thanked Hazel for taking the Minutes.

Leslie reported that she had received correspondence for Affordable Housing Legislation 421A which is going to expire. She stated that this gives real property tax abatements for 25 years.

A Motion was made by Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Joseph Bacote – That Community Board 11 send a letter to Assemblyman Vito Lopez supporting this bill with amendments. **PASSED.**

Gene Tutora stated that this bill favors builders and developers who are making money one this.

Joe McManus spoke about other bills that are around.

At this point Leslie withdrew her motion until next month

Hazel reported that there was an error in the Housing Minutes. It should have said 140 units. She also reported that Governor Pataki is proposing that security deposits be increased from 1 month to 2 months and that tenants be responsible for the cost of removing lead violations from their apartments. He also wants to evict tenants who may be overcharging their roommates.

John told Committee Chairs that if they don't have an agenda don't meet.

E. Health – Blanche Comras Rifkin

Blanche reported that David Leavitt is now her Co-Chair. She reported that the Minutes had been distributed. Blanche reported that tomorrow is World AIDS Day. She stated that Jacobi is doing an excellent job on HIV AIDS Program that is run out of Van Etten.

Blanche reported that there is a possibility that Columbia Presbyterian Hospital might take over running Westchester Square Hospital. She also stated that she hoped that the State would help out.

Leslie reported that she was recently contacted by someone who has a parent at Morningside Nursing Home. She stated that the 90 year old parent was being abused. Leslie stated that this is not the first incident at Morningside.

F. Public Safety – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that the key people at the 49th Precinct are no longer there. Several officers have been promoted or have retired, He stated that we have new officers in the cars and on the beats.

G. Parks – Joseph Carfora

Joe reported that the Minutes had been distributed. He reported that there will be a Committee meeting on December 14th contingent on his receiving plans from the Parks Department for the park on Bronx Park East South and Bronx Park East North. He stated that Parks did a commendable job on meeting the needs of communities in those areas.

Hazel spoke about a ponding condition on White Plains Road and Pelham Parkway North Services Road across from Duncan Donuts.

H. Highways, Traffic & Transportation - Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about the Marshall's who are putting cars on Pelham Parkway North.

John stated that he had spoken to the Marshall and he is trying to find a new location for the cars.

Ruth stated that as a Marshall we try to avoid putting cars in more congested areas and business areas, She stated that we try to get them out as quickly as possible.

Rabbi Fuchs announced that the Transit Authority has designated the 5 bus routes to be super bus routes. He stated that in our area it will be the #12 bus. One lane will be for buses only in the morning. This will run from Eastchester Road to Fordham Road or Williamsbridge Road to Fordham Road.

John said he spoke to the MTA and they are looking into this again.

I. Youth – Linda White

Linda reported that there will not be a meeting in December unless we have an item to discuss. She spoke about the Neighborhood Development area. Linda stated that each community board was given a neighborhood advisory board which reported directly to the NDA, and is a source of funding. Linda stated that not many people are on these boards. She stated that the lines for Community Board 11 have been split between Board 6, 10 and 11. Linda said that this money is for people 125% below the poverty level.

Linda reported that we need to have people from our Community Board on these NDA boards in order for us to get some money. Applications are available in the Board office. There is \$300,000 available per board. If the money is not used it goes back to

the city. Linda stated that we need money go youth programs. We need to get the applications in as quickly as possible because in January-February they are going to redo the lines again and we might have representation. She stated that she had spoken with Mae Chin, the Intergovernmental person who assured her that we should be able to get 3 or 4 people. Linda asked the representatives of the elected officials to take this to the Borough President's office and have this pushed.

VII. Old Business

A Motion was made by Pat Dolan, Seconded by Joanne Rubino – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support to the Westchester Square Hospital to keep open, and that a copy be sent to the hospital. **Passed**

VIII. New Business

Diane Norris spoke about a FECS building at the corner of Holland and Brady Avenue across from P.S. 105. She stated that it is a drug rehab center.

John asked her for more information and stated that he would follow up on it.

A Motion was made by Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That the meeting be adjourned. **PASSED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT OCTOBER 26, 2006 BOARD MEETING

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	(1)	Hazel Miura	(2)
Joseph Carfora	(0)	Diane Norris	(0)
Michael Carriere	(2)	Mary Paliotta	(0)
Dominic Castore	(0)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(0)
Diane Cerino	(1)	Robert Potter	(0)
Albert D'Angelo	(1)	Vincent Prezioso	(1)
John Dennehy	(0)	Joseph Reda	(2)
Pat Dolan	(0)	Blanche Rifkin	(0)
Rosemary Durso	(0)	Joanne Rubino	(0)
Altagracia Fabal	(0)	Irene Rukaj	(1)
Harain Figueroa	(1)	Martin Sacewicz	(0)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(1)	Vincent Taddeo	(1)
Denise Giocondo	(0)	Joseph Thompson	(0)
David Leavitt	(0)	Eugene Tutora	(0)
Lilith Lozano	(0)	Sandra Unger	(1)
Annette Marchitello	(2)	Janice Walcott	(0)
Silvio Mazzella	(0)	Elaine Weisbrot	(1)
Rev. Leslie McHenry	(2)		

ABSENT

Joseph Bacote	(2)	Patrick Quaranta	(2)
Junior Campbell	(1)	Eliezer Rodriguez	(2)
Kenneth Gelnick	(2)	Marisa Totino	(1)
Joseph McManus	(1)	Linda White	(1)

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Joseph Polito – representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A, Fratta, District Manager - Community Board 11

Susan Nolan, Community Coordinator – Community Board 11

Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board 11

Andy Toledo – representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.

GUESTS

Helene Samberg – Van Nest Library

Valery Valeriano – R.A.I.N.